

EAST KNOYLE NEWSLETTER

Vol: 51 Issue No 5

www.east-knoyle.co.uk

September/October 2025



Editors: Deb, Tom and Karen
eastknoylenewsletter@gmail.com



The East Knoyle Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. On the front cover, you'll find a celebration of all the talented winners from the Fruit and Vegetable Show. Inside, discover highlights from the show, the Village Fete & Dog Show, and a host of exciting community events coming up soon.

The Editors

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The paper this magazine is printed on is from renewable managed forest resources, that are

Parish Council News

After the July East Knoyle Parish Council meeting, Councillor Entwistle resigned as the Parish Council Chair. The Vice Chair, Councillor Garry Staunton, will lead the Parish Council pending an internal election of a new Chair. There are still 2 vacancies on the Parish Council, anyone interested in having an introductory conversation about the role please contact either Councillor Staunton or the Parish Clerk.

The Knoyle House Playground has resounded over the summer to the happy sounds of children at play. This community resource continues to be a well-used and loved facility by residents and visitors alike. The Parish Council has commissioned its annual health and safety Rospa inspection to ensure it is being appropriately maintained. The landmark oak tree in its grounds is being inspected to ensure its safety.

It has been great to see the village marquee being used at Community events over the summer. This marquee is available for hire so please contact the Parish Clerk now in respect of bookings for 2026.

As we rapidly approach autumn, fallen trees and branches are an ongoing hazard, particularly when they obstruct our roads. In such instances Wiltshire Council is responsible for clearing, not East Knoyle Parish Council. Any member of the public wishing to report such obstructions should immediately contact Wiltshire Council using the MyWilts online reporting tool (MyWilts online reporting - Wiltshire Council) Wiltshire Council will then arrange for the obstruction to be cleared to a safe place, but it is the landowners responsibility to arrange for the removal of the resultant debris. The MyWilts tool should similarly be used to report potholes.

Peter Dean, East Knoyle Parish Clerk
Mob: 07759912088 Email: clerkeastknoylepc@gmail.com

Dorset Council Recycling booking centre – opening October 2025

- The Shaftesbury Recycling Centre will be part of a Dorset Council initiative to introduce a booking system as of this October.
- Via an online process, Dorset residents can book their preferred date and time slot in advance by providing their name address and vehicle registration when booking their 30-minute time slot. Telephone bookings will be available once the system begins.
- For Non-Dorset Residents
- You will need to use the online booking system to book your 30-minute slot, providing your name address and vehicle registration number. An ANPR system will be used. A non-refundable booking fee will apply for each visit.
- Additional charges may apply depending on the type of waste you are dropping off.
- You cannot visit in a vehicle that requires a permit.
- Going forward the nearest free Household recycling centres to East Knoyle are Warminster and Salisbury.
- For enquiries go to hrcbookings@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Wren's Shop News

The Shop loyalty scheme is still providing good revenue growth and has attracted new customers to the shop. £10 off your next shop when you have accumulated 10 stamps on our card.

The Shop Committee was pleased to welcome Paul Egginton back to its ranks. Paul is a previous Shop Chairman, has great experience of all aspects of shop activity and is passionate about the Shop and the part it plays in our community.



Many of you have asked if a wider range of Sourdough breads could be stocked. We have looked into the product range of the Lievito Artisan Bakery based in Cast Cary, and will be stocking a small range of their products on a trial basis. This will augment the excellent bread we already have from Bruton supplier.

Come and give it a try.

Over the summer we welcomed four new volunteers to the shop. Marcus Dye, Lauren Roberts and Henry Green joined Will Goodridge on the rota of volunteers. Vacancies still exist for more volunteers to join our 50+ existing team members. Its great fun, come in and ask about training.

Finally, one of our enthusiastic shop supporters ran me off a list of services the shop provides to the community and its well worth sharing this list with you.

Did you know that at Wren's shop?

- we stock the basics, treats and the unexpected, and we keep prices as low as we can
 - you can make special orders of meat, fish, dairy, fruit and veg, magazines and papers, breads and cakes, almost anything - just ask!
 - we're open seven days a week and every day of the year except Christmas Day!
 - we support local suppliers and producers wherever we can
 - volunteering in the shop is a great way to meet people and play a part in the village
 - the Post Office is open every weekday except Bank Holidays from 9am to 1pm for all the usual postal services
 - you can use the Post Office like a bank (for deposits, cash withdrawals, paying bills, foreign exchange etc) and each transaction helps the shop
 - you can open an account and we run a loyalty scheme
 - all our profits are donated to village and community causes
- So, come on, if you don't already shop with us, give Wen's Shop a try!

Kevin Stow—EK Shop Committee





**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

Fox and Hounds – What's Happening?

- The pub's designation as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) has been upheld following a review by Wiltshire Council. This means the ACV remains in place until 2030 when it can be extended if necessary. The designation will be a material consideration if there's a planning application for change of use and it also gives the community a right to bid if the pub is being sold.
- The pub remains advertised for sale and we understand from the owners that they are now in early discussions with a potential new tenant.
- A community-based purchase of the pub remains a possibility if this new tenant does not materialise and the owners wish to explore other options. Preparations for a community purchase of the pub (if it's needed) have continued, with valuers and building surveyors lined up, an initial business plan drafted, and with free advice from the Plunkett Foundation on corporate structure and fund-raising.

Walking the Knoyles Leaflet

The Cranborne Chase National Landscape has been made aware of the content in the 'Walking the Knoyles' Walk W11 leaflet which erroneously attributes Sir Christopher Wren having been born and brought up in West Knoyle. Director, Linda Nunn, apologises profusely for the mistake and advises that the attribution will be altered immediately on the website map of the route and it will also be corrected in next print run. Revised copies will be delivered to the shop in due course.

East Knoyle Village Hall

With the weather being very good the teas at the Flower and Vegetable Show went very well and a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the teas a success.

There is a separate advert for the Quiz Night hosted by Martin Brown on Saturday 22nd November, tickets are available from Paul Naish – p.naish@sky.com – the tables are for six and the tickets are £12.50 including a Plowman's on arrival. A card reader is in use for the Bar as well as cash.



Work has started on the Stage flat roof which had deteriorated over time.

An exciting addition will be an overhead projector, remotely operated screen along with the Blue Ray player which will enable Moviola screening to be more of a cinema experience as well as being able to screen other films or plays and sporting events available on Terrestrial Television. The internet is being upgraded by Wessex Internet which will give a better band width.


David Jenkins

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

Great Expectations

I have to be honest, reading Dickens at school as a set book, was not a pleasure for me. So when I was invited to be the Producer for Great Expectations, to be performed at the Shaftesbury Arts Centre, 22-25 October, I was not sure, setting aside I have never produced a play before! It has involved more people in the village of EK than you could imagine, and they have contributed in so many ways. They are probably too modest to want to be identified here, but I am grateful to each one of you. You know who you are! And how many of you know of a dog in the village named after one of the principal characters? However, this is such a clever adaptation by Neil Bartlett that I am really enjoying it and encourage more people to come and watch. Leave previous opinions of Dickens behind and come and enjoy this one.



Trish Strachan

Shaftesbury Arts Centre 

AS WRITTEN BY CHARLES
DICKENS

**GREAT
EXPECTATIONS**

AS ADAPTED BY NEIL
BARTLETT

Music & Drama
Box Office: 01747 854321
(Mon-Sat 10.00am-12.30pm)
11-13 Bell St, Shaftesbury SP7 8AR
www.shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk  

22nd - 25th October
7.30pm
£14/£12 members and friends
£10 U 18

East Knoyle Rainfall—July and August

JULY was another quite dry month. We had 0.8" (20.2mm) of rain in July 2025. The 30-year average for July is 2.28" (57.94mm). So, in July this year, rainfall was only 35% the 30-year average.

AUGUST. We had 1.71" (43.5mm) of rain in August 2025. The 30-year average for August is 2.81" (71.37mm). So, we only had about 60% of expected rainfall in the month.

We are still waiting for significant prolonged rain to penetrate the ground, soften it, and fill those cracks in the clayey soil. Fingers crossed for September.

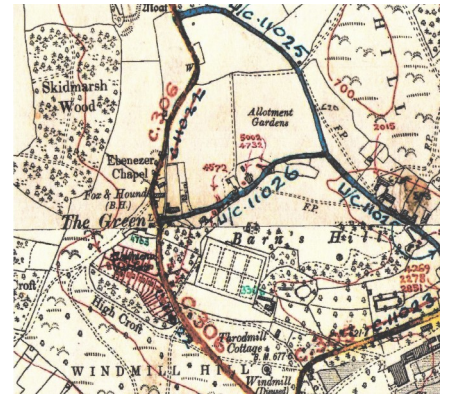
Nat Page



Round and About

Many congratulations to Robin and Sandra Joliffe who were married earlier this summer. It's lovely news and we send best wishes for their continued happiness together. Over the years a good number of the village youngsters have had cause to thank Robin for teaching them to drive....and pass their test.

Elizabeth Moore & Paul Prentice recently inherited Ferrils from Elizabeth's aunt Margaret Barton, and are now spending as much time as possible in East Knoyle. They love exploring the village and local area, walking and running, and are happy to have a garden at last. Elizabeth is to be congratulated on recent success with her photographs entered here in the Flower and Vegetable Show and also a little further afield at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show.



The Tisbus has been advertising for new drivers to take the very popular and much appreciated jaunts to places of interest in the summer, and the regular, vital, shopping trips throughout the year. Two of our public-spirited residents have answered this call – Kevin Stow and Bill Willmott are now well into the swing of providing this excellent service and the users of the Tisbus are so lucky to have them.

Jo Cumberlege has moved away from the village to be nearer her daughter. A talented bridge player, Jo is perhaps best known for her connection to the Flower and Vegetable show which was started by her late husband Charlie. She has remained a valued member of that committee, and we all wish her well as she decides exactly where to put down new roots.

Up on The Green, a warm welcome to Libby Severn and Joe Newark who have moved to the village from Surrey to be nearer family. They are busy settling in and getting to know the area.

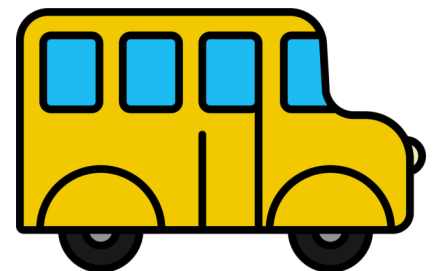
At the beginning of a new academic year good wishes go to all who are starting afresh - whether at school for the first time, changing and getting used to new faces and places (and timetables), perhaps further from home than before, and also to those moving away to college or university. Enjoy yourselves, make the most of your opportunities, but don't completely forget us here in the village!

Wiltshire Connect

Wiltshire Council have launched this new bus service in East Knoyle and surrounding villages. The app can easily be downloaded giving everyone access to a bookable bus service for all. Please follow the links below for all the information.

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/14728/New-Wiltshire-Connect-bus-service-launches-in-the-Warminster-and-Mere-areas>

www.wiltshireconnect.co.uk





POPPY APPEAL - As it nears its close, once again it is the 24/25 Poppy Appeal that headlines this latest report. In July, our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Ian Gurney was pleased to announce that with two months to go our Branch had already surpassed its previous best ever total of £15,173 and now stood at £15,737. Since then time, and our progress, have moved on to such an extent that this report can highlight that, following a busy August, not only has our previous record been surpassed - "it's been smashed" and at the time of writing has reached £17,129.39 - an amount that is certain to be added to by the end of September.

Every donation, no matter how large or small, is a welcome contribution to the work of the Poppy Appeal but the major factors of our success include: our Branch's year round commitment to fund raising; the £12,829 raised in a fortnight of concentrated collecting at Willoughby Hedge service station during the period of Remembrance in November, a busy schedule of popular talks and visits together with Roy Halsall's personal contribution of £3,830 from his summer programme of commemorative events and the most significant of all, the unwavering support from the local and wider communities. Thank you.

EVENTS

The 80th anniversary of VJ Day, one of four major commemorative commitments in the Branch's year, was marked by a series of events held across the whole of 'VJ Week'. They commenced on the 10th August with our annual Strawberry and Pimms tea held on the lawn of the village hall with the EKWS and Branch members combining to say "thank you" for the support given to the Poppy Appeal by the village and other supporters. Attended by the RBL Wiltshire County President, General Sir Jack Deverell, a full marquee ensured that the volunteers from both sections (thanks to all) were kept busy preparing and maintaining the flow of refreshment to all who supported the event.

Two days later, Charlotte Carty - a most popular and informative speaker - ensured a full house at Semley VH with a specially prepared talk on the 'Forgotten Army' covering the latter part of the Burma Campaign, from Kohima through to the Japanese surrender. Proceeds were shared between the Poppy Appeal, SVH and the Naga Educational Trust, of which she is a trustee, and we very much look forward to her next visit scheduled for 2026.

On VJ Day itself, a special ringing of the bells from St Mary's preceded the short service of Remembrance at the village war memorial, kindly led once more by LLP Anthony Thomas. Thanks are due to all participants who made the service possible, including Stephanie from Shaftesbury Town Silver Band for her renditions of the Last Post and Reveille and the large congregation lining the perimeter of the war memorial - and the bell ringers of East Knoyle.

FUTURE DIARY DATES:

6th October & 3rd November - Branch Meetings 6.30pm, Benett Arms, Semley

23rd October - Launch of the 25/26 Poppy Appeal

9th November - Remembrance Sunday Service, 10.55am, St Mary's Church, EK

11th November - Armistice Day Service, 10.55am, EK Village War Memorial

17th November - Branch Meeting/AGM/Lunch, 12.00pm, 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.



Women's RBL



The Women's Branch celebrated their 80th anniversary with a Cocktails and Canapés event held at Clouds Lodge on 10th September, the date and location being where the Branch officially began. The first Chair was Mrs Shand. The men's section donated £5 to help start the Branch and provide a Standard. Huge thanks to Hon. Diana Makgill for inviting us back to Clouds Lodge to celebrate. Thanks also to the cocktail shakers..Nick Wright and Julian Gordon.



Celebrations will have continued by the time this newsletter is published with a Church Service on Monday 15th September with both sections Standards, followed by afternoon tea in the Village Hall. Relatives of previous members were invited, records borrowed from the archives will have been proudly displayed, and photos past and present shown on a TV. A special cake was been commissioned for the occasion.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make these celebrations so successful and to mark a truly significant anniversary.

It is worth noting that there are only 3 women's branches left in Wiltshire, and we are certainly the biggest, so well done to all members past and present for keeping the Branch alive.

The Women's Branch raises money for the Benevolent Fund, providing financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served and are currently serving in the British Armed Forces and their dependents. The biggest of our fund raisers is the annual Easter Egg Hunt, but we raise money throughout the year at all our meetings through entry donations and raffles.



If anyone is interested in joining the Branch, please contact either Helen Lever (helen08lever@hotmail.co.uk) or Gill Staunton (gill.staunton@btinternet.com).

Our next meeting is on Monday 13th October at St. Mary's Church, when our speaker will be Natalie Reynolds.

Did you know that good things happen from a village near you...

As a previous East Knoyle resident I'd like to take the opportunity to showcase two charities that, I am involved with/run: BeyondAutism and The National Association for Advancing Autism Education (NAAAE).

You will all have read about the funding crisis in the special educational needs and disabilities sector, coupled with an increased awareness of autism, ADHD and other neurodivergent labels, and if you meet the children and young adults I serve, you will begin to understand that the crisis really lies in our inability as a society to start with kindness and understanding. If a child is struggling, they need people to step forward, to attempt to work out their needs. Parents need people who are solution focused with time to listen. That's where my organisations come in:

 BeyondAutism



BeyondAutism is leading autism education, ensuring that autistic children and young adults access an education that empowers a life full of opportunity, choice and independence. We do this by providing schools and services for the children with the highest needs, and by providing fast sustainable solutions in mainstream schools and settings. We work collaboratively with families and educational professionals to ensure children and young adults are *Included not Excluded*.

 National Association for Advancing Autism Education



The National Association for Advancing Autism Education (NAAAE) is the national umbrella organisation bringing together the education sector, coalesced around one moral imperative – making education better for and with autistic and neurodivergent children and adults. On the basis that there will be at least one autistic learner in every class and/or every setting, and with autistic voice at the forefront, we are bringing together education establishments, autism organisations, professionals, and individuals across the education sector, to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and professional growth. We serve as a collective voice and provide a platform for our members to address common challenges, share best practices, and work towards common goals. This is a unique network – designing events so that all age phases and types of education provision are together in the room – nursery, primary, secondary, college, university, independent prep, boarding, specialist provision etc rather than in their established silos.

Both charities rely on the generosity of donations, people's time and building meaningful partnerships that accelerate our work, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Roger Donbavand, a fellow Hindon resident, for spending time with me to understand what I'm trying to achieve and connecting me with his networks, as well as providing sage counsel.

Maybe you're not in a position to help, maybe you know someone who can – I'd love to have a chat.

Tracie (traciecoultras-pitman@beyondautism.org.uk or tracie@advancingautismeducation.org.uk)

Pre-Loved Art Show at East Knoyle Village Hall

Join us for a delightful weekend of art and creativity at the East Knoyle Village Hall! Discover a unique collection of pre-loved art pieces, perfect for adding a touch of charm to your home or office. Just in time for Christmas shopping!

Dates: Saturday 25th October 2025 – 10am to 5pm

Location: East Knoyle Village Hall

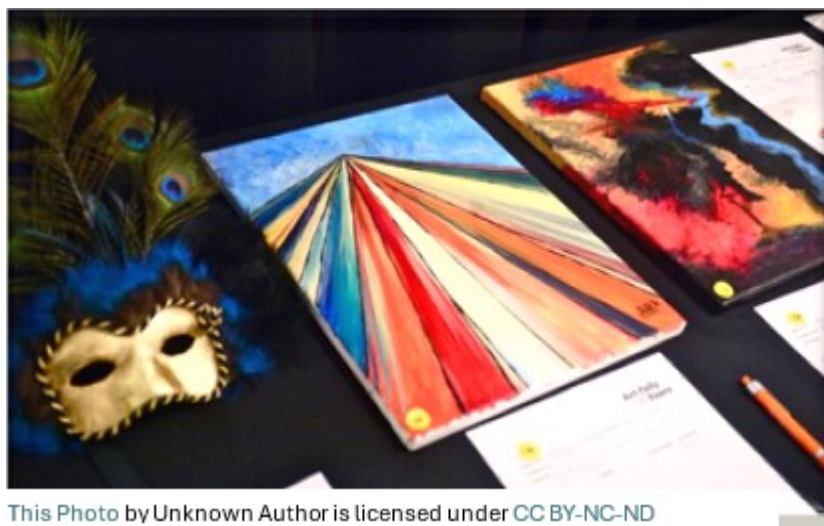
No Entry fee.

Highlights:

- ◆ A diverse range of pre-loved art pieces
- ◆ Affordable prices
- ◆ Refreshments available

Don't miss this opportunity to find your next favourite piece of art and support a great cause.

See you there!



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND



East Knoyle's Annual Quiz Night

Saturday 22nd November 2025

East Knoyle Village Hall

Doors open at 7pm

- ◆ **Come and test your knowledge! Teams of 6 per table.**
- ◆ **Prizes throughout the quiz, plus a raffle**
- ◆ **This year we will be serving a cheese Ploughman's Supper before the quiz starts.**
- ◆ **Cash Bar**

All this for just £12.50 per person

**Tickets in advance only from Paul Naish -
p.naish@sky.com or 832335**

(Always a sell-out fast, so get in there quick!)

All proceeds supporting the Village Hall

PRE-LOVED ART SHOW – DONATIONS REQUIRED

East Knoyle Village Hall – October 26th

Please open your cupboards and attics for the Village Hall funds.

We are looking for donations of pictures/paintings/sculptures etc. that you once loved but have no space for. We would love to sell them to raise funds for the hall's ongoing improvements fund.

Please contact John Scattergood (830525) or Paul Egginton (830001) to discuss your offer of items and indeed volunteering over the weekend to set up on Friday 25th and through the day of the sale.



Moviola

We are very happy it's Moviola time again, and the new season brings a variety of cinematic entertainment for you on your doorstep in the Village Hall.

We are starting with a well-established favourite: **Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy (15)** on **Wednesday 24th September**, starring Renée Zellweger, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Emma Thompson and Hugh Grant. Now widowed and showing the wear and tear of being a middle-aged single parent, Bridget is sharper, wiser and funnier in this hugely entertaining and unexpectedly touching new outing. After a pep talk from her no-nonsense doctor (Emma Thompson), she goes back to work and also dips her toe back into the dating pool, with mixed results. This reunion with Bridget has been generally very well-received by critics and audiences alike, who have praised its emotional depth and mature take on second chances.



This Photo by Unknown
Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

On **Wednesday 22nd October we have Mr Burton (12A)**. Starring Toby Jones, Lesley Manville and Harry Lawtey, it is the story of how a wild schoolboy, Rich Jenkins, son of a boozy and negligent miner, was nurtured and encouraged by his English teacher Philip Burton and became Richard Burton, a great actor and one of the biggest stars of the Golden Age of Hollywood. Set largely in 1942, this tender and insightful film reveals the hardship and poverty of Burton's Welsh background and his determination to overcome it with the help of his teacher and mentor. An excellent cast brings weight and poignancy to the story.

We are keeping the tickets at the bargain price of £5 so that everyone who wants to come and see a film can do so. You can get them from Wren's Shop, on the door, or phone me on 01747 830594.

We'll be serving our world-beating baked potatoes with a great choice of fillings. Belinda has been slaving over a hot stove producing new pots of chutney especially for Moviola audiences.

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

Please remember to bring some cash.

Dates for your diary: Wednesday 26th November – The Penguin Lessons

Wednesday 10th December – The Ballad of Wallis Island

If you haven't been before, please give us a try. If you have, please come again! We look forward to seeing you all in the Village Hall.

Sara Southerden

East Knoyle Village Hall 200 Club

The Village Hall 200 Club has held its fifth draw of the year on 1st September. The winning number is 151. There's a feeling of autumn in the air but there's something encouraging for this worthy winner:

JERYL HILLS £50

Thanks to Jeryl and to all subscribers. 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 November 1st.



AUTUMN MUSICAL EVENING

Enjoy an evening of songs and music by
East Knoyle's talented performers

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER @ 6.00PM
ST. MARY'S CHURCH

FREE ADMISSION - CHARITY COLLECTION
BAR AND NIBBLES -donations please (Please bring cash!)

Jessie's fund
MUSIC HELPING CHILDREN

The poster features a warm, autumnal color palette of oranges, yellows, and reds. It is decorated with various autumn-themed elements such as maple leaves, acorns, and clusters of small red berries. Musical notes are scattered throughout the design, reinforcing the 'musical evening' theme. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular fonts for emphasis.

T@3

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



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



New Beginnings

September is always a month of new beginnings in school and we welcomed our new Robins children and their families into the school for the start of their journey with us. They settled so well and have been happily exploring our lovely setting, making new friends and getting to know their classroom staff.

The Robins topic is 'Tales from the harvest' this term, they will be thinking about what we harvest and looking at how harvesting was done before the invention of modern farming machinery.

The Owls class topic this term is 'Helpful hands & kind hearts' and is focused on Florence Nightingale and how hospital care has changed over the years. They will be looking at how things used to be, and the advances in medicine that have changed hospital care over the decades.

Our Woodpeckers and Kingfishers topic this term is 'Ancient Egypt' and they are writing poems about the Nile, exploring the history of Egypt and learning about the pharaohs and mummies.

School Wellbeing

Our school motto is 'Where happy children learn' and we place a high degree of importance on pupil wellbeing. All children spend time learning about how to look after their own wellbeing, and those children who may need a little extra support receive weekly targeted small group or one to one wellbeing sessions that explore topics such as feelings, emotions, self-esteem, positive relationships and worries.

Our Wellbeing Lead Mrs Johnson is currently undertaking ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training which will enable her to plan and deliver even more targeted sessions for those children who need it the most. As a qualified ELSA practitioner she will have regular supervision sessions with an external Educational Psychologist and will be able to call upon their expertise when supporting children.

Wardour Catholic Primary School – visit to the Houses of Parliament

On a hot and sunny summer's day, St Patrick's Class set off from Tisbury by train for an exciting visit to the Houses of Parliament in London, to learn more about democracy in the very place where UK laws are made.

After arriving at Waterloo Station, the children enjoyed a scenic walk along the River Thames and through central London in glorious sunshine, taking in some of the city's famous sights. Following a smooth security check, the visit began at the Parliament Education Centre, where pupils watched a 360-degree film exploring the history of the UK Parliament and how democracy has developed and functions today. This engaging introduction set the scene for their tour of the Palace of Westminster, where they saw these themes brought to life in the iconic spaces they'd heard so much about.

Highlights included watching a live debate in the House of Lords and keeping a lookout for familiar MPs. The children were fascinated by the grandeur of the building and the important work that takes place there. It was a fantastic day out, filled with learning, sunshine, and lots of walking—and even better, the trains ran on time!



The Plank in my Eye

Recently, our reading in church included Jesus' proverbial words: 'Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbour, "Let me take the speck out of your eye", while the log is in your own eye?' Exploring how it has been represented, I came across this painting of the mote and beam. Domenico Fetti was an Italian Baroque painter, much influenced by Rubens, who painted a series of representations of New Testament parables which became very popular.

In this picture the dark, rough beam slices in a distinctly ugly fashion across a beautifully lit, delicate sky. It compels our eye to take notice of it just as it fills the vision of the older figure who sits, wagging his finger disapprovingly at the young man. The young man is not without fault, however; a sharp splinter holds his gaze and he too is pointing his finger accusatorily.

What the picture demonstrates so brilliantly, is that neither of the 2 men is actually looking at the other. They are so attentive to their log or splinter that they cannot look the other one in the eye or begin to see the world from the other's perspective. Connection between them, let alone understanding or empathy, is impossible. No wonder, one feels, that they sit among ruins. Nothing can be created or grown or restored as long as the beam and mote remain.

I wonder if that beam is also intended to remind us of the rough wood of Christ's cross, the cruelty and inhumanity of torture and death being where all blind judgementalism ultimately leads us.

As we wrestle with the divisions in our society, and if we long to counteract strident voices which are all too quick to blame others for problems in our country and our world, I think we should hold this image in our minds; how can we clear our own sight, looking at ourselves and our prejudices and failings with greater honesty, and how can we best seek to nurture genuine connection and engagement with others?

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/



The Parable of the Mote and the Beam
Domenico Fetti c. 1619

Community Coffee Morning

St Mary's, East Knoyle

10.30 - 12.00

4th Tuesday of every month



Knogle Nature—The Elder Tree

This may seem an odd choice for a subject but it is an amazing tree in many ways. As you may know young growth is soft and bright green, but the main stems and trunk develop into very hard wood; the stems are hollow, with a central soft pith, which can be extracted for use as a support for soft tissues in preparing microscope slides (I have used it myself). When this pith goes, the hollow woody stems were used for thousands of years as a convenient tubing, indeed the name Elder comes from the Saxon word for bellows because the tube could be poked into a fire and blown, to encourage flames. As children we made whistles and pea shooters as well, but in much earlier times these tubes were used to make more complex wind instruments. Indeed, the Latin name for Elder is *Sambucus* which is the Greek word for a very ancient woodwind instrument.



The tree has other virtues: Elder flower cordial or indeed champagne can be made from the flowers (a sign that summer has arrived) and wine can be made from the purple berries (Autumn is here). A much valued green healing ointment was made from the leaves, said also to contain hedgehog fat, which I remember being touted in Devizes market place in the early 1950's.

It was also sold door-to-door by a local traveller as Hotchi Ointment (local gypsy name for a hedgehog), and my mother used it on us children. It was said to cure anything, as indeed was the reputation of Elder ointment for hundreds of years.



As a food you can dip a flower-head in batter and fry it in butter, which with sugar is surprisingly good. The pungent smell of the leaves was said to deter flies, and horses were provided with leafy head pieces to make life more comfortable for them.

For millennia it was valued as a protection against witches and other malevolences, and often planted at the corner of cottages. It was thought bad luck to burn or harm it and hedgers left tall Elders to grow undisturbed.

The leaves are specific food for many moth caterpillars, the flowers are nectar-rich and beneficial to bees and other insects, and the berries are food for many birds, which spread the seeds widely in their droppings.

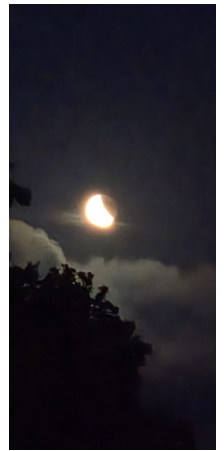
In Autumn some branches develop leaves of the most beautiful pale pink which are quite noticeable in the hedgerows around the village.

Finally here is a recipe from 1670 for a healing lotion. "Of quick (ie live) snails, newly taken from their shelly cottages, of Elderberries dried in the oven and pulverised, and of common salt, of each as much as you will, put in successive layers in a straining bag, making one row upon another, until ye bag be full. Hang it up in a cellar and gather diligently the glutinous liquor that distils out of it little by little."

David Pickering

Eclipse

On 7th September at 7.30 a hardy bunch of Eclipse spotters gathered near Willoughby Hedge to get a good view of the full eclipse of the moon. Thwarted by scudding low cloud, the group scuttled back to their homes and were rewarded with sight of a partial eclipse later on in the evening.



East Knoyle Choir at Shaftesbury Fringe



On a beautiful July day the Choir once again ventured into Shaftesbury where they performed at two venues. For the first gig they returned to the ever popular Abbey Gardens where they entertained a very appreciative audience with their mix of pop and folk songs, despite having to initially compete for a short time against a nearby amplified 'acoustic set'. They coped admirably and saw the competition off in style!

The Choir then moved on to an even more prestigious location – outside the Town Hall. Once again the choir sang a great set and coped brilliantly with the transient nature of the crowds at this busy site, as well as the sudden appearance of two dinosaurs! Eddie Redmayne even stopped to listen. Wherever they went the choir got great applause and lots of compliments. They also raised just over £100 for Jessie's Fund. Well done everyone



Village Fete and Dog Show

The weather forecast was mixed but, after the summer we have had, rain might be a novelty. In the event we were blessed with perfect conditions, not too hot or cool and it was a marvellous turnout from the village and parishes beyond. It is invidious to pick out individual stalls as everything was done beautifully and a lot of work by all to collect the goods for sale. The afternoon tea area was very busy with delicious cream scones and cake and the BBQ bangers and burgers a sell out. This fruitful year produced masses of garden fruit and vegetables for the produce stall with cakes and jams selling quickly. The bar was well attended and efficiently run alongside a very well supplied bottle stall.

The silent auction sold all lots with fierce incremental bidding for the pictures generously donated.

The Dog Show was a great draw, in its picturesque setting with ten classes ,waggiest tail, most like owner etc. and a high point being the young handler class ,especially appealing.

All in all it was a super turnout and indicative of how the centre of the village, church and Village Hall epitomise the rural and social hub of our parish.



East Knoyle Flower and Vegetable Show 2025

Our indomitable villagers excelled again at this year's Show and gave us all a grand display of flowers, vegetables, preserves and bakes. The Beer Cake was obviously attractive to the gentlemen and their entries were all a feast for the eye. The children's entries were of a high standard - so much talent there. Photography also was well supported and the category 'Something Unusual' made many of us laugh or do a double take. The weather was grand, the teas and cakes were very welcome - it was another heartwarming event. The Committee will soon be evaluating this year and planning next year. We are aware of opinions about various classes, most notably photography and home produce, but new suggestions are rarely presented to the Committee. If there are any new ideas waiting to be expressed please let the Chairman, Bill Willmott have them so that they can be considered for another year.

Attached are a few words from Chris Lock, the judge for photos. He was complimentary about so many of the submissions.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Val Morsman

My August visit to judge the photographs at the East Knoyle Flower and Vegetable Show is one of my favourite days of the summer, and this year was no exception. I always receive a warm welcome and my first challenge is to make my way past the mouthwatering arrays of cakes and savouries – all very tempting - on route to the photographs!

Judging photographs is never easy, and the quality of the entries this year made it all the more difficult! I always try to consider aspects like composition and lighting and how well the image matches the category, but there is always bound to be a subjective element. Another judge might come along and make completely different choices! For this reason, I'm very pleased that the Hunter Cup goes to a photograph voted for by visitors to the show, and not one chosen by me! Of course, some photographs jump out at you straight away and have an immediate impact. In the Animals category, a lovely image of a dog in the snow was one of these. In the under 15s class, I liked the way the winner had captured the shadows and warm glow of the sun on the walls of the church.

In the category titled A celebration any one of the entries could have been the winner. In the end I plumped for the wedding photograph – the shutter had been clicked at exactly the right moment, capturing the excitement and joy of the occasion.

The Our village category was particularly difficult to judge, such was the range and quality of the images. In the end, I just liked the way the winner had framed the photograph of the walk in the snow with the gate and the overhanging branches.

Finally, the Something unusual, funny, strange or unexpected class contained entries which all aptly fitted this category. So another difficult choice! The winning photograph – a dog in sunglasses sitting on a motorcycle – was full of interest, shiny chrome and reflections.

Chris Lock





Stones on the Move

During the last few weeks 20 tons of carved stones have been transported from John Maine's studio in Church Road and taken to Norwich Cathedral some 200 miles east, to form part of a new project 'Art in the Close'.

This free exhibition can be enjoyed by all over the next six months.

EAST KNOYLE HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2025

6.30pm at East Knoyle Village Hall

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(vegetarian main course available)

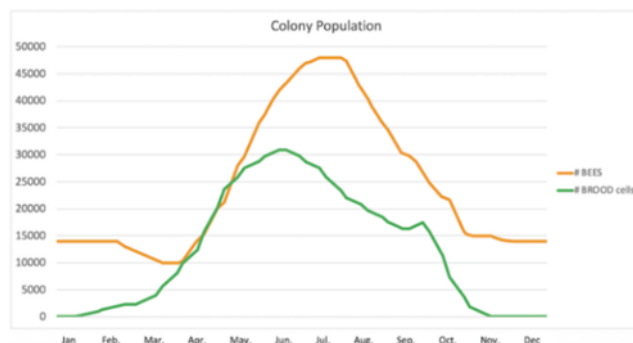
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available to purchase.

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(end of September)
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East Knoyle Honey Bees - Notes from the East Knoyle Apiaries – 26

It is mid-September, the beekeeping year is almost over. It only remains for my Head of Marketing & Sales to flog all the honey! This fascinating graph shows the number of adult bees in relation to the number of brood cells (eggs, larvae, open and sealed brood). It was created by a beekeeper called “Walrus” from Cheshire, in 2019. A graph for one of our hives would probably show more bees and the “curve would be flatter”, reflecting warmer and sunnier conditions than those in Alderley Edge. Of current interest is: a) The blip in brood in



September. - This shows where the queen has laid a batch of “winter bee” eggs. These will grow into fat little workers who will tend the queen and brood for the next 6 months. b) The steep drop in bee numbers in October. – This shows where the sisterhood (worker / daughter bees) have thrown out their brother drones, to die in the wet and cold. The male bees – gametes with ½ chromosomes of their sisters (16 / 32) are expensive to feed and new ones can be made next year. I think that the dry August possibly encouraged the colony to stop creating drones, as there are currently, we have very few blokes in the colonies.

We are finishing the season with 9 excellent, thumping, colonies. I have moved some out of Milton. This will be used for queen rearing. I have relocated the hives in Vern Hill, on the western side of EK, only 300m. They are now under an ancient oak on the banks of the upper reaches of the mighty Lodden. This will give them more shade and protection if it is hot next season. Bees should live in trees – after all, they spent 120m years living (and evolving) in them!

Asian Hornet / Yellow Leg Hornets (YLHs). The Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) National Bee Unit (NBU) website – BeeBase lists the 429 sightings so far this year. This compares to 71 in 24 and 72 in 23. The NBU gladiators appear pretty sanguine and have sorted out their tactics. A total of 22 individual YLHs were confirmed between January and early June, this year. Some of these hornets were captured during NBU spring trapping in high-risk areas (Kent and Sussex). There were 20 spring queens, 4 of the spring queens were identified as likely offspring from 2 of the nests destroyed in 2024. These were the nest destroyed in Coldred on 25th October and at Udimore on 1st November. Both near Dover. These 2 nests were themselves likely offspring of nests destroyed in 2023. This is the first evidence of a second generation of YLHs being produced in GB.

I managed to photograph this pesky YLH eating dead insects off the bonnet of my camper – in Chartres (France), 3 weeks ago. Note how it is smaller than our European hornet, has distinctive yellow legs, is black and only comes out in the day + propensity for smelly cheese and garlic.....



Adulterated Honey. Reaching for a well-thumbed copy of the Guardian / Grauniad (Nov-24), I am reminded of a talk by Lynne Ingram, luminary in the Somerset Beekeepers Assoc. a beekeeping heroin. Lynne founded the Honey Authenticity Network (HAN) and, last year visited the Celvia research institute in Estonia. They have developed a honey DNA test with support from the EU's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The DNA composition of the honey is compared against a database of more than 500 genuine honeys. Kaarel Krjutškov, director of the laboratory, explained that the test examines between 10m and 20m DNA sequences in honey samples. It uses machine learning to detect deviations from profiles of authentic reference honeys. “It is surprisingly easy to distinguish between the fake and authentic products. It is a huge gap.” Lynne submitted 25 jars from big UK retailers, including supermarkets, for testing. 24 were considered suspicious. Lynne says that “the market is being flooded by cheap, imported adulterated honey and it is undermining the business of genuine honey producers. The public are being misinformed, because they are buying what they think is genuine honey.”



Please try not to buy Non-EU Honey. Buy honey that says where it is produced. Tom EK x 246

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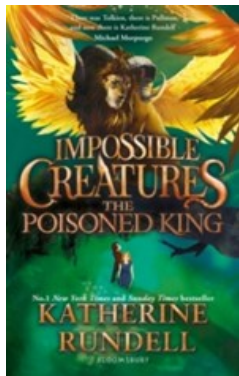
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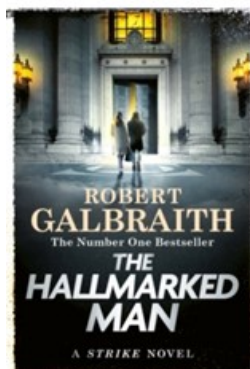
Free Delivery in East Knoyle

In the world of publishing September is when all the big titles land for Christmas, these are books lavished with love and attention for at least a year before they make it to the book shelves. They are books that editors have nurtured authors with tears and tantrums for at least another year before that. Below we have a curated a few highlights for your delectation, I very much hope you enjoy them.



Impossible Creatures The Poisoned King 8+ Katherine Rundell 14.99

'Katherine Rundell returns with a perfect fantasy' Christopher Forrester is unexpectedly woken by a miniature dragon chewing on his face, his heart leaps for joy. For months he's dreamed of returning to the Archipelago – the secret islands where all the creatures of myth still live. But he did not know it would involve a rescue mission on the back of a sphinx, or a plan to enter a dragon's lair. Nor did he imagine it would involve a girl with a flock of birds at her side, a new-hatched chick in her pocket and a ravenous hunger for justice. Philip Pullman 'A masterpiece to rival Tolkien' – Daily Telegraph 'Every sentence sparkles ...



The Hallmarked Man by Robert Galbraith 30.00

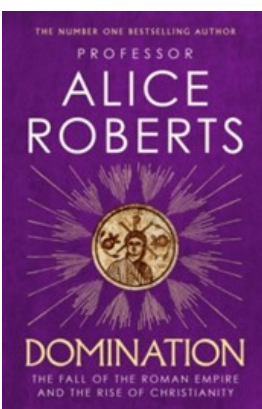
Find out what is next for Strike and Robin. A dismembered corpse is discovered in the vault of a silver shop. The police initially believe it to be that of a convicted armed robber - but not everyone agrees with that theory. One of them is Decima Mullins, who calls on the help of private detective Cormoran Strike as she's certain the body in the silver vault was that of her boyfriend - the father of her newborn baby - who suddenly and mysteriously disappeared.

The Rose Field by Philip Pullman 25.00

The long-awaited and highly anticipated conclusion to Philip Pullman's bestselling The Book of Dust sequence or as we say THE BIGGIE!

'Lyra: what will you do when you find this place in the desert, the opening to the world of the roses?' 'Defend it,' Lyra said. 'Die defending it. When readers left Lyra in 'The Secret Commonwealth', she was alone, in the ruins of a deserted city. Pantalaimon had run from her – part of himself – in search of her imagination, which he believed she had lost. Lyra travelled across the world from her Oxford home in search of her dæmon. And Malcolm, loyal Malcolm, too journeyed far from home, towards the Silk Roads in search of Lyra.

In The Rose Field, their quests converge in the most dangerous, breathtaking and world-changing ways. They must take help from spies and thieves, gryphons and witches, old friends and new, learning all the while the depth and surprising truths of the alethiometer.



Domination by Professor Alice Roberts 22.00

This is the story of the fall of an Empire – and the rise of another. Who spread Christianity, how, and why? In her quest to find the answer, Professor Alice Roberts takes us on a gripping investigative journey. From a secluded valley in South Wales to the shores of Brittany; from the heart of the Roman Empire in a time of political turmoil to the ancient city of Corinth in the footsteps of the apostle Paul; from Alexandria in the fourth century to Constantinople.

The Cinephile

(Reviews of Some Recent Films)



Put Your Soul On Your Hand And Walk. ***** (Modern documentary approach leads to an extraordinarily poignant cinema experience.)

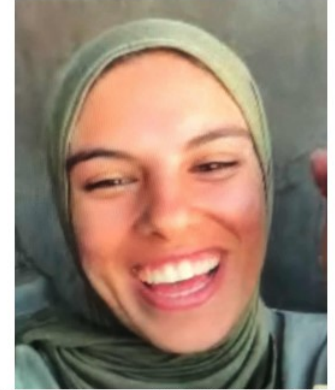
This film is technically rudimentary: it's a cameraphone conversation over the period of a year between two women.

Fatma Hassona is a 24 year old Palestinian, who lives in Gaza, in a tower block with her parents and five siblings. She is a poet and a photographer. Sepideh Farsi, in her late fifties, is an Iranian, living in exile in Paris. She is an experienced documentary filmmaker.

Farsi was deeply frustrated by the way that the Israel/Gaza conflict was being reported.

"The common denominator was that there was never the Palestinian voice there," Farsi says. "We had different points of views: the American, the European, the Egyptian, the Israeli, but never the Palestinian."

So she flew to Cairo to try and cross the border into Gaza and find that voice, but she was not permitted to cross. So, she began to film the refugees coming into Egypt. One of them introduced her to Fatma, still in Gaza and photographing the devastation of her city. Farsi made a video call and when Fatma answered, she had found what she was looking for: The Palestinian voice.



Fatma Hassona 2/3/2000-16/4/2025

This film shouldn't work, least of all in cinema. It's almost anti cinematic, the phone screen being portrait format, which sits incongruously within the landscape format of the cinema screen.

It shouldn't work, because the protagonists have never met before. They are a generation apart. Both from the Muslim faith, one is devout the other atheist. One has never left Gaza the other has travelled the world.

It shouldn't work because we know the end before it has begun. The official synopsis tells us that the day after the film was selected for the Cannes film festival, (which Fatma had hoped to attend), An IDF drone carefully targeted the tower block where Fatma was living, releasing a missile which was designed to go through several floors before exploding on the exact floor where Fatma and her family were sleeping. Fatma, her father, her two sisters and three brothers were all killed, her mother the only survivor.

But it does work because the one thing these two differently brave women DO have in common is the experience of conflict and oppression and the courage to document it to tell their stories.

Above all it works because in Fatma, Farsi has revealed a truly beautiful, brave and supremely charismatic messenger, who, at such a young age, encompasses all the best qualities of what it is to be human. A young woman, in the very worst of circumstances who faces every day that she lived with the most infectious smile that has ever graced the screen. It's a truly humbling and paradoxically joyful and heartbreaking watch.

2000 Meters To Andriivka. **** (Another innovative approach to filmmaking in an absorbing, subjective view of a fraction of the brutal war in Ukraine.)

This documentary follows one Ukrainian Platoon as they painstakingly fight for meter by meter of land in order to liberate the Russian occupied, now ruined town of Andriivka.

Pulitzer Prize winning, Ukrainian filmmaker Mstyslav Chernov brought us the astonishing 20 Days in Mariupol which won the Oscar for Best Documentary. Here, he imbeds himself within the Platoon, whilst arming the soldiers with cameras on their helmets. This approach positions the viewer into a combat Kaleidoscope, where it is difficult to ascertain who is who. Whilst the film is itself far from pointless; the head-cam perspective resembles the nihilism of a video game, which leaves the audience-in the helmet of the soldier-asking themselves what's the point.

Hearts Of Darkness: A filmmakers Apocalypse. ***** (Eleanor Coppola documents the making of her Husband's epic film: Apocalypse Now.)

When Frances Ford Coppola re-mortgaged the family home in California and moved their young family to the Philippines, his wife took a 16mm Bolex and recorded the madness. Martin Sheen had a heart attack. Marlon Brando never read the script. This is a hugely entertaining document of the insanity of filmmaking.

Hot Milk. *** (Attractive adaptation of Deborah Levey book, which doesn't translate well to film and leaves three excellent actresses, including Fiona Shaw, struggling to make sense of it all)

Eddington. ** (Disappointing modern day Western set in Covid Era.)

Director Ari Aster has been a celebrated director, with films like Midsommer thriving at festivals. But here he is with all the toys: Top cinematographer; A-list actors and a flop. It all looks shiny, but it's boring and he makes Joaquin Phoenix, Pedro Pascal and Emma Stone look boring, which is some feat.

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Contact Billy On

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billy@mrsafemode.co.uk

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 November / December 2025 Newsletter 10th November 2025

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