

EAST KNOYLE NEWSLETTER

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March/April 2025



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The East Knoyle Newsletter

In this issue...

We hope you are enjoying the first throws of spring.

The front cover is of the Fox and Hounds and to thank Murray for all his hospitality over the years and to wish him the best of luck for his next endeavours.

We are always looking for new articles. Not wanting to de-value our readership - but short with pictures seems to work very well!!

The Editors

Parish Council News	3
Wren's Shop	4
Litter pick	5
Fox and Hounds	5
Village Hall News	6
Rainfall	7
Around and About	7
Royal British Legion	8
RBL Women's branch	9
Moviola	10
200 Club	11
Vegetable and Flower Show	11
Freethinkers	11
Music Quiz	12
Reverend Kate McFarlane	13
Knoyle Nature	14
Notes from the Milton Apiary	15
Bridget Wayman, Wiltshire Councillor	17
Movie reviews	18
Local Businesses	19-23
Useful contacts	24



Note the date

WONDER WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL DO?

fascinated by the history of the village?

WANT TO MEET OUR PARISH COUNCILLORS?

Attend the Parish Assembly
On: **Wednesday 2nd April 2025**
The Village Hall
Village archives on display from 5pm - 6pm
Meeting starts at 6pm

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.

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

Parish Council News

CPR and Emergency 1st Aid Training Courses – 14 January.



St John's Ambulance provided 3 trainers, several dummies and a wealth of easy-to-understand information. East Knoyle provided 42 willing attendees – all of who responded very positively to the highly interactive training they received.

Feedback included – *“I thought the instructors were brilliant - very clear to follow and with a light touch that held everyone's attention. Certainly the best such training I have been to. I've made a donation and ordered a book - so a very happy customer!”* and *“Thank you very much for last night's CPR training eveningit was great to be able brush up on our rather rusty knowledge feel much more confident now!”*. This free to attend PC organised and funded event also raised over £300 in donations for St John's Ambulance.

And more news.....

The Parish Council recently secured funding from The Cranbourne Chase FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) initiative. Our aim was to replace trees that were lost during the erection of telegraph poles across our woodland. The loss of these trees not only had a negative impact on our woodland flora and fauna, it also allowed the invasive Himalayan Balsam to thrive. The grant allowed us to purchase over 550 trees with a mix of 5 species, Cherry, Field Maple, Goat Willow, Hawthorn and Hazel which in particular will help support our existing Dormouse population. The Hazel was planted under the power lines to allow for future pollarding in order to keep them at a safe height.

The grant also covered the services of an amazing contractor called Charlie Mills, who cleared and prepared the ground ready for planting and staking of Whips leaving the CLAROW team to place the Tree Shelters around them. With an amazing team effort (including children and dogs) the task of covering the Whips was completed in 2 days - helped by perfect weather!

The planting, it is off to the right as you enter the woods from the Fox and Hounds grassed area and continues down along FP21. Care will be taken to ensure that as the Whips develop, the green covers will be collected and removed off site. We hope that the village will be able to enjoy this woodland for many years to come!



Stage 1 - Scrub Clearance



Stage 2 - Planting and staking 550 whips



Stage 3 - Volunteers at work



Almost finished!

New Parish Council Clerk

As of April East Knoyle will have a new Parish Clerk, Peter Dean. Peter has lived in the village since the late nineties so has a good knowledge and appreciation of the strength, depth and nature of the local community. Peter has now stepped back from corporate life and is looking forward to contributing and adding value to East Knoyle as its Parish Clerk. Home is in Holloway where he lives with his wife, Ann-Marie and Harvey the English Setter. Peter will work in tandem with Martin Brown during April before flying solo in May.

Wren's Shop News



Mother's Day & Easter Are Just Around The Corner

Here at Wren's we always have a good gift selection of confectionery and chocolates so, with Mother's Day on the horizon why not see if we have the gift for you to give. Our Easter selection is also ready to put out on display in a few weeks time.

Don't forget that you can also buy **Meadowsweet** bouquets and pots from Wren's to give to that special person.

Thank you to everyone who has entered so enthusiastically into our Loyalty Card Scheme. It has got off to a flying start and we have already had to get

more cards printed!

We have recently made some amendments to the layout of the shop by dividing the table display by the window into two distinct areas. We hope that this now makes it easier for everyone to see what we have on display. It certainly makes it easier for us to work with.

We are always happy to receive feedback from our customers, positive or negative. Wren's is, after all, **Owned & Run by the Community For the Community**. If you are not already a member of the Shop Association and would like to join please let us know – contact details are below.



**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

East Knoyle Annual Litter Pick 1st March

On a bright sunny Saturday morning the assembled East Knoyle litter pickers set about tidying up the lanes around the village.

Thanks to Martin Brown for organising WCC litter bags and doing the risk assessment for the team of pickers. At the end of the morning we had collected over 50 bags of assorted rubbish from the roadsides. The main problem areas are not the village lanes but the roads into and out of the village. This year we coordinated with Heather Vine at Hindon to share a waste collection point.

Mary thanks to all who took part in this important annual event



Fox and Hounds

The Fox and Hounds is our beautiful village pub, up on The Green, boasting magnificent views. At the end of March, it is at threat of closure.

The current landlord, Murray Seator, is moving onto pastures new, having run the pub for twenty years. Murray moved into the Fox and Hounds in 2005 with his wife Pam and breathed new life into what has become a valued place in our community – the chess club, the book group, the free thinkers, birthday bashes, summer evening gatherings, wakes, celebration dinners....the list goes on. We are very sorry to see Murray retire.



Thank-you Murray for all the years of fun and friendship. We hope you enjoy your retirement and have a peaceful time in whatever and wherever you choose to land.

It would be disaster for the village if the pub was to shut permanently and we are struggling to find someone that is up for the challenge.

The Parish Council is applying for an Asset of Community Value. This gives the village some breathing space to help find a new owner, which might include a community-owned company. To that end, can we ask you to complete the questionnaire included in this newsletter and sign the petition that is being circulated around the village.

If anyone is interested or knows anyone that might be keen/suitable, then please get in touch with the agents, Fleurets. 0117 923 8090 west@fleurets.com

It will be a huge loss to our lovely village if we lose the only pub we now have.

Let's get our thinking caps on! We hope that a new shiny person/people will come along and take over. Hopefully!

East Knoyle Village Hall

Paul Egginton as Treasurer and Jill Hockham as Booking Secretary are firmly in their posts and have combined to put the booking system back to a partial manual system to avoid some of the glitches that appeared, but the diary is live and up to date, so anyone who wishes to see if a date is available you can look on the Village Hall website and click on bookings to bring up the diary.

With the introduction of a Mesh System the router signal for the internet has a good signal anywhere in the Hall, it has meant that we have been able to fit a 'Hive' system for the heating which has led to Paul Naish being able to set the heating controls with his mobile phone from the comfort of his own home and for Jill Hockham to check the temperature in the Hall before a booking without having to go into the Hall.

We all wish to thank Kevin Stowe for another wonderful production of the Music Quiz along with Lizzie Gascoyne and her team producing the food for over 70 people attending the Quiz Night. With the help of Kevin Stow and Paul Egginton the Village Shop provided the wine and beer for the first time offering it at a very good price. With your generous purchase of raffle tickets and the bar profit, the Quiz Night raised over £1200.

The new stage curtain rail will have been fitted by the time the Newsletter reaches you which will help to keep the Hall warmer during cold weather.

Cat Stott has been delayed in her start to the Spring work on the garden, but will be in action soon, while Mark Howell is cutting the grass which keeps the garden area looking neat.

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

Greek Theatre

How the Athenians sort of invented Shakespeare, EastEnders, and Monty Python

A talk about Greek theatre by Stephen Dobson with Q&A and Prosecco
Donations on the door in aid of St Catherine's Church, Sedgemoor



Please contact Caro Morgan (caro.e.morgan@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend.

Please also note that Greek Theatre contained adult themes played both for pathos and for laughs, and so will this talk.



1st April 2025
7 pm
St Leonard's Church, Semley

East Knoyle Rainfall—January and February

We had a very wet January followed by a wetter-than-average February.

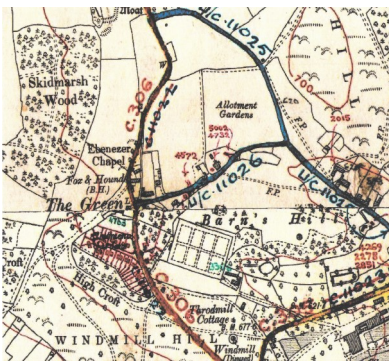
JANUARY 2025. We had 5.75" (146 mm) of rain in January 2025. The 30 year average is 3.63" (92.13 mm). So this January, rainfall was over 50% higher than the 30 year average. It felt even wetter than that!

FEBRUARY 2025. We had total 3.31" (84.2 mm) in February 2025, compared to 30 year average of 2.94" (74.62 mm). So just 10% above monthly average. But over 2" was in one week, 19-26 February. Thank goodness has been dry and sunny since then.

Nat Page



Round and About



The Round and About team is delighted to note that there has recently been an influx of young families – there are so many more children about and it's lovely to see them and their parents. Belatedly we welcome Henry and Charlotte Lethbridge to Laundry House. They moved from London in August with Hector and Athena, who are at school nearby, and the family are looking forward to getting to know more people in the area. Henry is especially glad to be back in the countryside as he grew up on Exmoor.

Between the centre of Knoyle and Milton, Matt Elstrop and Izzy Good are just settling in, with their 7 year old twins, a very new daughter, two cats and a dog.

Down Leigh Lane, Matt and Phoebe and their pre-school daughter and son chose Valentine's Day to move into their new home.

We hope all of these new residents will quickly feel at home and be part of our welcoming and friendly village.

Up on The Green, congratulations to Tom and Tilly Mead on the birth of their second son in January.

Chris and Jill Jarrett-Kerr have moved from Stonehaven to a new home near Andover, where we hope they will be very happy.

Sadly, since the last edition of the Newsletter, East Knoyle has lost three of its oldest and longest standing inhabitants. It's hard to know where to begin - whether we list them alphabetically, in age order, or according to length of time in the village.

Vera Garrett, who would have celebrated her 100th birthday on February 8th, lived here for 80 years, only moving from Old Mill Close to live with her son in Gillingham two years ago. What changes she had seen in East Knoyle! We send our condolences to all her family, especially to her sons, to Linda and to all her grandchildren.

Margaret Barton died in her sleep on January 22nd, in her 98th year. She and her late husband, Arthur, moved here on retirement in 1980, and quickly became part of the village. Trained as a domestic science teacher, Margaret was skilled in all homecrafts, and special birthday and celebration cakes gave her joy to produce. When the shop opened, Margaret was an early volunteer; she hosted the annual Crisis coffee morning, was a dedicated member of the Women's section of the RBL and, above all, a caring and generous friend to many. Our sympathy goes to her family.

Mrs Sully – as she was known to generations of children attending the village school – was the last of the teachers to work at East Knoyle Primary School. She is remembered fondly by many still living locally, and even after the school was closed in the 1980s she continued to be available for tutoring. Her husband, Cliff, ran the garage on The Street and they both made an enormous contribution to village life. Cliff was, for many years, a respected Parish Councillor and Pat, always the epitome of elegance whether at work or not, was secretary of the Village Hall committee, keeping beautifully hand written minutes of the meetings. The village will not see her like again, and we ask Julian and Sabrina to accept our condolences.



Every January, the principal engagement for our Branch is to attend the RBL Wiltshire County Conference at which the long agenda, culminating with the annual Branch awards, ensures a lengthy day for our representatives. However, there comes a point when the 'talking shop' comes to an end and performance is rewarded and I am pleased to report that East Knoyle, Semley and Sedgehill were once again amongst the honours.

With our Chairman, Nick Wright, having to leave early to 'hotfoot it' to Heathrow for a flight to India, it befell to Branch Secretary, Ron Clark, and Standard Bearer, Mark Gittins to receive the awards on behalf of the Branch, the Stillwell Cup for the 'Most Efficient Small Branch in Wiltshire' and 'The Heavyside Cup' for achieving the 'Highest Percentage Increase in Recruitment'.

This is the fourth time in recent years that our Branch has achieved the former and the second time the latter, firmly establishing us as one of the leading, of the 46, Branches in Wiltshire.

It is important to note that none of the above can be achieved without a team effort not only from within the Branch and also the local community. In addition to achieving the benchmarks for administration and finance, observance of Remembrance, engagement within the local community and support of the Poppy Appeal score particularly highly, none of which can be achieved without the support within the village. So congratulations all round.

Fox and Hounds

Sadly, at the time of writing, our next Branch meeting on the 1st April will be the last at the 'Fox and Hounds' which is currently scheduled to close. The closure of the 'Fox' is a big blow, not only for our community but the Branch too as our monthly meetings have been held there for over 60 years - at least. Hopefully a positive long term outcome will eventually be achieved, so whilst keeping our 'fingers tightly crossed', we wish to thank Murray, Feargal and their teams over the years for their high standard of service and banter - and all good fortune for the future.

Poppy Appeal

The current total for the 24/25 Appeal edges on and has reached £12,796.

Future Events

25th March Farewell to 'The Fox Lunch' 12.00
1st April Branch Meeting 18.30
10th April Visit to the Witchmark Distillery 11.00
8th May VE Day Service 11.00
TBC Visit to AAC Museum TBC

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



On February 10th the Women's Section of the RBL were visited by the Bobbie Van, a charity supported service giving crime prevention advice both to groups and on a one to one level. The advice we all took away was that many of us have locks that are not up to modern standards which possibly could affect any insurance claims! There was also information about property marking, avoiding scammers and general good practice to keep safe.

The next meeting will have taken place by the time the newsletter goes out...a visit to Mathew Burts workshop on 12th March.

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 2.30 on Monday 7th April. Please watch for notices as to location.

And on 14th May, back by popular demand, we will be having a talk and demonstration from Neal's Yard. This will be in St. Mary's Church at 2pm.

Gill Staunton
Branch Secretary

Vera Garrett

St Mary's Church was full for the funeral of Vera Garrett who passed away on 17th January. Vera moved to East Knoyle just after the war with her husband Fred who she met when he was serving in the RAF during the war stationed in Kent. She played an active part in the village, being a dinner lady and helping to teach children to swim at the school also helping to run the youth club. She lived in Leigh Lane for nearly 65 years before moving to Gillingham in 2022 to live with family.

T@3

The next dates are Thursday 10th April.
Doors open at **2.45pm**, and we need to be out of the hall **by 4.30pm**.



Thank you to David Pickering for the picture of snowdrops

Moviola



Never let it be said we don't show interesting and unusual films in East Knoyle. On Wednesday 26th March we have an Iranian film, **MY FAVOURITE CAKE (12A)**. 70-year-old widow, Mahin widow Mahin, solitary for a long time, makes the brave decision to try to rekindle her love life. A chance encounter at a restaurant leads to an unforgettable evening. It is a charming and beautifully crafted film. Together with the universal themes of love and the resilience of the human spirit, we also have insights into contemporary life for older people and particularly women in Iran, where suppression is a daily occurrence and fear of the 'authorities' commonplace. The two directors of the film were prevented from travelling to the Berlin International Film Festival to attend its premiere (where it subsequently won two prizes), and this month are being taken to court by the Iranian

authorities.

On Wednesday 30th April we have the Oscar-winning **CONCLAVE (12A)**, based on the novel by Robert Harris and starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci and Isabella Rossellini. Most of you will already be well aware of the background to this film. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is given the onerous task of running the election of a new Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered and are locked in together in the Vatican, a trail of deeply held secrets are gradually revealed. This film has been hugely successful and much praised, not only for the performances of the main players, but also for the cinematography and design, making what could be rather dry fare into a tense thriller.

You don't need to drive to Salisbury or Yeovil to see a good film, come to East Knoyle Village Hall!

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

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

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

Please remember to bring some cash.

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

Parish of St Mary, East Knoyle—Church Electoral Roll

Every sixth year a completely new list of church supporters has to be compiled, and 2025 is such a year. It is not just for those who go to church and there is no financial commitment involved, but it is a very good way of showing your support for Rev Kate here in the village.

If you are already on the CER, you do need to fill in a form this year. If you are not, please consider joining the Roll.

Please collect a form from the table inside the church door, fill it in and return it between March 31st and April 14th.

Sue Dawson, Church Electoral Roll Officer, East Knoyle



East Knoyle Village Hall 200 Club

EAST KNOYLE VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

The Village Hall 200 Club has held its second draw of the year in Wren's Shop. Drawn at the end of a perfect sunny day, the winning number is 222; this month's winners are:

PAUL and SUSAN QUARRIE £50.00

Thanks to Paul and to Susan 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 May 1st, when we might hope that Spring will be thinking that perhaps sunny days could continue into the Summer!



East Knoyle Flower & Vegetable Show, 9th August 2025

We are busy building ideas for this year's Show in the Village Hall, and are hoping for enthusiastic entries. The theme this year is "Village Life".

We have had such a long, grey, wet winter it surely is time to celebrate a new season of gardening and hopefully some of the results can be entered for the show.. First, of course is the hard work, getting the ground ready, planning what to grow, what to nurture, what to check in the cupboard if baking or preserving is your thing. Not to mention putting the idea of taking part into the children's minds, your own or your grandchildren. We always have such a good display from them it is lovely to see all levels of family taking part. As usual there will be the photo competition in the mediaeval room. We all take pictures on our phones, but it needs a little forethought to print them off for display.

We always hope this is an event which brings together all six hamlets and the wider benefices. On the day there will be tea and cakes in the marquee outside in the garden, which is also where the cup presentations will happen, and the raffle prizes can be viewed and purchased. Just a joyous, all-inclusive event, cementing community spirit.

The schedule of classes and events will be circulated prior to the show and will be in the village Newsletter.



East Knoyle Free Thinkers in Existential crisis

After 15 years of discussion concerning some of the more Philosophical elements of life the EK Free thinkers finds itself in the midst of its own Existential crisis. The impending closure of the Fox and Hounds means we are looking for a new meeting place big enough to take our quite large group when we hold our bi monthly meetings. The search is underway.

During the course of the two meetings held this year we have attempted to "identify life skills and educational subjects that are currently not taught in school that would help prepare young adults for the challenges posed by the world today." This was a wide ranging topic which we shared with a cohort of teachers from Gillingham School ,who, via Mat Lake fed their ideas into the discussion. The results of the discussion are available to share.

Contact kandbstow@hotmail.com. for details.

Kevin Stow
Chairman EKFT

Music Quiz



Terry Bishop

Terry and his wife Julie have been friends of ours for over 40 years when Terry led a small folk group in Littlehampton, West Sussex. For the past 15 years, he has been employed as a professional entertainer on board cruise liners, touring the world, as a singer, musician and raconteur. Last year when he visited East Knoyle, Terry kindly offered to give a performance free of charge to raise funds for the Village Hall. Once his final world tour is completed on the Regent of The Seas in April, he is travelling from his home in Derbyshire to perform his 'Stuff and Nonsense' show on Saturday 10th May at the hall. It would be great if there is a full house for the occasion to make his offer worthwhile, not only for himself but also for the Village Hall. Tickets can be purchased from myself or at the shop a little nearer the date.

Paul Naish

**TERRY BISHOP PRESENTS
'THE STUFF AND NONSENSE
SHOW'**

Saturday 10th May at 7.30 p.m.
East Knoyle Village Hall
Tickets £10 to include nibbles
from Paul Naish
p.naish@sky.com 01747 832335
Bar available
The West Country Troubadour
Songs, Comedy and Stories from the Folk Clubs
of Bristol to the Luxury Cruise Ships of the
Seven Seas

Where's Your Faith?

It's a well-known maxim that '*nature abhors a vacuum*' – *something will always take the place of something else that's been removed.*

It's disputed territory but many would say that there's been a steady decline in religious observance in the West; but I recently read an article which suggested that we've actually transferred our worship from the Christian God to 3 pagan deities from antiquity; Mars, the god of war, Mammon, the god of money and Aphrodite, goddess of erotic love.

These gods are now venerated in fresh guises: "Our society, claiming to have got rid of God upstairs so that we can live our lives the way we want...has in fact fallen back into the clutches of forces.....that are bigger than ourselves, more powerful than the sum total of people who give them allegiance..." . *(Tom Wright) Have we sought independence from what was seen as restrictive religion and the dependent crutch of traditional beliefs, only to tie ourselves inescapably into service elsewhere?*

I certainly believe that we all put our faith into something, but it's really important that we try to recognise and choose what, or who, that truly is.

Shortly, at St Mary's, we will mark Good Friday - a key point to explore again why I choose to put my faith in Christ. The church will be stripped bare, all the adornments taken away and a simple, rough, wooden cross left before the altar. It's a moment to strip away all the distractions of ordinary life, paring away other influences and distractions, stepping outside time even, to remember Jesus walking the way of the cross. As we recall him being stripped of status and of everything which offers security, we will pray for all the damage which the gods of violence, greed and self-indulgence have done to our world, the bitter demands they are making of so many people and all the darkness they are currently bringing. And we will sit silently before that cross as the symbol of a God who (however badly we humans have represented him to one another) has a single, essential message of self-giving love.

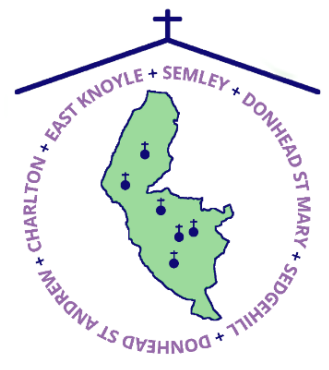
The God of Good Friday, is a God who, rather than making demands, dominating or controlling people, enters with us into the darkest, most dreadful, times and places and, on the cross, gives everything for us. That is the God in whom I choose to have faith.

Revd Kate McFarlane

Please join us at St Mary's at **2.00pm on Good Friday, 18th April:**
a reflective service with music from cellist, Emily Burridge

And at **11.00am on Easter Sunday, 20th April:**
a joyful family service and Easter Egg Hunt.

(Please do make use of our Foodbank collection box by the door to St Mary's.)
To find out the details of which services are taking place around the Benefice please visit
www.benofbart.org.uk/events/month/



Community Coffee Morning
St Mary's, East Knoyle
10.30 - 12.00
4th Tuesday of every month



Knoyle Nature—Hazel

The hazel is one of our indigenous species, and has been prominent in woodland since the last ice age, 10,000 years ago. It's resistant pollen is found through thousands of years of peat deposits, and is detected in the buried soils below ancient burial mounds on the downs. It would have been very familiar to our Bronze Age ancestors, and indeed was most useful to them. They used it to weave hurdle-like panels between posts, covered with mud and manure, to make walls for thatched Round Houses, just as we did until recent times to infill the oak-framed wall sections in our Black and White cottages before applying mud/ animal manure, a technique called wattle and daub.

It's long straight sticks would have been used for weapon shafts, just as today they are the commonest wood for simple walking sticks. Thatchers use hazel spars (like giant hairpins), to secure the straw bundles, and for decorative work at the house ridge. The main use until recently was for sheep hurdle construction, and the village had its own hurdle maker in Milton at Old Penny Cottage (Walter Fletcher). We commissioned the last hurdles made in the village sometime in the 1980's, for a garden fence. Hazel is still sold for bean sticks and their bushy tops for peas, and hurdle makers still exist in Dorset and elsewhere.

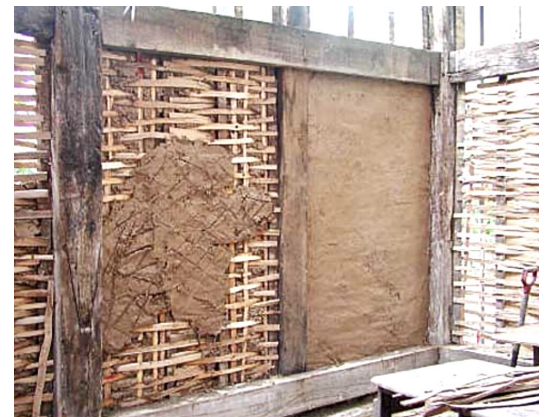
Hazel was grown on a seven year cycle, in special coppices (there was one after the sharp bend on the road going north from the village); after cutting, the short stumps (called stools) were left to grow for another 7 years. They also grow as part of mixed woodland (and are one of the indicator species for Ancient Woodland), and make a major contribution to what is called the under storey or shrub-layer. They were coppiced in these woods in a similar way. This cycle of coppicing which allowed periods of light, was very beneficial to the ground flora of these woods: plants like bluebells, wood anemones, and many rarer ones thrive in these conditions: Park Copse in the village is an ancient example.

We are familiar with Hazel because of its catkins in early spring ; catkins are the male flowers, but the separate female flowers are less obvious and are just minute tufts of red hairs at the end of buds. If fertilised by wind- blown pollen these little tufts grow into clusters of hazel nuts. Until the beginning of the 20th century and the rapid population growth of the introduced grey squirrel, hazel nuts were so plentiful they could be collected in sacks from under the trees, as they still can be in France (where squirrels can't survive the onslaught of hunters). My mother used to tell of massive harvesting of nuts in the woods around Salisbury in the early 1900's. They would have been an important food source for early man and are to us a healthy food, mostly imported from Turkey.

Being so long indigenous it isn't surprising that many other species have evolved to be dependent on it: dormice and squirrels of course, but many fungi, lichens, and several moths too.

The Hazel figures prominently in folklore, (the Celts thought the nuts conferred wisdom), and the catkins have many local names, including Lamb's tails. About 15 species exist, and some odd forms such as the very twisted one sometimes grown in gardens.

David Pickering



East Knoyle Honey Bees - Notes from the Milton Apiary – 23

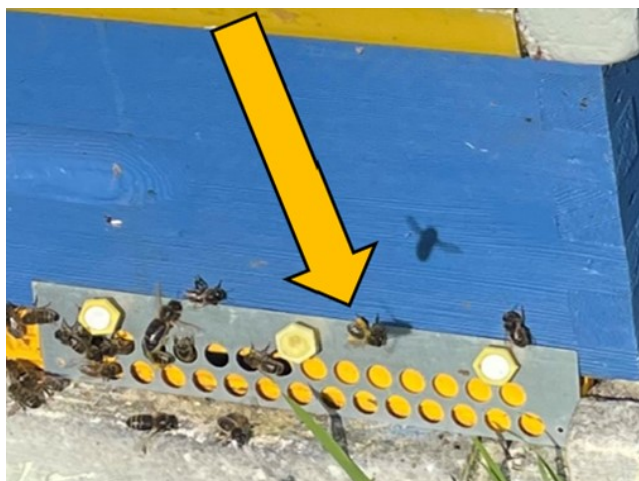
It is early-March, unseasonally warm, all the colonies are collecting pollen: We are off!!!

That said, we have a few cold nights ahead. Pollen collection is probably the key factor in colony success. It is the first sign in spring that all the colonies are well. It shows that nurse bees are feeding young larvae. We are not out of the woods yet – all the colonies are alive. Traditionally, Dandelions are the curtain raiser for there being enough food to support the expanding colonies. And there aren't many in the village – yet!

Young bees eat as much pollen as possible and produce a wonderfully named protein called vitellogenin. The leading American honey bee entomologist, Brian R Johnson (not known as “Johnners”) describes it as, “the main yolk protein



across much of the tree of life”. Young bees use it to make food for brood. The winter bees, born in September last year, didn't have much brood to feed. They gobbled up lots of ivy pollen, created vitellogenin and stored it in their fat bodies (bees' version of their liver). They would have also pickled some of the pollen in honey to store over the winter as “bee bread”. Now these stores are depleted, and the nurse bees are using up the last of their vitellogenin reserves. On top of this, the queens have started laying small quantities of eggs (<500 a day). This young brood demands food. You can feel the tension.....



Deep joy – a few sunny warmish days and the bees have topped-up the pollen stores from the abundance of local Snowdrops, Crocus, Pussy Willow, hazel catkins, Blackthorn, Gorse and other stuff I cannot recognise. The arrow shows a bee with bulging pollen baskets. All is good!

Make sure you have downloaded Asian Hornet Watch app. The Animal and Plant Health Agency's National Bee Unit (NBU) have started their Asian Hornet Spring Trapping campaign in high-risk areas (Kent, E Sussex and W. Sussex). They are attempting to trap over-wintered queen hornets who are emerging from

hibernation. The current NBU view is that there isn't strong evidence of an established population in UK. If there are Asian Hornet queens, they are very vulnerable and will create delicate primary nests to raise a small group of worker hornets over the next 50 days.

This nest is very similar to primary wasp nests – hence the advice from the Non-Native Species Secretariat! If you have any concerns – please do not hesitate to give me a call

Tom EK 246

Primary nest. All primary wasp and hornet nests look similar. **Only report if seen with Asian hornet.**



Congratulations

Rosina and Ian Elliot, of Park Houses, will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on the 22nd March

50



The poster features a photograph of Fonthill Estate, a large yellow stone house with a red roof, surrounded by lush green gardens and trees. In the foreground, there are pink and red flowers. The top left has a red banner with the Fonthill Estate logo and text. The top right has the Salisbury Hospice Charity logo. The bottom left has a QR code and ticket information. The bottom right has decorative floral illustrations.

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7pm on Thursday June 19th

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A list of hymns will be available nearer the time so you can vote for your favourites

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DAVE ON 07500 802525

This is somewhat an “end of term” message as it is the last from me as your Wiltshire Councillor in the current four year term of the Council. I have represented you for the past twenty years and have done my best to fight your corner both locally and in County Hall. I am seeking re-election and will leave it to residents to decide who they want to represent them over the next four years.

The role of your Wiltshire Councillor involves office work from home, working in the eleven villages within the Nadder Valley Division, attending meetings, Parish Councils and events in the villages. In addition there is a good deal of work in County Hall attending committees and Council meetings as well as many meetings with officers to discuss residents’ concerns. I do try to communicate some of this activity through Parish Magazine articles where it might be of interest, as well as on some social media pages. Being a Wiltshire Councillor is supposed to take up 23 hours a week but often takes up much more time.

A Wiltshire Councillor also spends significant time helping Parish Councils and Councillors address more local issues. In my opinion using extensive experience to help locals navigate through complex local government processes is a central part of the role of a local Councillor. Amongst all of this the Wiltshire Councillor needs to lobby and work to ensure that a fair distribution of Wiltshire Council funding in a range of service areas is achieved in our local Villages. Party politics is a very, very minor part of the role.

For the last year, I have been Chairman of Wiltshire Council presiding over full Council meetings and undertaking official engagements around the County. It is a fascinating and useful way of meeting different communities and local businesses. Much as I would like it, Wiltshire does not revolve around this neck of the woods! I have also been honoured to meet Her Majesty The Queen twice.

I hope to be writing a message to you next month but, whatever your views, I urge all of you to use your vote on Thursday 1st May.

Bridget.wayman@wiltshire.gov.uk. Tel. 07769 677318

Ringling Out the Bells to Mark a Call for Peace – 8th May 2025

With so much conflict in the world, Thursday 8th May provides the perfect opportunity for ringers up and down the country to make a joyful noise by ringing out for peace. Marking the 80th anniversary of VE-Day, bells will not only ring to commemorate this auspicious day, which led to the end of war in Europe but also draw attention to the need for peace.

On the 8th May, bellringers all over the country will ring their bells at 6.30pm. The event has been given backing by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, as well as the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers and other groups.

In East Knoyle, we ring for the Church Service on the 2nd Sunday of the month and for major life events. We also rang for the Coronation of King Charles III and for the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

If there are any bell ringers in the village who would like to join us, please come along. If you are interested in learning to ring the bells, come along to one of our Monday evening practices, which start at 7pm to see what it entails or speak to one of the team. There is always a warm welcome for old and new ringers.

Nicki Sturrock

Tower Captain

nicolasturrock@btinternet.co.uk

830143

The Cinephile

Anora *** (Winner of four Oscars. A second thought...)

Having reviewed this film rather hastily in the last newsletter, it is worth reflecting that while billed as a romantic comedy drama and it is certainly pretty bonkers, in its whole it carries more weight than that and it culminates in a powerfully sensitive scene. Having predicted that it would pick up an Oscar, it went on to pick up four including best film and best actress.



I'm Still Here ***** (A stunning film and a stark warning. Oscar winner for best international feature.)

Brazilian Director Walter Salles knows how to make films and this one finds him at the top of his game on a project that one would imagine he has put his heart and soul into. It covers a traumatic period in his native country's history when it was run by a military dictatorship. Born in 1956, Salles would have been a seven year old at the start of the regime and a twenty eight year old before things improved.

It's based on a real life story of Rubens Paiva, a happy, Rio based architect who is living an idyllic life with his family in a lovely house, just a block away from the beach. Making the most of their proximity to the ocean, the film opens on Paiva's wife enjoying her daily swim off the beach, but for the menacing military helicopter overhead, which worries her. They are clearly liberals, and at an earlier point in his life, prior to the military coup, her husband was a congressman.

Now a successful architect, life goes on. The children play on the beach, adopt a stray dog and love and are loved by their parents. Until one day, out of the blue, some men arrive with guns and ask him to come with them. As they lead him away he reassures his young daughter: "I'm just going to help these men and I'll be right back". It's a stoical bravery exemplified by the entire family throughout the story.

Good art should be moving and challenging. To watch I'm Still Here in the context the present neo authoritarian age, which has become so rampant, particularly in the last few weeks is poignant experience. This story reveals how it is individual loving families who are destroyed while egotistical bully-men killing over real-estate deals. The central performance, that of the matriarch, Eunice, (played by Fernanda Torres), is the core to the film. Both character and actress are phenomenal. Eunice is elegant, stoic, brave and dignified. Nominated for best actress at the Oscar's and boy she deserve it. She is profoundly supported by heart-rending representations of her children.

Eunice and Ruben's son Marcelo Rubens Paiva, wrote the book upon which the film is based and helped Salles in adapting it for the screen.

This is a beautiful film, with great music, which is exquisitely photographed. Despite the tragic story it is a joy to watch and paradoxically, perhaps leaves the viewer with a sense of hope against all the horror. The horror. The Horror.

The Seed of The Sacred Fig **** (A Deeply moving film which keeps you on the edge of your seat. It won the Cannes Special Jury prize and was nominated for Best International feature at the Oscars.)

This impressive film is about one Iranian families battle to survive in a domestic life in Tehran, which is inextricable effected by the pernicious regime within which they must live.

Iman is a devout man and a civil servant who works for the Revolutionary court of Tehran. He is also a loving husband and father to his two daughters.

But when the demonstrations, (mostly by women), against the compulsory wearing of the hijab escalate, this pits him against his daughters and eventually his wife, leading to fatal consequences.

It's yet another stunningly brave piece of filmmaking, yet again illustrating how tyrannical statesmen's abuses of power destroy beautiful families all over the world.

The Brutalist **** (Epic story about the life of an immigrant architect in the US. For which Adrian Brody won best Actor Oscar.)

This is a Big movie in both and it's ambition and length. But don't let the length put you off. At three and a half hours long, with an interval, it feels like an event.

It is the story of Jewish Hungarian holocaust survivor, who having fled the Nazi regime, sets up a life in the US. It's a constant struggle and the film portrays his entire career as Brutalist architect in a brutal world. It's brilliant.

September 5th **** (Another historical film, which seems so pertinent today, about the Munich Olympics where The Israeli team were taken hostage by a Palestinian militia group. Taught and compelling

Bring Them Down **** (Brilliant first feature from Christopher Andrews who won best debut director at the BIFA's. A brilliant Irish film about troubled, poisonous masculinity.)



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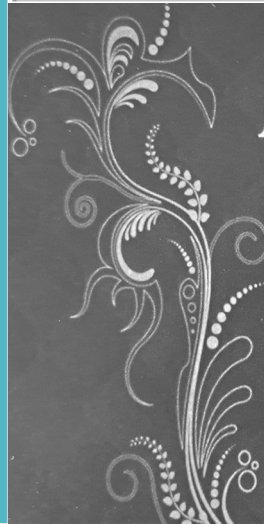
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Now Available on the East Knoyle website - 'Events in East Knoyle Calendar'.

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

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

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



**DEADLINE FOR
May / June 2025
Newsletter
10th May 2025**

(Newsletters are normally distributed around 10 days after the

The calendar will not take the
showing 'one-off events' (not
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