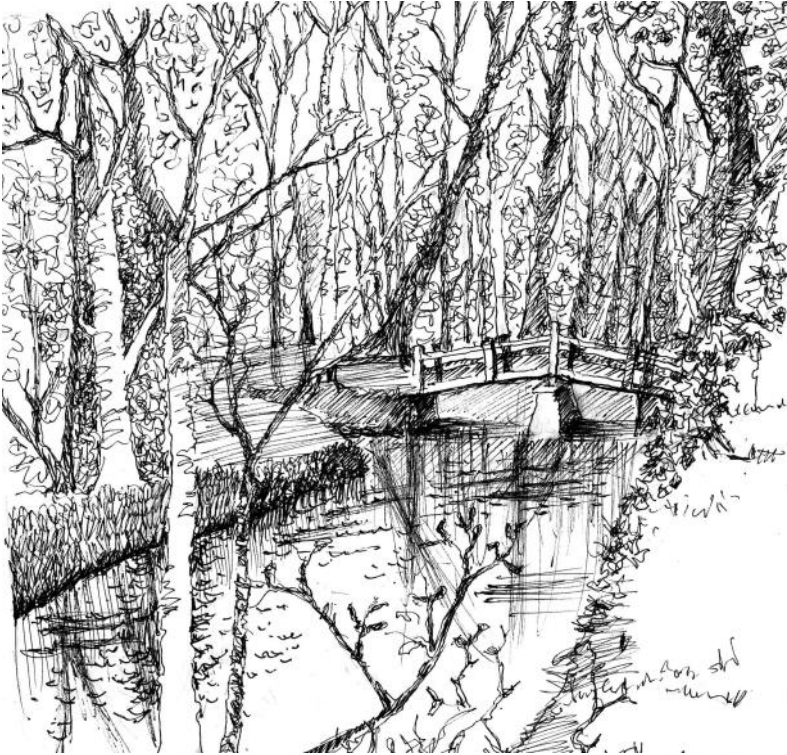


PARISH NEWS

The Deverills & Crockerton



The bridge by the Ford at Kingston Deverill by Pat Armstrong

MAY 2020

Look inside for local news & information

Happy Memories of Ian and Daphne Woodcock

Following on from Ian's article re-published last month, Ian and Daphne and their family went on to live at Chute Farm and run Rye Hill Farm too, until Ian's retirement. They then moved, but not far, to the last house within the Parish boundaries. Regulars at Longbridge Church, Ian took on mowing the Churchyard. Small chocolate eggs overlooked in the Easter egg hunt were thoroughly enjoyed by the mower. Ian never lost his sense of humour! I have such happy memories of them both, always kind and loving with family at the centre of their lives. A little known fact about Ian: he was an accomplished embroiderer, the back as neat as the front of course. He and Daphne made kneelers for their pew: a pair of Woodcocks facing each other.



Sarah Humberstone

Hello, are you self-isolating due to Covid-19?

Do you need help with urgent shopping, a prescription, friendly chat?

Help is being organised in your local area by

Churches Together in Warminster and District

Anyone can phone for help on the local hotline:

07960 221663 between 9.00 am to 6.00 pm

Cornavirus is contagious, we will take precautions to ensure we are spreading only kindness by avoiding physical contact and washing hands regularly.



The Deverills, Crockerton & Horningsham 50/50 Club

April winners: £50 Robert Shuler and £25 Simon Martyn

It is time to join our 50/50 Club, **open to all**. For an **annual fee of £24** you can take part in the monthly draw. Please contact Diana Abbott on 840763 or email: decabbott@gmail.com. She will send details and a form to complete. Your name will be entered into the monthly draw in July giving you a chance of a wind-fall each month, while supporting the Deverills and Horningsham Churches.



CHURCH CLEANERS FOR MAY



Longbridge see rota

Kingston Judy Munro & Sarah Fagan

Brixton Sheelagh Brown & Christine Rose

CHURCH FLOWER ARRANGERS FOR MAY

Kingston

Brixton

Longbridge

3rd May	Clare Mounde	Pony Burrige	Kate Plastow
10th May	Clare Mounde	Pony Burrige	Janet Budgen
17th May	Shirley Heywood	Sally Buchan-Jones	Janet Budgen
24th May	Shirley Heywood	Sally Buchan-Jones	Jane Robins
31st May	Pam Lea	Pat Allard	Jane Robins



Dear Friends,

It is always difficult to write this letter knowing it will not be published for another 2 weeks, and never more so than now; what will have changed in those weeks, where will we be in terms of lockdown?

Uncertainty is very difficult to live with, is it not, meanwhile the beauty and glory of spring unfolds around us, the rhythm of nature continues as trees blossom, leaves unfurl and hedges are cloaked in glorious green. In other words, life goes on. I do not mean this in a callous way but rather the present situation has alerted us to the fact that we human beings are not the centre of the universe with all the answers, but merely a very small part of a very much larger whole. Having our eyes opened in this way has made us much more grateful for what we might call the little things in life which we would normally not notice; and for the big things as well, of course. I am acutely aware of how privileged I am at this point in time to be financially secure, to have a job and a home and a loving family who are also safe and well.

Part of that privilege is also being given an opportunity to be still. There was an extremely good article in The Observer on Easter Day by Tobias Jones entitled '*The rebirth of humanity*' in which he writes:

'It's a truism of modern life that we struggle to be settled or present. Because we can be anywhere, we actually end up being nowhere. We suffer as the sociologist Zygmunt Bauman once wrote, 'electronically assured out-of-placeness.' We are notoriously fidgety and lacking attention. We just keep clicking and tapping. When I was running our community, one of the hardest things for those in early recovery was just to sit still. We used to have Quaker like silences twice a day, and to begin with, many just couldn't cope with the sudden stillness. It seems to me that we are all in a similar situation right now. We have come to an emergency stop and it is painful, not just because we are separated from others, but because we can no longer separate from ourselves.'

Why don't we just stop, if only for a while? Why don't we forget the blessed Zoom meetings and all the other things we are desperately running around doing to convince ourselves we are still important and just sit still? And listen.

I leave you with a poem to help, Mary Oliver, Wild Geese.

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

*Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers.*

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again.

*Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.*

With love and prayers,

Rev Pauline Reid Tel: 841290 / revpauline@btinternet.com





Christian Aid week 10th – 16th May

Coronavirus emergency appeal

Please support Christian Aid work in affected communities around the world. The coronavirus outbreak threatens not only to jeopardise the health of a region, but of the world.

It has shown us our futures are bound more tightly together than ever before. In times of crisis, more so than any other time, it is the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised who are at the greatest risk. We need to respond quickly.

We anticipate that some of the world's poorest countries, with the weakest health systems and most vulnerable people, will be exposed to this deadly virus. Their people will struggle to cope with healthcare costs, of being unable to earn a living while ill or quarantined, and trying to rebuild their lives afterwards. We see the most adversely affected by Covid-19 are the elderly, those with underlying health issues and compromised immune systems, for instance people living with HIV who are also homeless or have no fixed income or access to health services.

Christian Aid will use the lessons learned from the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone, to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus. We will prioritise the poorest and most marginalised groups and ensure they have access to information and services free from fear and misinformation. We will work to prevent the spread of the virus by providing hygiene items and sanitation improvements. We will also work to ensure the voices of the most vulnerable people are being heard and the response is catering for their needs. We will protect vulnerable people and keep them safe through our work with church partners and other faith-based organisations.



Currently, over 850,000 Rohingya refugees live in cramped camps in Cox's Bazar district on the Bangladesh border making them vulnerable to coronavirus. CA is taking action, working with partners, informing people of the risks, offering hygiene and hand washing sessions, ensuring health facilities in camps have triage and isolation spaces to receive suspected cases and providing training to health personnel and key frontline aid workers.

Join us in prayer for our neighbours near and far. Love unites us all.

It is at testing times like these we recognise we are all in this together. Coronavirus impacts all of us, but love unites us all. We urgently need your help to support our response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Please donate what you can today by going to the website christianaid.org.uk

NB: Due to the virus we were unable to hold all the Lent Lunches fundraising for Christian Aid or the church service during Christian Aid week, if you intended to make donations at these cancelled events please visit the C A website and make your donation there. If you have any queries please contact Judy Munro on 844385.

Thank you

The Word, or the Bird?

The nationwide lockdown has meant that, like many other churches, the Cathedral has had to increase its digital output and enlarge its online presence at breakneck speed. We have been encouraged by the comments on our efforts that we have received from across the Diocese and beyond. But while it is heartening to note that (for example) our virtual Palm Sunday service attracted far more worshippers than could ever have fitted into the building, it is simultaneously humbling to note that our liturgy and our music are not the most sought-after feature on our website.



That honour belongs to the peregrine falcons who have returned to nest on the cathedral roof in 2020. Their live webcam recorded nearly 45,000 page views in March 2020, numbers outstripping the reach of the clergy's most passionately eloquent sermons! In present circumstances

the popularity of the peregrines is easily understood. Self-isolation means time spent online has increased, and home schooling has sent carers looking for resources for every aspect of the curriculum.

But perhaps there are other reasons, too. While we all adjust to our changed and straitened circumstances – staying at home, social distancing, and looming economic hardship – the peregrines carry on as they always do. They are oblivious to the anxiety and fear that circulate below them. And thus they are a significant reminder that this season will pass, and that another will follow. They also exult in the glorious liberty that is denied to most of us at present. The falcons can, quite literally, stretch their wings and fly, enjoying long views, hunting their prey, soaring and diving as they choose. A glimpse at their webcam shows us the precious freedoms we have temporarily renounced, and it allow us not to lose sight of them. And – in early May – the Cathedral should become home to peregrine chicks! Our falcon has laid four eggs. She is sitting on them very determinedly. But one day the eggshells will be shattered. Their broken remnants will be discarded. For something new will come.

Does that remind you of anything? The stone was rolled away. The graveclothes were abandoned. Something new had come. The sustained life of God's creation. The liberty of its children. The death-defying life of Easter. I think the peregrines tell a hopeful story.

Nicholas Papadopoulos

Book recommendations

If you need a couple of easy but thought provoking books to read I recommend **A Place of refuge** by **Tobias Jones**, I have quoted from his article in my letter (page 3) and **The Shack** by **John Fusco**, it is an easy but beautiful read.

Rev Pauline Reid





Crockerton School during Covid-19 closure

On Wednesday 18th March schools were told that they would be closing and by 24th March, we were closed for all families as suitable arrangements were made for all children to work at home as per the Government's recommendations.

During our last week at school, teaching staff were working really hard to find the best possible ways to ensure that parents and children were equipped with what they needed for this unprecedented time of home-learning. The 'Not knowing' was perhaps the hardest thing. We had a few members of staff self-isolating and many children already absent due to illness, so communication was already quite a challenge. We even had to squeeze in a Year 6 Leavers Assembly for the 'Just in case...'

However, with the support from parents, Governors, children and the hugely dedicated staff, we have successfully completed 2 official weeks of working from home. It is challenging, rewarding, inspiring, hectic, eye-opening and unique all at the same time! We have our reward system, Class Dojos, being used in a very different way and which we will continue. Our website has been updated and shares a whole host of new 'free' websites. Each cohort has had a 'Zoom' meeting with their friends and teaching staff – a new experience for all! Teachers have phoned and emailed families to offer support. Staff and Governor meetings via 'Zoom' are the new normal (who even knew 'Zoom' existed?). Our 'Easter Spirituality' day was completed at home, with each class focussing on an aspect of Easter – pictures were then shared on Class Dojos. Our Spirited Easter Art completed during the holiday, with many using Rainbows as a focus, will be displayed in St Peter and St Paul's Church once things begin to return to 'normal'.

For myself, it really has been a time for reflection, whilst managing my 6 'children' at home, with 1 missing her graduation from Exeter and another one unable to pass out in the traditional way from Sandhurst; 3 Home-Schooling with work that I have not even heard of and if I had, it was a long time ago! I think all parents have said 'how time goes so quickly'... for now it has slowed right down. At school, I think we will do things just a little bit differently and a little bit better, as we try to understand what the 'normal' should look like as we begin to recover from this moment of world history.

Nic Ilic - Head Teacher

Crockerton during 'Lockdown'

I have lived in Crockerton for 21 years and always thought of Crockerton as a community, however over the last few weeks its residents have truly shown this. With residents either having to self-isolate, social distance and stay home, the village has come together to support each other. It started with the distribution of a leaflet from the Parish Council offering myself as contact for support with collecting prescriptions, shopping, friendly phone call, etc. many volunteers came forward to offer their support.



The village already had a pub WhatsApp group after the Bath Arms closed, in January Tracey started a new 'Crockerton Village Notice Board', this has become invaluable during the past few weeks, with lots of villagers joining it. This has allowed people to ask and offer support, anything from collecting prescriptions, giving away free stuff from having a clear out and recently a plea for material from a resident who is making facemasks, having already provided some for Longbridge Deverill Nursing home.

Villager Jo Ross has started up a grocery service, with up to 40 residents placing a weekly order, Jo orders direct from suppliers to be delivered to her, she and her little helpers' sort into the households for collection later that day.

Lee and Helen from Shearwater Lake Tearooms, have been supplying essentials to the village, like bread, milk, veg boxes and fresh baked scones (yum yum).

Wylly Valley Vineyard shop also sells food supplies and Lakeside Garden Centre has started a local delivery service for your garden supplies: see their website www.fonthill-lakeside.com.

Richard and Helen Treasure ran a Good Friday evening quiz using 'Zoom', which was great fun; by the time you read this 'remote Bingo' will have taken place!

On Easter Sunday the village children were treated with a hop, cluck and wave from the Easter bunny, chick and a hen as they walked (at a social distance) around the village, much to the amusement of all.

On a Thursday evening at 8.00 pm, the noise from clapping, saucepans, bells, drums, etc. has grown week on week, bringing the village together and giving thanks to all.

Finally, those able to take their daily exercise, by way of a walk, are so grateful we live in such a beautiful part of the country and the weather has been kind to us. Please keep safe everyone and don't be afraid to ask for help and support, see page 14.

Nikki Spreadbury-Clews – resident of the Crockerton community

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust



During the current lockdown we would like to notify you of the services still available through The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust to those over 60 or 18+ with a registered disability. Our team of Home Security Operators are still securing the homes of victims of house crime and domestic abuse. Our office team are on hand to give telephone support and advice on a range of home security issues. Please call 01380 861155 and leave a message, your call will be returned within a few hours during working hours. Our operators are also delivering Personal Protective Equipment for Wiltshire Police across the County.

Our team of Stay Safe Online volunteers are available to offer telephone advice on a range of issues from improving cyber security awareness, to cyber and scam prevention advice and signposting to future advice and resources. Please call and leave a message on 01380 861191 and someone will get back you shortly.

LINK in Wiltshire



In a more 'normal' month, myself and seven other volunteer drivers within our Parish would be driving three or four times a month to the White Horse Surgery in Westbury, RUH, Salisbury Hospital and other places near and far. Why, because we all volunteer for the Warminster Link Scheme. If you did not know, there are 45 Link Schemes in Wiltshire and they are community-based, volunteer run charities which aim to improve the quality of life for people by providing transport to take them to medical appointments, taking them shopping or providing 'good neighbour' services like prescription collection.

Warminster Link covers a large area, from Warminster to Brixton Deverill across to Chitterne and down to Sherrington. While the neighbouring Mere Link covers the rest of the Deverills and South Wiltshire. Each Link scheme is run by a group of local volunteer drivers, using their own cars, managed by a local Link Co-ordinator. People wishing to use the service, simply call a local number (see page 14) and their local co-ordinator will try to arrange a volunteer to carry out the task. A donation is requested from people using Link to support the cost of running the service and each driver can claim their mileage costs, but their time comes free. In our Parish we have eight drivers, two co-ordinators and the Link Treasurer. That represents about a quarter of the total drivers and a third of the co-ordinators in Warminster Link! All of us enjoy the volunteering, not least because the people who use Link are invariably grateful and interesting, in equal measure!

In these extraordinary times Link has had to temporarily close down. Many of us have to face the uncomfortable fact we are considered officially old and social distancing in a car is tricky! When life returns to some normality Link will start again and provide the much needed help and transport. Link is always keen to recruit more drivers so if you think you can spare the time, get in touch and learn more.

Nigel Poole 840902 nigelandmari@btinternet.com

Longbridge Deverill Parish Council – COVID-19



If you need assistance during these challenging times please let us know, our volunteers are here to help. Some ways we can help, but not limited: collecting shopping, newspapers, prescriptions, posting letters, pet services, a friendly phone call.

Crockerton: please contact Nikki Spreadbury-Clews on 216660 or 07986 880164 or email longbridgedeverillpc@gmail.com

Hill & Longbridge Deverill: please contact Caroline Sawyer on 840585 or email caroline.sawyer585@btinternet.com

We are hoping to hold a Parish Council meeting remotely in May, please check the website www.crockertonlongbridgeandhilldeverill.co.uk for details or contact Nikki as per details above.

For up to date information from Wiltshire Council and to sign up to information direct to your inbox please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-coronavirus.

Upper Deverills Parish Council



The Community help structure is working well. Its main purpose is to provide help to whoever in our community needs it - shopping, collecting medicines, etc. Just contact the following if you need help:

Ted Flint (Kingston): tedflint@gmail.com tel: 844507 mob: 07538 405135

Bridget Beattie (Monkton): chair@upperdeverills.co.uk tel: 844884

David Croot (Brixton): cllcroot@upperdeverills.co.uk tel: 840944

The Parish Council website (www.upperdeverills.co.uk) has had a complete make-over and now carries a great deal of information not only about the Parish Council and the wider community, local clubs and societies, events, etc. In particular, it is updated regularly with the latest Coronavirus guidance and information about local shops and services during the crisis. It gives access the Parish News.

Parish Council meetings: We are now able to conduct meetings online, which the public can observe and take part in. The requirement to hold an Annual Meeting has been removed for this year so the next meeting on **Wednesday 20th May** at 7.00 pm will be a routine meeting. It will be conducted online using the Zoom platform. The agenda together with instructions for joining and participating will be on the website. If you would like to 'attend' the meeting but do not have access to the internet, please call the Acting Clerk, Richard Munro, on 844385.



Uniform washing rebate

In recognition of NHS workers who are washing their own uniforms at home during the current coronavirus outbreak, we are providing a rebate to cover the additional water used. To be eligible you must: receive your water supply from Bristol Water or Wessex Water; be on a water meter; be a frontline NHS worker who is required to wash the uniform given to you by your employer. Please visit the website for more information www.wessexwater.co.uk/coronavirus/nhs-rebate.

Never too late to change your life!

I had never intended to apply for MasterChef – a friend filled in the application and handed it to me on my birthday. I sat on it for about two months, thinking it was my worst nightmare cooking in a competition but worst of all in front of millions of people!



After much persuasion, I eventually applied, underwent a series of interviews and a cooking test and after several months, was invited onto the programme. I completely underestimated how difficult it would be and how much it would take over my life for 3 months of filming! Thinking of innovative recipes and trying to find the time to practise dishes whilst holding down a full time job was certainly the greatest challenge of all, however the experience was one of the best things I ever did – not only giving me the confidence to launch a completely new career but doing something I really loved.

I left my job in January 2019 and launched two business; Alexandratalbotcooks my own private catering – providing fine dining dinners in people's homes and SALT Kitchen – a joint venture with two other contestants (Stephen and Tom) whom I had met on MasterChef, whereby we hold large (60-100 covers) fine dining pop-up dinners and supper clubs all over the country. Setting up a new business had lots of challenges but I and SALT Kitchen had some amazing experiences, cooking for A-List celebrities to providing 9 course private dinners in people's homes. I was lucky to travel all over the world – from Switzerland to Chile and was expecting to spend the summer in The Hamptons as a private chef for a family.

Then Covid-19 struck. In the space of 24 hours I had 17 catering jobs cancelled overnight and they kept on coming. It was horrendous. We were all being locked down and encouraged to work from home but my career didn't allow me to do that, so I had to think of plan B. I was very aware that people didn't want to go to shops and cooking every day is a laborious challenge for many. So I developed a few simple, home cooked freezer meals which I am now providing directly to people's homes. Freshly prepared, using the best possible ingredients I am able to source. It is not fine dining, it's home cooking but allows me to do what I love and hopefully supporting the wider community during this crisis. I am so grateful to everyone who has supported me and have sent me such lovely feedback – hopefully we will all resume normality soon! (Alex lives locally and her Mother, Flic, lives in Monkton)

Alex Talbot

Instagram account: @alexandratalbotcooks / Email: info@alexandratalbot.co.uk

Share your skills and experiences



If you have a particular interest in gardening, cooking, craft, local history, or any other hobbies why not share them with the readers of the Parish News? The Editor would love to hear from you, please just call 844385 / email judymunro@btinternet.com

Lock Down in Bridge House, Longbridge



The enforced isolation inevitably has led to an increase in activities within the home and garden, not least cleaning out the study, albeit slowly. However, the opportunity to do something new always seems more attractive. The quiz night had been planned for 3rd April, to allow the organisers to run a sweepstake on the Grand National due to be run the following day, as a fundraiser for the church. Inevitably the race was cancelled and the sweepstake with it. Fortunately, on the morning of the 3rd I noticed that a virtual Grand National was to be televised the following day. The sweepstake was reinstated and I started to ring people who might be interested. Within two hours I had sold all 40 tickets, one for each declared runner. Unfortunately some people missed out on an entry for which apologies. The entry fee was £5 per horse thereby raising £200 with half this sum going to the first four past the post. Maggi made the draw completely independently so much so that our horse did not get a mention during the subsequent race! Overall a great success and, due to the generosity of people making extra donations, the church will be receiving upwards of £160. I am writing this on a glorious Easter Saturday. Yesterday, as well as being Good Friday, it was also Maggi's birthday, celebrated with a glass of fizz with our immediate neighbours, at a safe distance of course!

Having a wife who sings is a distinct bonus at times like this, two of her choirs have been linked for practice via Zoom. Together with more time to listen to the Bose player we have enjoyed a surfeit of music from Rostropovich to Barbra Streisand to Coldplay. Tomorrow we should have sailed courtesy of P&O to the Canaries, Cadiz and Lisbon. Never mind, we shall enjoy What'sApp connections with family and friends and enjoy a quiet lunch. Most of all we shall rejoice in Christ's resurrection.

May I conclude in offering our thanks to all who have offered assistance to us, not least those who have delivered our newspapers. As a final comment, we have rediscovered a taste for liquorice.

Guy Ratcliffe

Parish News Editor

Edward Sawyer handed the baton to me in 1998 - I remember well coming home from hospital to find I had acquired not just one baby to hold but two. As babies sleep a lot I had time to wrestle with technology getting the Parish News onto my computer. However, once I had lively youngsters on my hands it was time to find a new Editor. Thankfully - and there is not a month when I am not grateful - Judy Munro took on the challenge to get a monthly magazine out to every household in the Parish. This month sees Judy still here as Editor after 15 years at the helm. The Parish News is vibrant, colourful, easy to read and full of information. It keeps us all in touch; never more important than at the moment. Thank you very much Judy, you are hugely appreciated and have no prospect whatever of retirement!

Sarah Humberstone



A family in Kingston Deverill

- 12 -



When first asked to share my thoughts, feelings and experiences during these unprecedented times, I didn't have a clue what to write! Then I realised through all of this my overriding thoughts and feelings have been those of thanks. Thankful we live in such a beautiful part of the country, where we are still able to go for a walk and say hello to other villagers at a distance! I cannot begin to imagine how it must be for those living in cities or in a flat at the top of a tower block isolated from your loved ones. I am thankful for the time I have with my daughter. Although I am still working and she has schoolwork to do (sometimes under duress), we are making the most of this experience and enjoying time together, whether that be watching a film, planting seeds in the garden, painting rocks or clapping our keyworkers on a Thursday evening.

One thing I have asked Libby to do is to keep a diary as one day children will be learning about Coronavirus in their history lessons, just like children now learn about the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Then I started thinking about those who caught the 'Spanish Flu' at the end of the 1st World War. I am so thankful we have the NHS and unlike the population of 1918-20, due to good nutrition, housing, advances in medical science, a high percentage of those who catch Covid-19 will recover.

Finally, I am so thankful to all the keyworkers who are providing care to our loved ones, treating the sick and vulnerable, policing our streets, people in our supermarkets who are working around the clock to make sure we still have access to food and to the farm workers whose work never stops no matter what. Thank you all.

Lou Hillier

A Peck of March dust is worth a King's Ransom



After a particularly wet winter we reach March, and the Covid19 plague arrives to gather momentum with a vengeance. I sincerely hope everyone is keeping healthy, safe and keeps going. This weather report is from 1st October 2019 to the end of March 2020. During those 6 months I recorded 31.61 inches of rain, which is almost our annual rainfall in half a year; our average rainfall for 12 months is 34.5 inches.

October 2019	6.19 inches	January 2020	3.99 inches
November 2019	4.36 inches	February 2020	7.39 inches
December 2019	6.9 inches	March 2020	2.78 inches

The wettest period was around 10th February, with a strong gale and heavy down-pours, measuring just over an inch of rain. However, it never really let up in February, which was by far the wettest month. Rain was recorded on 24 out of 29 days.

The coldest period was 18th to 23rd January with a frost every night, but never colder than minus 4 Celsius. Finally, along came March and during the last 10 days, no rain recorded, and did it dry up quickly! An old countryside saying comes to mind, "A peck of March Dust is worth a King's ransom". Which implies, if you find that amount of dust in March things are going well weather wise. It has been a very wet 6 months, in years past we would have endured quite a fall of snow, instead of rain. Global warming may be demonstrating that rain and wet winters are going to be the norm for future winters.

We need encouraging, let us hope that old saying will herald a more cheerful time.

John Robins—Manor Farm, The Marsh, Longbridge Deverill

Nature Notes

Hopefully you are able to enjoy some of the delights of this lovely spring despite the lock down, either in your own garden, from the window or on a daily walk or cycle ride. It does seem exceptionally hard that after all the bad weather we had, it has now turned dramatically the other way and we are all told to stay put! In fact it is getting a bit too dry and some rain would do a power of good. I am seeing hardy perennials like pulmonaria wilting badly. The blossom of the cherry trees is looking beautiful; it was sad to see some of it blown down prematurely by high winds at the week-end. The beech tree at the front is coming into leaf; such a fresh green colour.



The winter migrants have now gone and our summer visitors are returning. A week ago on the 8th April I heard the very familiar chattering, like a budgie, coming from one of the house martin nests at the front of the house; 'our' first house martin back. Then on Easter Monday I heard and saw 2 swallows flying over the paddock next to the garden. I have seen 2 again today up by the buildings. We have tidied up the stables ready for them and put a wire grill at the top of the stable door to help prevent predation by magpie and sparrow hawk. We made 3 large letter box holes to allow the swallows to fly through; I am hoping they will adapt to this. Clive can remember swallows at the farm using a much smaller aperture to gain access to a nest site so hopefully it will work. Two nest boxes in the garden appear to be in use; blue tits in the front silver birch box and great tits in the beech tree one.



We have had fun and games with the pond. First of all we had a little egret fishing and then a heron joined it! I am not sure how many fish we have left. I hadn't seen any until I caught sight of a large bright orange one disappearing down the heron's throat this afternoon! We chase them



away but they have found an easy source of food and I fear they will just empty it. We could never cover the pond, it is too big and I have been told that it is better for wildlife without goldfish. We have tadpoles now, jet black ones which are toads. The moorhens are very much in residence chasing birds away and collecting nesting material which they take into the reeds. A pair of mallards visit most days.

This lovely warm weather is proving a hit for butterflies. I have seen lots of orange tips, some brimstones, a few peacocks and 'blues' (I can never work out which type) and a small tortoiseshell. I have let out at least ten queen wasps from the garage where they had been over-wintering. There are lots of bumble bees around too. I have seen red-tailed, carder and white-tailed but I find them so difficult to identify. It is lovely to see and hear them working their way around the flowers. I am pretty sure insect numbers are well up with this warm weather but also with the lack of traffic; so many would usually be killed on the roads. Pollution levels have dropped dramatically as the roads have emptied and the skies are not being crossed by aircraft. All this is very good news for the climate and might just give the earth a chance to recover. So perhaps there is a silver lining to the cloud of COVID-19.

Jane Trollope (written 15th April)

LOCAL COUNCILS, SOCIETIES, GROUPS etc.

Longbridge Deverill Parish Council - www.crockertonlongbridgeandhilldeverill.co.uk

Caroline Sawyer 840585 (Chair)

Bob Pitman 212953

Kate Plastow 840975 (Vice Chair)

David Searle 213767

Richard Baxter 212918

Nigel Spreadbury-Clews 216660

Juliet Brathwaite MBE 841338

James Walker

Martin McDermott 216939

Nikki Spreadbury-Clews (Clerk) 216660 or longbridgedeverillpc@gmail.com

Upper Deverills Parish Council - www.upperdeverills.co.uk

Bridget Beattie 844884 (Chair)

Gillian Flint 844507

David Croot 840944 (Vice Chair)

Louise Stratton 844105

Richard Munro 844385 (acting Clerk) clerk@upperdeverills.co.uk

Wiltshire Councillor Fleur de Rhé Philipe 213193

Member of Parliament Dr Andrew Murrison 01225 358584

Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100

Sir James Thynne Almshouse Sue Jackson 840322 (Trustee)

Longbridge Deverill Parish Hall Committee

Anna Mead 212759 (Secretary) Sylvia Titt 214825 (Bookings)

Upper Deverills Village Hall

Ted Flint 844507 (Chair) John Lea 844325 (Hall bookings)

Crockerton Village Committee Marion Thomas 213739 (Chair)

Deverill & Crockerton W I Sue Bohana 215546 (Pres) Julie Wallder 213142 (Sec)

Deverills Cricket Club Ed Read 840835 (Captain)

Community Police - Local Officer (Rural)

PCSO Candida Jackson – Candida.jackson@Wiltshire.pnn.police.uk or call 101

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Deverills & Crockerton Dympna Dell 840514

Warminster Link Scheme 211655

(Corsley to Boyton, Crockerton, Horningsham, Longbridge, Hill Deverill)

Mere Link Scheme (Upper Deverills etc) 01747 860096

Post Offices: Lakeside Garden Centre, Crockerton: Mon 9.00 - 5.00, Fri 9.00 - 3.00

Maiden Bradley Hall: Tuesday 1.00 - 3.00

Bath, Wilts & North Dorset Gliding Club, Kingston Deverill 844095

FUTURE EVENTS

- **Longbridge Parish Council Meeting** May - See the website for details See p9/14
- **Upper Deverills Parish Council meeting** Wednesday 20th May See p9/14
- **Upper Deverills Hall Duck Race** Saturday 13th June (depending on Gov guidelines)
- **Upper Deverills Hall Pub Night** Friday 26th June (depending on Gov guidelines)
- **Upper Deverills Hall Summer Fete** Saturday 18th July
- **Upper Deverills Hall Pub Night** Friday 31st July
- **VE & VJ Day Celebrations** Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th August
- **Upper Deverills Hall Pub Night** Friday 28th August
- **Jazz Night** Saturday 5th September see p15
- **Upper Deverills Hall Pub Night** Friday 25th September
- **Upper Deverills Hall Quiz Night** Friday 23rd October
- **Upper Deverills Hall Pub Night** Friday 30th October
- **Upper Deverills Hall Curry Lunch** Sunday 8th November
- **Upper Deverills Hall Pub Night** Friday 27th November
- **Upper Deverills Hall Children's Christmas Party** Saturday 12th December

New Orleans Jazz Horningsham Village Hall Saturday 5th September



New Orleans Heat are returning for their 6th and final concert. After 5 happy evenings at Horningsham, they have made a special request to play for us one more time, before they retire!

Please make a note in your diary, we look forward to seeing you at this fantastic evening of New Orleans jazz played by some of the best jazz musicians in the country!

Any enquiries please contact Richard Abbott on 840763

PARISH OF DEVERILLS AND HORNINGSHAM

Churches

SS Peter & Paul the Apostles, Longbridge Deverill BA12 7DL
St Michael the Archangel, Brixton Deverill BA12 7EJ
St Mary the Virgin, Kingston Deverill BA12 7HE
St John the Baptist, Horningsham BA12 7LW

Clergy

Rev Pauline Reid, Rectory, 6 Homefields, Longbridge
Email: revpauline@btinternet.com 841290
Associate Priest Rev Gay Maynard 01373 832490

Licenced Lay Ministers John Budgen 218203
Robert Shuler 844291

Church Wardens Maggi Ratcliffe (Longbridge Deverill) 840405
Richard Lucas (Brixton Deverill) 841164
Robert Shuler (Kingston Deverill) 844291
Tim Moore (Horningsham) 844336

PCC Treasurer Robert Steptoe 841396

PCC Secretary Nigel Poole 840902

Church Electoral Roll Officer Diana Abbott 840763

Parish News Editor Judy Munro 844385

Organist Mr John Budgen 218203

Caretaker - Longbridge Church Sylvia Titt 214825

Benefice Safeguarding Officer Rev Pauline Reid 841290

Benefice Administrator (Mondays am) Marion Muston 01373 839026

Email: administrator@cleyhillchurches.org

Contact the Editor and the Website

Parish News Editor: Judy Munro 844385

Contributions for the Parish News by post to

Whitepits Lodge, Kingston Deverill, Warminster, BA12 7HD

or by email: judymunro@btinternet.com



Please remember the deadline is 15th of the month - Thank you

Website: Benefice of Cley Hill Villages www.cleyhillchurches.org

Website contents: Parish News, Church services, Parish Register, Events