

# PARISH NEWS

The Deverills & Crockerton



Whitecliff Farm Brixton Deverill by Pat Armstrong

## MARCH 2021

Look inside for local news & information

## From the Bishop of Ramsbury

Lent has arrived, and a feeling that the fields are ready to unfurl again. We have been wintering in confinement and uncertainty, weary of the indoors and all too familiar with these four walls. But the barn doors of daylight are slowly being hauled open and it is a relief to be approaching the spring once more, even if it reminds us how long we have been living with this extraordinary new life.



The approach to Lent called attention to our longings and desires, from Simeon and Anna at Candlemas, patiently waiting for the consolation of their people, to the wilderness temptations of Christ. Thirty years on, he embarks upon his ministry with acute awareness of all that might draw him away, winning the battle to assert that his first and only true appetite is for God, his Father. This is why some of us fast, of course: not to be slimmer or more successfully devout, but to reorder our priorities and insist upon seeking first the kingdom of heaven.

It is most encouraging, and often most effective, to do this in the little things. To address the countless small choices we make each day, almost without thinking. What we decide to buy, how we drive, or speak to others on the phone; remembering to turn, however briefly, to Christ before the difficult encounter. To adapt an old maxim, if we offer the minutes to God, the hours will look after themselves.

And before our own efforts, of course, we are reminded that the Lord goes before us, daily supplying our needs. Much has been taken away in recent months: may the onset of spring bring a renewal of your strength and hope, by the grace and mercy of God.

With the assurance of my prayers,

***Andrew Rumsey***

## Bishop of Salisbury to retire in July 2021

The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam will retire on 3rd July, a month short of his 67th birthday. He will have been Bishop of Salisbury for 10 years. "Being the Bishop of Salisbury has been a privilege and a joy. In the present circumstances, the timing of my retirement has not been an easy decision but it feels right to me and to those I have consulted. The impact of the pandemic is going to be felt for a long time. The Diocese is developing a Mission and Pastoral Plan and we have an agreed financial framework with which to face the future with confidence. We continue to be about Renewing Hope as we Pray, Serve and Grow. In Bishops Karen and Andrew and the four Archdeacons, Diocesan Secretary, Director of Education and the Diocesan Synod the Diocese of Salisbury has excellent leadership." said Bishop Nicholas.



**Dear Friends,**

If anyone had told me last Easter there would be the distinct possibility we may not be able to celebrate Easter in church together this year I don't think I would have believed them. Everyone I speak to expresses the same weariness of spirit; yes we all know we are very lucky to live where we do and to have a roof over our heads, we know we are lucky to have access to a vaccine but still, this lockdown seems interminable.

I am writing this letter the day after Ash Wednesday and by the time you read it we will be several weeks into Lent. At this point I am supposed to say something about Lent being a time of preparation for Easter when we make a concerted effort to deepen our relationship with our maker. Traditionally we do this by giving up certain things to make more time for prayer, or



**LENT**

or doing some kind of course to help us see the error of our ways. As Bishop Nick said in his wonderful sermon from the cathedral last night, in the present context it feels as if we have been asked to give up enough already and the thought of having to wade through a challenging course makes me want to lay down in a dark room and never come out; I am doing a little something, but it's simple. Because if I, with my husband and dog, am feeling exhausted and drained, I really cannot imagine how those of you who are working, home schooling your children and doing all the other things you need to do to stay alive, are feeling.

In his poem entitled 'Ash Wednesday' T.S. Elliot wrote 'Teach us to sit still,' which is good idea for Lent, the thought being that if we just make the effort to stop for five minutes we might be better able to open ourselves up to God and apprehend his presence with us. But that is not helpful if every waking minute is taken up in simply trying to get through this weird, soul sapping time. Thinking about all this, yes, I agree with Elliot, if you have the time to intentionally 'sit still' in God's presence, it is a wonderful and helpful thing to do. But I also want to say that being completely snowed under with the business of day to day living doesn't mean that God is nowhere to be seen; if God is love, then where love is, God is too. And it is love that is being lived out in the caring and the home schooling, the endless churning out of meals, the story reading and the trying to keep everyone happy. Granted, it may not feel like love sometimes, but it is.

I have got a beautiful hand painted quote from the bible hanging on my study wall and it reads: 'Bidden or not bidden, God is present.' And I suppose that is what I am trying to say; whether you couldn't care less about Lent, and I can quite understand if you don't, the one who created you, who loves you, who knows you, is with you in all the messy, joy and sorrow of your life.

With love and hope

**Pauline**

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

## **The late Ian Woodcock**

Sarah, Rachael and Anna (née Woodcock) would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Deverills and Crockerton areas for their kindness, friendship and support over the last 60 odd years. Both our parents had great affection and respect for the community; so we dearly hope to honour our father's wishes and hold a memorial service at some point in the future when we are able. We will miss the regular visits to Longbridge Deverill as we have such happy memories, particularly of our childhood. We know the new residents in The Marsh will be welcomed and wish them happy days ahead. We send our best wishes to all during these challenging times.



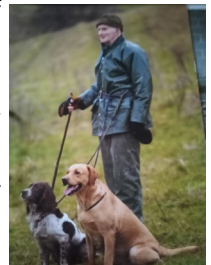
## **Colin Devereux**

The family of Colin Devereux (8th May 1941 - 5th January 2021) would like to express their thanks for all the kind messages of sympathy and donations, they were overwhelmed by the amount of people lining the route in the village to pay their respects. Colin and Jean moved into the village in 1971 to start a new family venture, to be known as Cripps & Devereux, a petrol station and vehicle repair workshop and latterly car and caravan sales. Colin was well known in the village and played an active part in what was known as The Childrens' Club which ran for several years; it was formed to raise money for a Christmas party/disco and annual pantomime for the children of the village. Colin's funeral took place on 21st January at St Peter & St Paul's church, Longbridge Deverill and he was laid to rest at Pine Lawns Cemetery in Warminster.



## **L/Cpl Reginald Charles Collins Ch de la Legion d'Honneur**

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Mr Reginald Collins (13th June 1925 - 8th February 2021) in the early hours of 8th February 2021 at Salisbury Hospital. Reginald had been suffering from increasing immobility but thankfully passed away peacefully. He was a long standing service veteran and resident of Longbridge Deverill. During the 2nd World War he served in the 4th Wiltshire Regiment part of 129 Brigade, 43rd Division. He was in constant action post D Day and as such played a significant part in the relief of France from the yoke of Nazi Germany. In recognition of his military engagement and steadfast involvement in liberating France President Macron, by decree of 27th July 2020, appointed Reginald in the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur. His funeral will take place at Brixton Deverill, 11.30 am on Thursday 4th March.



***Mike Vernon-Powell***

## Message from the newly appointed PCC Treasurer

As the newly appointed Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council for The Deverills & Horningsham, I want to thank all those who have contributed to the production costs of this year's monthly Parish News and bring you all up to date on the current financial situation in our Parish.



I know several of you have been following articles in the National Press recently on the parlous state of rural churches. Sadly, our Churches are in a very difficult situation, what with falling numbers in congregations (Horningsham's regular congregation can now be counted on one hand) and the maximum in our other Churches in the Deverills being less than thirty on a Sunday, other than at Christmas, Easter, Remembrance Sunday and other special days.

Even when congregations are low - admittedly Covid 19 has not helped - we as a group of Churches still have to pay an annual contribution to the Diocese for clergy related costs, as well as to keep insured these wonderful buildings and maintain them. Frankly, we are struggling to do so on current income.

There are plans afoot to open up our churches for greater community use, and I do hope that once life is back to normal, we as a community will be able to come up with some great ideas for fun events to bring us all together, and while doing so, raise money to keep our Churches going. Otherwise, I do fear that some of them may have to close.

On that rather dire note I thank all those who do support us, if more of you are prepared to give regularly, please set up a standing order with your banks to:

**PCC of The Deverills & Horningsham, Sort Code 30 99 13, A/N 00067686**

I am doing all I can to 'cut our cloth' but you can make the difference.

Thank you. Keep well and safe.

**Ian Meadows** Tel 216649 - 137 Foxholes, Crockerton BA12 7DB

## Your Parish News - Annual Donations

Thank you very much to those who have already generously handed in their donations for 2021. However, if you have not, please may I remind you how much we rely on your financial support towards the production costs. A pale blue envelope was included in the February Parish News for donations, but if you need another one please do not hesitate to contact me on 844385. The envelopes can be taken to: **Longbridge Deverill Garage** or given to **Ian Meadows** PCC Treasurer (see above) or given to **Judy Munro** (Editor) Whitepits Lodge, Kingston Deverill, BA12 7HD.



If you would like to write about something for the magazine please send it to me, details are on page 16, I would be really delighted to hear from you.



## Mere Historical Society

It is now a year since the Society has been able to meet but, with the vaccination programme underway, I am keeping our visit to **Forde Abbey on Thursday 17th June** on the calendar!



We look forward to our 50th anniversary in 2022. I am continuing my mission to collect anecdotes around the Society's past and I have had some interesting conversations with members. These included hearing about two past committee members, the first was Archdeacon Basil Stratton who had retired when he and his wife Fay came to live in Mere, he was Chair sometime in the 1980s; the second was Kenneth Kendra a retired army padre who enjoyed being known as 'Padre', he lived with his wife Katie in a bungalow along Back Lane, now known as Castle Hill Lane, he apparently organised and led tours to The Holy Land.

**Caroline Cook** 861797 [www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)

## Codford gardening club

Terry Underhill will be talking via Microsoft Teams, on **Wednesday 17th March** on '*Mediterranean Plants in the Garden*'. As the climate is starting to affect the plants we grow this will give us ideas on the ones that will survive. Terry Underhill is a Horticulturist, Naturalist, TV presenter and producer at TV South West and with many other strings to his bow! He also takes tours around both the British Isles and abroad. So this talk should not be missed. Starting at 7.30pm. If you would like further details of how to access this talk please ring Karen on 850258.



## A poem by Laura Ding-Edwards

If the mountain seems too big today, then climb a hill instead,  
If the morning brings you sadness, it's ok to stay in bed.  
If the day ahead weighs heavy, and your plans feel like a curse,  
There's no shame in rearranging, don't make yourself feel worse.  
If a shower stings like needles, and a bath feels like you'll drown,  
If you haven't washed your hair for days, don't throw away your crown.  
A day is not a lifetime, arrest is not defeat,  
Don't think of it a failure, just a quiet, kind retreat.  
It's ok to take a moment, from an anxious, fractured mind,  
The world will not stop turning, while you get realigned.  
The mountain will still be there, when you want to try again,  
You can climb it in your own time, just love yourself till then.



**Daphne Atkinson** of Waldon Court, Longbridge, thought this poem might be suitable to put into the magazine under the current circumstances.



## Lower Deverills Facebook page

We moved to Longbridge Deverill a year ago. We enjoyed a local Facegroup group where we lived before and have created one for the Lower Deverills; we are unsure yet how useful it will be. The Upper Deverills have one and it has grown to over two hundred members. It is good for lost and found sheep / dogs and to share pretty local photos and events. The page is easily searched for on Facebook just look up 'Lower Deverills', there is one question to answer and then you will be added to the membership and you can read and post new items onto it.



**Steve Tims**

## Neighbourhood watch Co-ordinator - can you help?

Dympna Bell has been the Deverills and Crockerton Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for the last few years and she would now like to hand over to someone new. The role of a NW Co-ordinator is to liaise with the police and help them keep in touch with the community regarding local security and crime related issues. If you think you might be interested in this important role please do get in touch for more information by telephoning Dympna on 840514.



### **The Spring Upper Deverills litter pick 2021** **Saturday 20th & 21st March Sunday**



**Subject to Covid restrictions**

**Equipment will be available for collection at The Bell House, Kingston by individuals who can do the picking at a time convenient to them.**

**All equipment will be clean and covid safe.**

**Nearer the time there will be more information on the Upper Deverills**

**Facebook page / website [www.upperdeverills.co.uk](http://www.upperdeverills.co.uk) or you can email [cllrflint@upperdeverills.co.uk](mailto:cllrflint@upperdeverills.co.uk) for an up date of the situation. Thank you.**

## **Grand National Sweepstake - Saturday 10th April**

**Tickets are £2 each, your can purchase as many as you like!**

**Half the takings will go to support and preserve  
our beautiful churches.**

**Please contact Guy Ratcliffe 840405**



## **BENEFICE OF CLEY HILL VILLAGES INFORMATION**

### **Services during the current lockdown**

At the time of writing we are awaiting government announcements about how the loosening of lockdown will proceed. We will be continuing to offer Zoom services on a Sunday; one in the morning at 10.00 am (except for the third Sunday) and one late afternoon at 5.00 pm. The morning services will be Morning Prayer on the first and second Sunday, 11.00 am Matins on the third Sunday, and a Eucharist on the fourth. I will also send out my weekly Reflections. The links will be sent out each week, if you do not already receive the links please get in touch with me, details on page 16 of the Parish News.

### **Services for Holy Week and Easter**

It is too soon to say if we will have 'live' services for the above. We will be guided by government recommendations and send details as soon as we can.

### **Lent**

If you would like to join in with our Lent course there is still time. This year we are running a course called '**The Mystery of Everything**' based on the film 'The Theory of everything'. We are offering short reflections and questions to consider with links to follow to further engagement with the course. Given the circumstances we find ourselves in, where life is rather a strain, it seems important to keep things simple. I will continue to send the Lent course material and Zoom link out to all my contacts in the Benefice each week. If anyone has any problems joining in please do give me a ring.

### **After Alpha**

Wednesday evenings 8.00 - 9.00 pm weekly on Zoom talks by Canon J. John focusing on the Ten Commandments. Anyone who would like to join the group will be very welcome, even if you can only come to some of the sessions. Please contact Trudi Hopkinson [truidhopkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:truidhopkinson@btinternet.com) / 01373 832393

### **Staying in touch**

We may not be able to physically see one another but our clergy team are committed to working hard to stay in touch, we are always available for a phone conversation and chat any time, please see contact details on page 16.

### **Pauline**

Rev Pauline Reid Tel: 841290 / [revpauline@btinternet.com](mailto:revpauline@btinternet.com)

## **REGISTER**

### **Wedding - Congratulations**

Guy Hutton and Meghna Dutta on Saturday 20th February at Longbridge



Have you ever wondered what difference Fair Trade really makes to the producers around the world?



Would you like to learn more about the producers behind the everyday products we buy?

**Then join me for a Roadshow presented by Matt Oliver of Traidcraft and instead of giving something up for Lent decide to**

**MAKE THE SWITCH TO FAIRTRADE**

**When: Traidcraft Roadshow: Monday 8th March from 6.45 - 7.45 pm**  
**Contact Janet 01747 860884 / jwaywitsend@gmail.com for Zoom link.**

### **CLOCKS CHANGE**

**DON'T FORGET BRITISH SUMMER TIMES STARTS ON**  
**SUNDAY 28TH MARCH**  
**THE CLOCKS GO FORWARD - 1 HOUR**



### **CHURCH CLEANERS FOR MARCH**

**Longbridge** - contact Maggi Ratcliffe 840405

**Brixton** - Eve McBride & Sophie Lawson

**Kingston** - Judy McCulloch & Anne Wiltshire

### **CHURCH FLOWER ARRANGERS FOR MARCH**

#### **Kingston**

#### **Brixton**

#### **Longbridge**

7th March

Lent

No

Flowers

14th March

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"

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21st March

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"

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28th March

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### **The Deverills, Crockerton & Horningsham 50/50 Club**

**It's not too late to join the Club!**

**February winners: £50 Helen Taylor and £25 John Robins**

The valley's 50/50 club raises funds to help preserve our four beautiful churches. It does not raise money for the wider church but for the benefit of all who live in the valley. Each member pays £24 per year and proceeds are divided 50/50, half to support the churches and half as prizes, £50 and £25 each month, with extra prizes at Christmas. Winners' names are published monthly in the Parish News. For more details please contact Diana Abbott: 840763 / decabbott@gmail.com / 29 The Marsh, Longbridge Deverill, BA12 7EA

## Longbridge Deverill Parish Council



By taking part, you can help inform decisions on services which shape your community, e.g. schools, doctors' surgeries and bike lanes etc. It is important



you fill in your census questionnaire because information you share affects the life of every person living in England and Wales. Do not worry, your information is protected by law which means government officials dealing with payments or services you receive will not be able to see it. Census Day is **Sunday 21st March**. You can fill yours in online when you get your access code in the post. If your household circumstances change on Census Day, you can inform The Office for National Statistics (ONS). If you need help, visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) where a wide range of support services are available.

### Could you be part of Warminster and Villages Chamber of Commerce

Warminster Town Council is asking for businesses interested in forming a Chamber of Commerce in Warminster & District to step forward and let them know. They are keen to re start a Chamber of Commerce and would like to talk to businesses to see how they can facilitate the process. Several people have expressed an interest and two meetings have already been held. A constitution has been drafted and some funding secured. The interim Committee is keen to hear from people to take on one of the Committee Roles e.g., Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. The Chamber will be modern, lively, action and outcome focused, providing a strong voice for businesses. 2020 has been a very tough time for many businesses, a Chamber of Commerce is one way to provide mutual benefit and support to businesses in Warminster & District. If interested please contact the Town Council on 214847 or [admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk).

### Date of next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be via Zoom at 7.30 pm on **Monday 1st March**, login details, agenda and previous minutes are on the website or contact the Clerk. [www.crockertonlongbridgeandhilldeverill.co.uk](http://www.crockertonlongbridgeandhilldeverill.co.uk) / [longbridgedeverillpc@gmail.com](mailto:longbridgedeverillpc@gmail.com)

## Upper Deverills Parish Council

A **Community Speed Watch** scheme is being set up in the Upper Deverills. The traffic surveys conducted in December and January showed that vehicles were moving at speeds that warrant a scheme. A team is being gathered which will be trained in the near future. If you would like to take part please contact the **Team Leader Jamie Fagan**: [jamie@fagan.co.uk](mailto:jamie@fagan.co.uk).



### Date of next meeting

The meeting will be via Zoom on **Wednesday 10th March** at 7.00 pm. To join the meeting please see the details on the website and on notice boards. For all information please see the Parish Council website [www.upperdeverills.co.uk](http://www.upperdeverills.co.uk)

## National Cyber Security Centre



Recently a local resident contacted NCSC to report suspicious emails they had been receiving and this was the helpful reply they received:

Thank you for sending on your suspicious messages. Timely alerts from people like you help us to act quickly and protect many more people from being affected. As of 31st January this year 4,500,000 reports have been received with the removal of more than 30,000 scams and 55,000 URLs.

Our investigations may take some time. Whilst the NCSC is unable to inform you of the outcome of its review, we can confirm that we do act upon every message received. We will analyse the content of the suspect email and any websites it links to where appropriate. If we discover activity that we believe is malicious, we may:

- Seek to block the address of the email so it can no longer send emails
  - Work with website hosting companies to remove links to malicious websites
  - Raise awareness of commonly reported suspicious emails and methods used
- Care should be taken with any communication that asks you to share personal or financial information.

If you think you may have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, and live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, you should report this to Action Fraud at **[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)** or by calling 0300 123 2040. There are a number of ways you can protect yourself from attacks like this and the NCSC has published plenty of advice which will help you to stay secure online:

- **The NCSC's top tip for staying secure online**
- **Phishing attacks: how to deal with suspicious messages and emails**
- **Securing your devices**

For a full overview of the NCSC's advice for the general public please head to our **dedicated individuals and families webpage**.

How we handle the information you send to us:

- Information provided to the NCSC is protected as we protect our own confidential information: It is held securely, with strictly limited access.
- We may share details with our Law Enforcement partners, such as the National Crime Agency and the City of London Police, to help identify investigation and mitigation opportunities.
- The information we hold is **exempt** from Freedom of Information requests.
- For further details of handling information sent to us see **Privacy Statement**.

Further information about reporting suspicious emails to the NCSC can be found at **[www.ncsc.gov.uk/report-suspicious-emails](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report-suspicious-emails)**

## Corona 19 virus vaccinations

Like many senior people in our community Guy and Maggi Ratcliffe have received their first vaccinations. They were invited to attend the White Horse surgery in Westbury; arriving in good time they were immediately invited to enter. After initial questions and an explanation of what would happen, they went forward to receive the vaccine. Afterwards they sat for 15 minutes, in case there was a reaction. Before leaving to return home, they were given the date and time of their next appointment for their second injection. They were both so impressed with the efficient and straightforward way they were dealt with and would encourage everyone who is eligible to take up their appointments. Several other residents have also reported their positive experiences of having their vaccinations at other centres. Spring is coming and with the roll out of the vaccine it seems we have a lot to be positive about now.



## A Volunteer Vaccinator's journey

As a Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) volunteer, I read an urgent request from St John Ambulance (SJA) for volunteer vaccinators working alongside the NHS. I applied just before Christmas and was asked to attend an online interview in mid-January.



The next step was the 8 hours of mandatory on-line training. With SJA I was assessed in Safeguarding, Manual Handling, Fire Safety, Data Protection and Basic Life Support. I then had to pass assessments in NHS delivered modules: Legal Aspects, Vaccination Storage and Administration, and the characteristics of the two currently-authorized vaccines: AstraZeneca and Pfizer/BioNTech.

Finally, on 31st January I attended a one-day face-to-face Vaccinator Course in Southampton covering Vaccination Centre organisation and management, infection prevention and control, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), patient assessment and practical first aid, in particular post-vaccination eventualities. Oh, and vaccinating of course. At the end of which I had to pass a rigorous practical assessment. Phew! But with certificate, T-shirt and ID card in hand I was now qualified to administer vaccinations at many of the SJA-supported Vaccination Centres across England. Of course, it made sense to volunteer at the nearest one: City Hall, Salisbury.

To begin with I have been tasked with post-vaccination care duties: ensuring everyone's OK after their jabs and sending them on their way. However, in due course, as things get really busy when people come back for their second appointments, I will be employed as a full vaccinator, probably for one or two shifts a week (a shift being 4-6 hours). So for anyone who has not yet had their vaccination - it may be me behind the mask!

**Richard Munro**

## Nature Notes

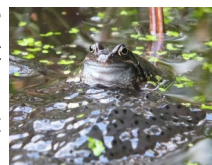
To quote the Dinah Washington song from the late 50's "What a difference a day makes"; after all the cold, windy and wet weather we have been enduring it was such a pleasure to be outside today in warm dry conditions with hardly any wind. I can hear the wind has got up again tonight but at least it's now from the west and warmer, that easterly wind was certainly a beast!

The pond is slowly thawing, it was completely frozen. It was quite a sight to watch the cock pheasant, a regular visitor to the garden, walking or rather skating across the ice. We have a problem with the pond; there is too much weed



growing and we have found out it is an invasive species called curly waterweed. We have started to pull some of it out so there is clear water around the edges. It may be like bindweed in that any piece left behind could grow. This weed has always been in the pond since we have been in the house which will be nine years this May. I think it has grown more because I was feeding the fish, not

all of the food would have been eaten, and last year we had the moorhens 2 adults who reared 13 chicks and so lots of guano, contributing to more nutrients in the pond water. I am certainly not going to feed the fish but I think we may have moorhens again this year, as I saw a pair up under the apple trees this morning. I want to remove more of the weed before the amphibians arrive, any day now. Once they start mating and laying spawn, I will not want to disturb the pond. We had a pair of mallards come yesterday and 10 days ago 2 drakes and a duck, I always associate their arrival with amphibians in the pond as they love the spawn. There has also been a buzzard on the summerhouse roof; a favourite view point to watch for frogs and toads. Last week-end, before the beast from the east came, our neighbour's cat showed great interest in the shallow end of the pond where frogs prefer to spawn, I even thought I could hear croaking. So far I have not actually seen a frog or toad but there is so much weed!



The bird feeders had been quiet and I did not count many when I did the Garden Birdwatch at the end of January; perhaps a combination of bad weather and a sparrowhawk around. The recent cold snap brought a lot more birds and the food consumption went up dramatically. Today is warmer and it has dropped again, I am sure the birds are turning their thoughts to pairing up, mating and nest making. We cleaned the 9 nest boxes on the 3rd of February, one of which is a 3 terraced house sparrow box, 5 were used; 3 by tits and 2 by house sparrows. One box had an almost complete nest which had been abandoned. I remember seeing a pair of great tits come and go and then nothing; maybe one died.

Thankfully bulbs can withstand bad weather and having been laid flat are now standing up proud, we have early mauve crocuses and snowdrops flowering well.

***Jane Trollope*** (written 15th February)

# PROBATE

## **What is Probate?**

Finding yourself as the Executor of someone's Estate can be daunting. Understanding the jargon, knowing what to do and when can cause worry. People use the term 'Probate' to describe the process of administering the Estate of a person who has died. This includes identifying the value of assets and liabilities at date of death, then finally distributing the Estate between the beneficiaries. A Grant of Probate is issued by a Court confirming authority in the Will to the Executors, to distribute a deceased person's Estate in accordance with their wishes. A Grant of Probate may not be required for small Estates or if the assets are held in joint names to be passed to the joint owner via the right of survivorship.

## **What is the Executor's role?**

The role of an Executor is to adhere to the terms of the Will, including obtaining a Grant of Probate if necessary. The Executor named in the Will may be a friend or relative of the deceased. A Solicitor can also be instructed to act as an Executor.

## **What should I do first?**

Following a death there is no immediate urgency to apply for a Grant of Probate. The first steps are to register the death, ensure the house and contents are secure, and the home insurance providers are aware the person has died and will continue to provide cover. You must also locate the Will and make funeral arrangements. Wills are usually read in private. Formal Will readings, as portrayed on television, rarely ever happen. Beneficiaries are usually notified by the Executors in writing or verbally.

## **Who will pay for the funeral or Inheritance Tax?**

If the deceased's bank account holds sufficient funds they will usually release monies before the Grant of Probate is issued for funeral expenses and Inheritance tax.

## **What happens if there is no Will?**

If there is no Will, the Estate will be distributed amongst the deceased's relatives according to the Intestacy Rules. As the deceased person will not have appointed an Executor, the Estate must be dealt with by an Administrator, most often a relative entitled under the Intestacy. If anyone is likely to challenge the distribution of the deceased's Estate, then it is sensible to involve a Solicitor at the outset.

## **How long will it all take and what costs are involved?**

The timescale to wind up an Estate can vary. In straightforward cases it can be finalised in a few weeks or months, in complex cases it can take a year, or longer.

## **It is necessary to use a Solicitor?**

Not necessarily if the Estate is small or simple to administer you will not need a Grant of Probate. However, a large Estate with foreign property, multiple properties, investments or likely to incur Inheritance Tax, you should take advice, the cost will come out of the Estate. An Executor, professional or not is liable for administering the Estate, a mistake could cost them personally, even if they are not a beneficiary.

If you have more questions, Alisha Stephens lives locally and has extensive experience in dealing with Estates, Wills and Powers of Attorney. If you would like a confidential and informal discussion without obligation, please call **Alisha at Forrester Sylvester Mackett Solicitors** on 807040 or email [alishastephens@fmsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:alishastephens@fmsolicitors.co.uk).

## **LOCAL COUNCILS, SOCIETIES, GROUPS etc.**

### **Longbridge Deverill Parish Council**

***www.crockertonlongbridgeandhilldeverill.co.uk***

Caroline Sawyer 840585 (Chair)	Kate Plastow 840975 (Vice Chair)
Richard Baxter 212918	David Searle 213767
Martin McDermott 216939	Nigel Spreadbury-Clews 216660
Nikki Spreadbury-Clews (Clerk) 216660 or longbridgedeverillpc@gmail.com	

### **Upper Deverills Parish Council**

***www.upperdeverills.co.uk***

Louise Stratton 844105 (Chair)	Gillian Flint 844507
Kathryn Clarke 844216	Chris Rose 840011
Richard Munro (Clerk) 844385 or 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 Ian Bell 840514 (Bookings)**

**Upper Deverills Village Hall Ted Flint 844507 (Chair) John Lea 844325 (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 Deverills & Crockerton Dymrna Bell 840514**

**Warminster Link Scheme (Longbridge, Hill Deverill etc) 211655**

**Mere Link Scheme (Upper Deverills etc) 01747 860096**

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

**Post Office: Lakeside Garden Centre, Crockerton: Mon 9.00 - 12.00, Fri 9.00 - 12.00**

## **F U T U R E E V E N T S**

- **Longbridge Parish Council meeting** Monday 1st March See p10/14
- **Fairtrade Roadshow** Monday 8th March See p9
- **Upper Deverills Parish Council meeting** Wednesday 10th March See p11/14
- **Upper Deverills Litter Pick** Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st March See p 7
- **Census Day** Sunday 21st March see p10
- **Grand National sweep stake** Saturday 10th April See p 7



## PARISH OF DEVERILLS AND HORNINGSHAM

<b>Churches</b>	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	
<b>Clergy</b>	Rev Pauline Reid, Rectory, 6 Homefields, Longbridge	
	Email: revpauline@btinternet.com	841290
	Associate Priest Rev Gay Maynard	01373 832490
<b>Licenced Lay Ministers</b>	John Budgen	218203
	Robert Shuler	844291
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Maggi Ratcliffe (Longbridge Deverill)	840405
	Richard Lucas (Brixton Deverill)	841164
	Robert Shuler (Kingston Deverill)	844291
	Tim Moore (Horningsham)	844336
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Ian Meadows	216649
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Hilary McFarland	212206
<b>Church Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Diana Abbott	840763
<b>Parish News Editor</b>	Judy Munro	844385
<b>Organist</b>	Mr John Budgen	218203
<b>Benefice Safeguarding Officer</b>	Rev Pauline Reid	841290

### 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](mailto:judymunro@btinternet.com)

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

**Website: Benefice of Cley Hill Villages** [www.cleyhillchurches.org](http://www.cleyhillchurches.org)

