

# PARISH NEWS

## The Deverills & Crockerton



The Old Rectory and Armidale, Brixton Deverill  
by Pat Armstrong

# MAY 2024

Look inside for local news & information




**TRIO PARADIS**  
*Jacquelyn Bevan - piano   Lisa Betteridge - violin   Linda Stocks - cello*  
*Friendship through music*

**FRIDAY 3rd MAY**  
**The English Romantics**  
*Early C20th masterpieces*

**FRIDAY 7th JUNE**  
**The Flower Garden**  
*Roses and more...*

**FRIDAY 5th JULY**  
**Stage & Screen**  
*Iconic film themes & show songs*

**FRIDAY 2nd AUGUST**  
**Scenes of Childhood**  
*Magical music from Bizet to Ravel*

**FRIDAY 6th SEPTEMBER**  
**Shall We Dance?**  
*Guaranteed to get your toes tapping*

**FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER**  
**Vive la France!**  
*Debussy, Poulenc, Piaf & Satie*

**Monthly Café Concerts**

First Friday of each month at 3.00pm

**THE ATHENÆUM Warminster**

Concerts last c45 min. Café serving home-made cakes. Entrance by donation  
 Reserve seats at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/trio](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/trio)  
[www.trioparadis.com](http://www.trioparadis.com)



**CROCKERTON SCHOOL**

**SPRING FESTIVAL**

Saturday 11th May  
 3pm to 6pm


- LIVE MUSIC • BBQ • BAR •
- cake stall • raffle • tombola • face painting •
- hoopla • mini games • and more!

£1 entry donation

**BRING A PICNIC BLANKET & ENJOY!**

Live music! The Full Motley playing 4-5pm

POTTERS HILL, CROCKERTON, WARMINSTER, BA12 8AB  
 REG CHARITY NO: 1069029



**Wessex Rivers Trust**

The Trust is an environmental charity dedicated to conservation of chalk streams and rivers in Wessex, to create healthy rivers for wildlife & people in co-operation with Wiltshire Council to safeguard the water quality in the River Wylde. This includes a new initiative to upgrade septic tanks in Longbridge Deverill, Crockerton, and wider river catchment. Find out how you can help improve the health of your local river and Wiltshire Council's septic tank upgrade scheme.

**7.30 pm Thursday 16th May at Longbridge Deverill Parish Hall**

See our website  
[www.wessexrt.org.uk/RevampYourTank.html](http://www.wessexrt.org.uk/RevampYourTank.html)



**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

**Shreen Harmony & FRIENDS**

**SPRING CONCERT**

THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2024  
 7.30 PM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
 1 BOAR STREET, MERE, BA12 6DD

**IN SUPPORT OF DEMENTIA ACTION WEEK**  
 ALL WELCOME  
 FREE ADMISSION  
 LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
 RETIRING COLLECTION IN AID OF THE MINDFUL MEMORY CAFE GILLINGHAM




[www.shreenharmony.co.uk](http://www.shreenharmony.co.uk)

## Letter from Bishop Andrew

May is exam month for my youngest daughter, who is undergoing her 'A' Levels this summer, the last of our three to pass through that ordeal. I still recall (as I am sure many of you do too) the sense of elation, almost disbelief, when these were over and a new chapter of life could begin. Somewhere in my loft, I still have the ring file I flung into the air when it was all over!



This transition to a new stage of life feels appropriate as Easter turns to Pentecost and the church waits on God to provide all that she needs to serve him in the world. Given the seemingly constant need to find people to help in church life, it is always encouraging to remember how the Lord can take the scraps we offer and make them sufficient. When offput from commencing an apparently huge task, I sometimes say to myself: 'just do a little' and, having offered my mite to God, leave the multiplication to him.

In annual meeting season, it may be that you are reviewing your responsibilities and wondering about stopping some and starting others. If so, can I encourage you to consider standing for election to deanery or diocesan synod? Synods are our way of sharing the governance of the church and making sure it attends to the things we truly care about. We would love your involvement and trust that God will work through us 'to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think' (Ephesian 3:20).

## Diocesan Synod

Diocese of Salisbury are running a new campaign to encourage more people to stand for Synod called, #ChurchChangemakers. Diocesan Synod is made up of ordinary people who are committed to sharing the news of Christ's transforming love with our communities. To stand for Synod this May, you need to be aged over 16 and on a church electoral roll. In return, you will be able to hone your skills in debating, decision making, and shaping a Church which serves a million people in this area alone; see the website [www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/governance/church-changemakers-diocesan-synod-elections-2024/](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/governance/church-changemakers-diocesan-synod-elections-2024/)

## Be a #ChurchChangemaker

Are you passionate about the local Church, have a desire to bring about change, and a drive to impact the future of the church in our diocese?



Find out more at [salisbury.anglican.org](http://salisbury.anglican.org)



## Community Coffee Mornings 10.30 - 12.00 noon

Wednesday 8th May (NOTE DATE) & Wednesday 5th June

The George Inn, Longbridge - £2

Everyone welcome so please join us

Call Judy 844385 if you require transport



## VALLEY CHAT - Monday 20th May

Upper Deverills Village Hall 2.00 – 4.00 pm

Tea & Cake, bring a friend and your hobbies, games & crafts

Everyone welcome. Information: Judy 844385 or Bridget 844884



## Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust Home Security and Stay Safe Online Presentation



THE WILTSHIRE  
BOBBY VAN TRUST  
Registered Charity No: 1153790

The Trust provides a **free** home security & Stay Safe Online service for people over 60 and also 18+ years with a registered disability in Wiltshire. The schemes are for those who have become or are at risk of becoming a victim of house crime, cybercrime, domestic abuse. **Find out how to stay safe or help those around you at a presentation on Tuesday 28th May at 7.00 pm** in The Wylde Suite, The George Inn, Longbridge Deverill; this is a free event with limited spaces, to book please contact [longbridgedeverillpc@gmail.com](mailto:longbridgedeverillpc@gmail.com) / 07986 880164.

## Upper Deverills Village Hall

**Pub Night & BBQ Friday 31st May 6.00 - 10.30 pm**

Meet old and new friends and enjoy our community

Draught beer, wine, spirits, soft drinks, snacks.

Everyone welcome, look forward to seeing you!

Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/upperdeverills](https://www.facebook.com/groups/upperdeverills)

**Upper & Lower Deverills Quiz Night**



On Friday 19th April the Upper Deverills Village Hall hosted the Lower Deverills Parish Hall to a friendly competition. Everyone enjoyed getting together and we are already looking forward to doing it again next year.

**Beacon Lighting Thursday 6th June**

The Deverills Beacon will be lit at 9.15 pm as part of the national beacon chain commemorating the 80th anniversary of D Day.

## Warminster History Society

Come and join us at 2.30 pm on **Wednesday 1st May** in Warminster Library (entrance through rear door) when **Jon Wort** will talk about the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission 'It's Role and Work'**.



## Codford Gardening Club

2024 is the Gardening Club's 50th Anniversary and May seems to be a particularly celebratory month.

**Sunday 5th May** we are going to the Gardeners World Spring Fair at Beaulieu. The coach will leave Codford Village Hall carpark at 9.45 am.

**Wednesday 15th May** Katherine Crouch will be coming to talk on 'Grasses in the Garden'. Grasses are used more and more in contemporary gardens to give movement, there are hundreds to choose from, Katherine will give us welcome advice! The meeting begins 7.30 pm in Codford Village Hall, bar open 7.00 pm.

**Saturday 18th May** is our **50th Anniversary Plant Sale and Coffee Morning** at Punchbowl Farm, Chitterne Road, by kind permission of Carola Puddy. All members are asked to make it a bumper event with a huge range of plants for sale and a celebration cake with your coffee!



## Mere Gardening Club

Meetings held in the Grove Building, Mere 7.00 for 7.30 pm

**Wednesday 8th May** Sue Carter of Old Chapel Flowers in East Stour will speak on growing cut flowers and extending the growing year.

**Wednesday 12th June** An evening visit to 'Blooming Wild' a small herbaceous and wildflower nursey near Horsington, owned by Steven & Lindsay Lister. After a talk and refreshments plants will be available to purchase, £5 per person.

**Weekend 15th & 16th June** Hidden Gardens of Mere weekend.



## Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

See [www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk](http://www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk) /call 845303 answerphone

**Saturday 11th May** Underwoods Fish & Chip Van 4.30 pm-6.00 pm

**Saturday 25th May** Underwoods Fish & Chip Van 4.30 pm-6.00 pm

**Sunday 23rd June** Plant & Cake Sale 2.00 - 4.00 pm

**Saturday 13th July** Live music with Jon Kenzie

**Saturday 27th July** Race Night

**Saturday 17th August** Produce Show



### Regular Events

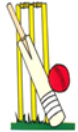
**Mondays** :9.30 -10.30 Pilates; 10.45-11.30 Chair Pilates; 5.00-6.00 Dr Surgery

**Tuesdays**: 9.30 -10.30 am Bradley Babies, 1.00 - 3.00 pm Post Office Service

**Wednesdays**: 10.00 - 11.15 am Silver Sneakers, 6.15 - 7.15 pm Yoga flow

**Thursdays**: 9.30 am - 10.30 Pilates **Fridays**: 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee & library

## Deverills Cricket Club



The Cricket Club is looking to sunny days, willow and leather. We are a friendly, small club with a range of ability and age, playing a few games against local teams each summer. This year's fixtures are:

Thursday 2 May	Away	Heytesbury T20	6.00 pm
<b>Saturday 11 May</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Chilmark</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>
Sunday 2 June	Away	Bratton	2.00 pm
<b>Sunday 16 June</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Fonthill</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>
Friday 28 June	Away	Chilmark T20	6.00 pm
Friday 12 July	Away	Horningsham T20	6.00 pm
Sunday 21 July	Away	Corsley	2.00 pm
Friday 26 July	Away	Mere T20	6.00 pm
Friday 2 August	Away	Marnhull T20	6.00 pm
<b>Sunday 25 August</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>St Stephen</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday 1 September</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Heytesbury</b>	<b>1.00 pm</b>

We would really like a few more to come along and play: men, women, boys and girls. We will probably have a few gentle 'nets' practices before the season. If you are interested in playing, please contact Ed Read on 07702 273338, or anyone you know on the team. And, of course, support is always welcome, particularly at the home games by the Upper Deverills village hall.



## Open Door Cancer Support Café Warminster

**Friday 3rd May 10.00 am - 12.00 noon** Carl, a prehab/rehab instructor from Salisbury Hospital will provide information prior to and after treatment.

**Friday 17th May at 10.00 am - 12.00 noon** Find out about benefits and grants available to people affected by cancer from Karen Macmillan, Welfare Advisor. Also, Myeloma Specialist Support Group, learn more about the group and how they could support you.

The different Café sessions at the Athenaeum in Warminster welcome many visitors and regular guests benefitting from support given over a free coffee with biscuits; please visit our website at [opendoorwarminster.org](http://opendoorwarminster.org)

## **BIG Sleep Stargazing Sleepout at Messums Friday 24th – Saturday 25th May**

Alabaré would like to invite you to a special stargazing sleepout at Messums in Tisbury, part of the International Dark Sky Reserve, to raise funds for Alabaré’s work supporting the homeless across Wiltshire and the South West. Participants will sleep out in the courtyard beside the barn, with the opportunity to join in activities during the evening, adding to the poignancy and atmosphere. Join actress Pippa Haywood for a moving Twilight Walk, remembering those who are homeless through poetry, while celebrating the natural landscape around us. Learn from the Cranborne Chase National Landscape team, who will talk about the wonders of the astronomical dark night sky and a team of astronomers who will let us look through telescopes where we hopefully can see the constellations for ourselves. Alabaré has many years’ experience organising sleep out events at wonderful venues around the country. This event is suitable for individuals and families (children over 8 years). For details to register and fundraising targets please visit [alabare.co.uk/events/the-big-sleep-stargazing-sleepout/](http://alabare.co.uk/events/the-big-sleep-stargazing-sleepout/)

### **Crockerton School**

We are truly into Spring and Crockerton School pupils started the season with an Easter service at St Peter and St Paul's Church as part of our Spirituality Day. Rev Norma Payne kindly joined us to share a thought-provoking sermon. It was wonderful to see families and the community in attendance. The pupils sang joyfully, shared Easter prayers and showed off their spiritual artwork. After the service, the whole school set off for one of our many walks in Longleat Forest, they are always a joyous occasion, and the weather was kind! We are so lucky to live in this beautiful place. We hope to see many of you on **Saturday 11th May 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm** at the school's **Spring Festival** (see page 2). We are always happy to hear from anyone interested in working with the school, please contact the school office Tel: 212168.



FRIENDS OF  
ERLESTOKE PRISON

## ***"Summer Dreams"***

### **The Farrant Singers**

Purcell, Gibbons, Parry, Byrd, Finzi and others

**Thursday 20th June 7.30pm All Saints Church, Chitterne BA12 0LF**

Parking available. Tickets £15 (including a welcome drink) from:

[treasurer@friendsoferlestokeprison.com](mailto:treasurer@friendsoferlestokeprison.com)

or email Eve; [eve.mcbride1@gmail.com](mailto:eve.mcbride1@gmail.com)

All proceeds to The Friends of Erlestoke Prison charity to support rehabilitation projects for HMP Erlestoke prisoners & their families.

[www.friendsoferlestokeprison.com](http://www.friendsoferlestokeprison.com) Registered charity number: 1201388

## SERVICES DEVERILLS & HORNINGSHAM PARISH

### Sunday

### Easter 6

5th May	Kingston 8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
	Manor Farm, 4.00 pm	Rogation service
	Kingston Deverill	

### Sunday

### Easter 7

12th May	Kingston 10.00 am	Holy Communion
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### Sunday

### Pentecost

19th May	Brixton 10.00 am	Holy Communion
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### Sunday

### Trinity

26th May	Longbridge 10.00 am	Holy Communion
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### Sunday

### Trinity 1

2nd June	Kingston 8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
	Longbridge 10.00 am	Morning Worship

### Parish News annual donation

Thank you very much to everyone who has made a donation this year towards the printing costs of this magazine. It's not too late if you have not contributed. If you need a blue envelope please let me know (844385) and I will get one to you.



**Envelopes:** Please take them to **Longbridge Deverill Garage - thank you.**

*Judy Munro* - Editor



### CHURCH CLEANERS FOR MAY

**Kingston** Sarah Fagan & Judy Munro  
**Brixton** Emma House & Christine Lucas  
**Longbridge** by arrangement



### CHURCH FLOWER ARRANGERS FOR MAY

	<b>Kingston</b>	<b>Brixton</b>	<b>Longbridge</b>
5th May	Gomez/Curtis	Pony Burrridge	See Rota
12th May	Gomez/Curtis	Sally Buchan-Jones	"
19th May	Alice Stratton	Sally Buchan-Jones	"
26th May	Alice Stratton	Penny Marsh	"

## SERVICES CORSLEY & CHAPMANSLADE PARISH

### Sunday

### Easter 6

5th May

High House Farm,  
Corsley 10.00 am

Rogation service

### Sunday

### Easter 7

12th May

Chapmanslade 10.00 am

Praise & Worship

### Sunday

### Pentecost

19th May

Corsley 11.00 am

Matins

### Sunday

### Trinity

26th May

Chapmanslade 10.00 am

Holy Communion

### Sunday

### Trinity 1

2nd June

Corsley 10.00 am

Holy Communion

### DEVERILLS, CROCKERTON & HORNINGSHAM 50/50 CLUB

**March winners: £50 Margot Judd & £25 Heather De Wulf**



### WHAT IS THE 50 / 50 CLUB ?

The 50/50 Club is a fundraising campaign to ensure the survival of our beautiful churches, with a potential reward for those who participate. The annual subscription is £24, (£2 per month!). Why not consider more than one entry? The Club was formed in July 2014 since when, several thousands of pounds have been raised for the benefit of our churches in the Deverill valley and Horningsham, which were impacted by the absence of church collections and fundraising opportunities due to the Covid pandemic. Church funds are still sorely depleted and the 50/50 Club is a simple way for anyone in our community to join and stand a chance to win a cash prize in return. **Subscriptions are due to be renewed on 16th July**, so do make haste if you would like to join. Forms can be found in all our four churches and should be sent to Diana Abbott. Otherwise, feel free to **join online and pre-date your payment to 16th July** and please remember to **use '50/50' Club as your reference**. To obtain the necessary bank details etc please contact Diana Abbott Tel: 840763 or email her **decabbott@gmail.com** or Karen Seymour PCC Treasurer Tel: 840196 or email **pcctreasurer.dandhchurches@gmail.com**.



## Upper Deverills Parish Council

**The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Upper Deverills will be at 6.00pm on Wednesday 8th May at Upper Deverills Village Hall.**

Come along and air your views or raise your concerns. The Chair will give a brief report on the year's activities. There will be an open forum. **Next Parish Council meeting and AGM will be on Wednesday 8th May at the Village Hall at 7.00 pm.**

**Vacancy for a Parish Councillor:** There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested in playing a part in the life of our community then please get in touch with the Parish Clerk. [clerk@upperdeverills.co.uk](mailto:clerk@upperdeverills.co.uk) or any of the Parish Councillors, details on page 14. The Parish Council meets on average five times a year, being a Councillor is a great way to contribute to your local community.

**The Annual Litter Pick** took place on 16th March. The Parish Council wish to thank the large number of volunteers who took part. A dry day helped to make the task in hand more enjoyable. Particular thanks go to Alan Richardson for driving volunteers all over the parish and returning with sacks full of litter. Together, we collected a huge quantity of litter as well as assorted vehicle parts. Thank you also to Richard Stratton for removing the litter.

## Longbridge Deverill Parish Council

At the Annual Parish Meeting of the Electorate on 18th March, the Chairman to the Council Cllr Mark Duddridge, gave the Council's annual and financial report. The following organisations Longbridge Deverill Parish Hall, Friends of Crockerton Primary School, Deverills Cricket Club, PCC of Deverills & Horningsham, Deverills & Crockerton Parish News and Crockerton Village Committee gave presentations, for full details of the presentations please see the draft minutes. All organisations appreciate all the support they receive and welcome new members and volunteers.

**Fly Tipping** If you report an incident of fly-tipping to Wiltshire Council, you could get a gift voucher of up to £200 following receipt of a fixed penalty notice or successful prosecution. The council will then pay contractors to clear the area. You can find out more about Wiltshire Council's fly-tipping policy and report an incident [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fly-tipping](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fly-tipping)

### Forthcoming Events

**Home Security & Stay Safe Online** Presentation – see page 4 for full details  
Defibrillator & CPR training, Longleat Forestry talk/walk, Community River Talk - including new initiative aimed at upgrading septic tanks.

The **Annual Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 13th May, 7.00 pm**, all welcome at the Parish Hall. Full minutes and agendas are published on the Parish Council website or contact the Clerk, details on page 14.



## Crockerton Village Egg-stravaganza!



On Sunday 24th March, the Children of Crockerton came out in force for the annual Easter egg hunt held in the woods at Shearwater Lake, Crockerton. This year they were joined by The Learning Meadow who had kindly donated the eggs, there was a donation pot which raised a further £40 towards

the village defibrillator fund. A spokesperson from the committee known only as the Easter Bunny said "It was a perfect day to get the community together again and enjoy each other's eggcitement, and joy at finding a chocolate egg or two... The turnout was fantastic and a brilliant opportunity to catch up with friends old and new."

The village committee, run by a group of volunteers, meet throughout the year to plan special events for the villagers. The next event they are planning and very much looking forward to is the annual Summer Street Party in June.

## Crockerton Village Committee

Crockerton Village Committee (formerly Crockerton Millennium Committee) was formed in 1999 to arrange activities to celebrate the millennium. The activities were a great success so it was decided to continue with the committee to arrange social events for the benefit of villagers, and we are pleased to say we are still going strong. We are a social, non-profit making organisation. Our aim and purpose is to organise and provide events for villagers to enjoy and meet others and to enhance our environment. Each year we hold an Easter egg hunt, summer street party (themed to national events if possible) and Christmas carols, these are always well supported.



The committee are responsible for the two defibrillators positioned at Lake Shearwater Tea Rooms and Crockerton School, thank you Lee and Helen and the School for allowing us to install them at your premises. We also fund raise to pay for them, hence donation pots at events.

The committee meet at its discretion, generally three or four times annually. Decisions on events, expenditure and applying for funding will be discussed and agreed at such meetings.

**We are looking for new members, whether you have lived in the village for many years or only recently arrived, to continue to help with existing and/or new events. If you wish to join or would like to find out more, please come along to our next meeting on Wednesday 15th May, 7.30 pm at The Bath Arms, or contact Nikki Spreadbury-Clews 07986 880164, details on page 14, or any of the members of the committee.**

## Longbridge Deverill Nursing Home



Over the past few weeks at the Nursing Home, residents, staff and families have been busy experiencing a variety of colourful and immersive activities. Staff and families took part in a training session to really discover what it can feel like for people living with dementia. Those who chose to attend experience scenarios where senses were dulled, reducing the ability to function, with full understanding- awareness being impaired and similar sensations of reduced ability.

Immersive activities were enjoyed by residents applying their skills and curiosity to the new large format, interactive activities board, they choose activities like sensory experience, colouring, music and so much more. We were delighted to hold an opening ceremony of the Nursery and Pets area, where some residents enjoy embracing the life-like dolls, listening to reminiscent rhymes, pushing prams around the units, or just quietly reflecting on cherished memories with their little ones. The nursery and pets' area has proved to be beneficial, holding a doll or toy animal can be soothing. It can remind people of a time when they had young children or a pet of their own.



The staff have also been busy creating interactive destination areas within the home, with themes like of bird-watching, Royal Mail, War, Bakery, nostalgic sweet shop, with more areas in the planning. It has been lovely having helping hands as some residents were happy to create ensembles of miniature themed memory boxes for these destination areas. It has been a heart-warming experience seeing the responses to the new interactive art murals on the walls of the dementia units. Karyn, the activities team lead, with her artistic skills, has created cheerful

painted scenes for residents on the dementia units, she included animals that have visited the home so it is a meaningful experience for people. Reminiscence, in the form of pictures or visual aids, can be a valuable tool for communication and engagement with people living with dementia, and gives a homely feel to the care home. The dementia-friendly murals and destination areas help prompt memories, and both residents and families are enjoying these interactive spaces.

Cognitive games like jigsaws, quizzes and wordsearches are a good way of people living with dementia to keep an active mind and continue to have a sense of fun. With the weather warming, residents are enjoying being outdoors walking in the beautiful gardens, chat and reminiscences of places explored or their own gardening stories. Residents have enjoyed musical entertainment, with gentle dance exercise or singing along to nostalgic tunes. A vibrant colourful musical show was performed by the visiting pantomime company, 'Tickled Pink' in their recent show here, 'Best of Broadway'.

An array of colour was displayed in our Holi festival of Spring, some residents happily dressed in colourful attire and sprinkled coloured powders onto art canvases. On the same day we celebrated with a colourful birthday party for our resident Sean. 'A colourful day' incorporating a Hindu festival into the activities, residents felt a sense of inclusion chatting about the festivities, with music and images of other cultures.



## Upper Deverills wildlife conservation group

### Evening Bat Walk 8.00 pm Thursday 2nd May - Kingston Deverill

This short evening walk around Kingston Deverill will help people identify, see and hear various bat species. The leader Jenny Bennett, formerly of Brixton Deverill, is an ecologist and bat specialist. She will bring a number of bat detectors for us to use. We will meet opposite Kingston Deverill church (parking by kind permission of Richard Stratton) and aim to return by 10.00 pm. Numbers are limited to 20. Please contact Peter Marsh to reserve a place on 840828 or email [pcmars@aol.com](mailto:pcmars@aol.com)

## Nature Notes

The weather continues to be very unsettled, I cannot remember a spring like it and I feel rather cheated as it is my favourite time of the year, it doesn't feel like we have had a spring at all. When treated to a better day it's lovely to see everything triggered into action. The last 2 or 3 days have been much better and there were butterflies about, I spotted lots of orange tip, a few peacocks and some brimstone. I removed a peacock butterfly and three queen wasps from the garage where they had overwintered. In the keen north-westerly wind and heavy showers and even hail the beautiful cherry tree at the front has struggled to hold on to its blossom, it came out earlier than usual, it normally flowers after the two cherry trees in the back garden, one is almost over but the other is in full bloom; our beech tree is just coming into leaf; such a gorgeous green.



The great tits are showing interest in the beech tree box, it is not wooden but made of a mix of concrete and wood fibre. Great tits like to peck around the hole entrance and I think the male is frustrated he can't make his mark on the hole as it's so hard. I have seen them going into the box so there is hope they will use it. I think blue tits are using the box on the silver birch nearby, it tends to be blue tits that use it and I caught sight of one going into the box in a very purposeful way.

We appear to have a pair of nesting moorhens again. If the dead bird I found on the side of the road was one of the original pair, then the remaining bird found another partner very soon. I thought they were nesting somewhere else but I think the warmer weather over the last few days has sparked them into nest building; I have seen both birds dragging bits of weed and stick into the irises. I can now see quite a lot of tadpoles in the pond, hopefully some of them will make it to adulthood.

As yet I have not seen any swallows, which doesn't surprise me with the unsettled conditions, but I have got the stable ready for them so fingers crossed I will see and hear them chattering on the wires very soon. I thought I heard one yesterday when I was out gardening but I think it was probably some goldfinches.

I am not seeing so many tits on the fat balls, which makes me think they are nesting; certainly long-tailed tits nest quite early and I only see the occasional one now. I am still spotting siskins on the feeders and apparently rain closes pine cones and knocks alder and silver birch seeds out, so these preferred foods become difficult to find so they come to garden feeders. I have heard male blackcaps, lovely melodious song, and I was lucky enough to spot one; usually they sing deep in the undergrowth. The male has a very distinctive black cap which is where it gets its name, the female's is brown.

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

## LOCAL COUNCILS, SOCIETIES, GROUPS

**Longbridge Deverill Parish Council** [www.longbridgedeverillparishcouncil.com](http://www.longbridgedeverillparishcouncil.com)

Mark Duddridge (Chairman) 213476      Kate Plastow 840975 (Vice Chair)

Martin McDermott 216939      David Searle 213767

Tony Erskine 07903 3308438      Nigel Spreadbury-Clews 216660

James Kettler 841129      Vicky Swan 215752

Nikki Spreadbury-Clews (Clerk) 07986 880164 or [longbridgedeverillpc@gmail.com](mailto:longbridgedeverillpc@gmail.com)

**Upper Deverills Parish Council** [www.upperdeverills.co.uk](http://www.upperdeverills.co.uk)

Jamie Fagan 844123 (Chair)      Belinda Stewart-Cox 840150

Louise Stratton 844105      Andrew Hardwick 844 852

Laura Napper (Clerk) 07971 368742 or [clerk@upperdeverills.co.uk](mailto:clerk@upperdeverills.co.uk)

**Wiltshire Councillor** Christopher Newbury 01373 822508

**Wiltshire Council** 0300 456 0100

**Member of Parliament** Dr Andrew Murrison 01225 358584

**Longbridge Deverill Parish Hall** Ian Bell 840514 (Bookings)

**Upper Deverills Village Hall** Ted Flint 844507 (Chair) John Lea 844325 (bookings)

**Sir James Thynne Almshouse** Sue Jackson 840322 (Trustee)

**Crockerton Village Committee** Nikki Spreadbury-Clews 07986 880164

**Deverills Cricket Club** Ed Read 07702 273338 (Captain)

**Community Police - Local Officer (Rural)**

PCSO Leigh Holcombe 9548 – [leigh.holcombe@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:leigh.holcombe@wiltshire.police.uk) or call 101

**Neighbourhood Watch Deverills & Crockerton co-ordinator**

Crispian Beattie email: [ceib@btinternet.com](mailto:ceib@btinternet.com) or call 844884

**Warminster Link Scheme** (Longbridge, Hill Deverill etc) 07447 572789

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

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

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

**Defibrillators:** Google [defifinder.uk](http://defifinder.uk) to locate nearest defibrillator to you

The George Inn, Longbridge BA12 7DG; Lakeside BA12 8AP - opening hours

Shearwater Tearooms BA12 8AE; Crockerton School BA12 8AB

Deverill Valley Trading Estate BA12 7BZ - opening hours

Upper Deverills Village Hall BA12 7HG; Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall BA12 7JG

Weighbridge Office, Keysley Farm, BA12 7EY - opening hours

Horningsham Village Hall BA12 7LL

## FUTURE EVENTS

- **Warminster History Society** Wednesday 1st May See p5
- **Deverills Cricket Club** Thursday 2nd May See p6
- **Evening Bat Walk** Thursday 2nd May See p13
- **Open Door Support Café** Friday 3rd May See p6
- **Trio Paradis - Monthly Café Concerts** Friday 3rd May See p2
- **Codford Gardening Club** Sunday 5th May See p5
- **Community Coffee Morning** Wednesday 8th May See p4
- **Upper Deverills Annual Parish meeting** Wednesday 8th May See p10/14
- **Upper Deverills Parish Council AGM & meeting** Wednesday 8th May See p10/14
- **Mere Gardening Club** Wednesday 8th May See p5
- **Crockerton School Spring Festival** Saturday 11th May See p2
- **Deverills Cricket Club** Saturday 11th May See p6
- **Maiden Bradley Hall Fish & Chips van** Saturday 11th May See p5
- **Longbridge Annual Parish Council Meeting** Monday 13th May See p10/14
- **Crockerton Village Committee Meeting** Wednesday 15th May See p11
- **Codford Gardening Club** Wednesday 15th May See p5
- **Wessex Rivers Trust** Thursday 16th May See p2
- **Shreen Harmony & Friends Spring Concert** Thursday 16th May See p2
- **Open Door Support Café** Friday 17th May See p6
- **Codford Gardening Club** Saturday 18th May See p5
- **Valley Chat** Monday 20th May See p4
- **Alabaré Big Sleep Star Gazing** Friday 24th - Saturday 25th May See p7
- **Maiden Bradley Hall Fish & Chips van** Saturday 25th May See p5
- **Stay Safe online Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust** Tuesday 28th May see p4
- **Upper Deverills Village Hall Pub Night** Friday 31st May See p4
- **Deverills Cricket Club** Sunday 2nd June See p6
- **Upper Deverills Beacon Lighting** Thursday 6th June See p4
- **Mere Gardening Club** Wednesday 12th June See p5
- **Mere Open Gardens** Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th June See p5
- **Deverills Cricket Club** Sunday 16th June May See p6
- **Farrant Singers Summer Dreams Concert** Thursday 20th June See p7
- **Maiden Bradley Hall Plant & Cake stall** Sunday 23rd June See p5

## PARISH OF DEVERILLS AND HORNINGSHAM

**Please note during the Interregnum** to make arrangements for baptisms, weddings, funerals or pastoral visits please make contact by emailing **deverillsllm@btinternet.com** or calling the Parish number **07301 298096** or contact the church wardens listed below.

**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

**Licensed Lay Minister** Robert Shuler 844291

### Church Wardens & Deputies

Lizzie & Ian Meadows (Longbridge Deverill) lizzie@fourcornersmktg.com

Richard Lucas (Brixton Deverill) 841164

Robert Shuler (Kingston Deverill) 844291

Tim Moore (Horningsham) 844336

**PCC Chair** Robert Shuler 844291

**PCC Treasurer** Karen Seymour 840196

**PCC Secretary** Hilary McFarland 212206

**Church Electoral Roll Officer** Diana Abbott 840763

**Benefice Safeguarding Officer** Sarah Podmore

**Benefice Admin Assistant** Sarah Podmore



### Contact the Editor and see 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](http://www.cleyhillchurches.org)**

Website contents: Parish News, church services, Parish register, events