

KILMINGTON POSTscript

Issue 191 February 2017



EDITORIAL

It's official! NASA reported today (15th January 2017) that 2016 was the warmest year since records began. We had already been told by the Met office that December 2016 was the driest December in Devon on record and this followed the extraordinary rainfall of 19-22 November when the photograph on our front cover was taken. The photo was taken at the top of Springhead Lane and shows the torrent of water flowing down from Shute Woods which passes under the road and then progresses down through the village. The Met Office said the wettest place in the UK on Monday 21st November was Dunkeswell Aerodrome where 50mm of rain fell in 24 hours. Coming hard on the heels of Storm Angus the previous week, rivers struggled to cope and, by Monday evening, rail travellers were being told not to travel to try to travel to the West Country. An extraordinary set of circumstances but, thank goodness, we heard no reports of flooding of homes in the village.

This issue is the first of 2017 so we wish all our readers a very healthy and happy new year. We include many reports from the Christmas and New Year period and news of forthcoming events. There are reports of several celebrations (see page 3). Congratulations to Carey and Mandy on their award and a big thank you to Jean and John Thorne for their entertaining story from wedding to Golden Wedding anniversary. Another event for celebration is shown on page 10 - a photograph of Brian and Caroline Lavender when they were congratulated for organising the Poppy appeal in the village for 20 years. Brian and Michael O'Flaherty were also made life vice-presidents of the Kilmingon Branch of the RBL in recognition of their many years of service to the Legion.

Our centre pages contain an article on one of our traditional rural pastimes, raising pheasants, and the pheasant season with photos taken by Maureen during a recent day shoot around the village. This issue also includes the first part of a series of articles on the Kilmingon Players who have a long history dating from 1944. Together with the poster on the back cover for this year's panto, we hope that this will wet your appetite. Remember that there is sometimes a queue outside the shop for tickets so don't forget ticket sales start from Monday 30th January. If you have taken part in our panto, produced a panto, painted scenery, helped behind the scenes or have memories of a particular panto you enjoyed, then it's not too late to send us a note or email and we will try our hardest to print it in a future issue of the village magazine.

Judith, on behalf of the Postscript team

The photograph on the front cover is by Maureen Lane.

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Please remember to use the email address for Postscript:

postscript@kilmingtonvillage.com

Alternatively, please give your item to any of the team or leave it at Hurfords Stores.

The closing date for submitting items for the March issue is 15th February. All will be acknowledged. Please email or ring 01297 35159 if not acknowledged within 48 hours.

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The Postscript team are all volunteers and your donations, together with fees from advertisers, are used to pay for the cost of printing.

DONATIONS

The donations collected from Hurfords Stores and Miller's Farmshop in mid-January, together with other donations, came to a total of £53.72. These will help towards printing of this issue. Thank you all for your support.

ADVERTISING RATES

Please see inside back cover for details.

Cost per 20-page copy of Postscript averages 50p each but coloured and larger issues cost more. Extra copies are available from Millers Farm Shop and Hurfords Stores, where donations may be made.

Disclaimers: Items in this publication are the work of individuals and do not necessarily reflect the thoughts or opinions of the Editorial Team who may make small alterations to items submitted.

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This publication is available on-line at www.kilmingtonvillage.com. In addition, and from time to time, earlier issues will also appear on-line.

CONGRATULATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

JEAN AND JOHN THORNE'S GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

We were married at St Bartholomew's Church, Oldfield Park, Bath on the 3rd December 1966, the year that England won the World Cup, which is why John never forgets the year! It was a cold and manic day with John arriving by car and all his relatives by train from London. For that reason we had to get married in the afternoon, his relatives returning by train to London the same evening. A honeymoon in Lynton and Lynmouth followed, but only lasted three days because we ran out of money!

We celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 3rd December 2016 at The Boathouse, Bradford-on-Avon Marina, Wiltshire, near to where most of our family live, with a large family party. It had an Anniversary/ Birthday/ Christmas theme because there were also several family birthdays on and around the same day. A wonderful time was had by all. For his speech John read a poem he had written called *Growing Old!*

Additional Notes

We met at the Admiralty in Bath, now part of The Ministry of Defence. John lived and worked for a company in London and volunteered to go to Bath as a draughtsman to work on the Polaris Submarines Programme, I worked in the Technical Library for the same project. (We both had to sign the Official Secrets Act!) We met by the communal tea urn (!) and when John asked me to go out with him I said that I already had a boyfriend. He replied that he was not asking my boyfriend, just me!! To a girl born and raised in a small country village near Bath, a



lad from London seemed much more exciting than a country lad, so ... goodbye boyfriend!

By the time John's contract had finished and he returned home to London to work, I had left home and was living in a shared flat. Money was tight and eventually we couldn't afford the weekend trips to visit each other, so in August 1966, rather than getting engaged, we decided it was more economic to get married instead. Less than four months was not long to organise a wedding, but we did it! John and his parents chose and decorated a flat for us to live in - in London.

The move to the big city was more difficult than I had expected. To cut a very long story short I was very ill and, for health reasons, was advised to move to a more agreeable environment so, after about a year, we moved back to the Bath area. I returned to the Admiralty and John found a job locally. It might sound one-sided, but

John too was very happy to move back to 'the country'.

For business reasons we moved to this area in 1981 with our two sons Christopher and Stuart and bought our house in Kilmington. Later, we moved our Pump business from Chard and built our new Lowara Pump Manufacturing Company on the Millwey Rise Industrial estate. Since we retired this has expanded and now has two separate units for Lowara, subsequently re-named Xylem and Gould's Pumps.

Jean Thorne



105 YEARS YOUNG

Many congratulations to Mrs Mabel Fowler of Silver Street who on Sunday, 12th February reaches the magnificent age of 105. A very Happy Birthday for that day.

THE NEW INN GARDEN AWARD

Following in the tradition of acclaimed Kilmington gardens, The New Inn has been declared the winner of the Palmer's Brewery *Garden in Bloom 2016* competition. Points were awarded for a variety of criteria in addition to the overall appearance.

The vegetable plot and herbs used in the kitchen, the chickens and ducks and the variety and range of garden events, all gave Mandy and Carey the hedge, sorry edge! The judges said, 'They did a fantastic job making the outside of the pub look inviting, producing



fresh produce for the kitchen and using the outside areas of their business to attract customers to the pub.'

The winning certificate is proudly on display in the bar. Their prize is a day at *The Chelsea Flower Show*, so we expect them to learn plenty and win again this year!

Peter

After a wonderful break for Christmas, we welcomed the children back in the New Year to some exciting activities.

We've started the spring term by looking at some traditional fairy tales, offering the children a variety of opportunities. Whilst looking at *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* the children enjoyed some role play, explored oats, did some cooking and plenty more. We then went on to *The Three Little Pigs*; the children made structures out of different materials, did puppet shows for

each other and got creative making pictures, to name a few of the activities. The children have plenty more to look forward to over the coming weeks!

During the spring term we will also be welcoming more children to the pre-school and we look forward to meeting them and their families.

After half-term, we will be doing our Crazy Craft morning, as well as our Easter Coffee Morning, dates to follow!!

Thank you for the continued support for Kilmington Pre-school!

Carly Dare

MESSY SPARKLERS

At Messy Sparklers in January, around 40 mums, dads, grandmothers and childminders enjoyed a range of activities, following the theme of Epiphany, with their babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. As the theme was the visit of the Magi to Jesus in Bethlehem, the children made scented playdough crowns, did handprint camels, "travelled" over stepping stones and through tunnels, made paper plate crowns, coloured camels and decorated delicious crown shaped cookies for their snack. There were a variety of sensory toys and a gold-themed treasure basket aimed at the younger children, but enjoyed by all. The children especially enjoyed the knitted characters used to tell the story before lunch time.

Messy Sparklers is held on the **second Thursday** of each month during term time. Our next session will be on

Thursday, 9th February at The Beacon, home of The Baptist Church Kilmington. We run from 10.30 am until 12.30 pm, including lunch. A contribution of £2 for the first child, plus £1 for additional children, covers all of the activities plus lunch for both children and their parents/carers. Please join us.



Juletta Obudo

THE KILMINGTON SKY AT NIGHT

Loads to see this month and usually we get some nice clear skies in February, so make the most of it and look up some more!

3rd Moon, Venus and Mars line up. The moon is obvious, lower and to the right is the next brightest object in our sky – Venus. In between the two, Mars the reddish planet, should be fairly easy to see with the eye alone but binoculars can help.

7th The Moon is in the Winter Circle or Winter Hexagon which fills most of the eastern half of sky at nightfall. You will almost certainly have seen this incredibly large star configuration made of brilliant winter stars. Tonight it's easier to see as the moon is at its centre. It is not one of the 88 recognised constellations, but an *asterism* – a pattern of stars that's fairly easy to recognize. Through the evening it will swing through the south and into the west around midnight.

10th Penumbral eclipse of the Moon. Looking a little bit darker than usual tonight, the moon passes through the Earth's faint penumbral shadow for a portion of tonight. But be forewarned: A penumbral eclipse is nowhere as dramatic as a total or even partial umbral lunar eclipse. Although



tonight's whole eclipse, from start to finish, lasts for some four and a half hours, the beginning (at 22:34) and ending (02:53) stages are not visible to the eye. Given a dark sky, the eclipse should be visible to the eye for an hour or two, centred on the greatest eclipse at 00:43.

11th The Moon and Regulus, the brightest star in Leo close together.

14th Watch the Moon, dazzling Jupiter and Spica climbing above the eastern horizon late this evening. The twosome, Jupiter and Spica will

remain in our skies right into March when you can look forward to seeing them earlier in the evening sky, well before your bedtime! And Spica looks like one star, but is in fact at least two stars, both larger and hotter than our sun!

15th Venus at its brightest tonight, with Mars close by – Don't miss them!

19th/20th Saturn and Antares close to moon before sunrise each morning.

28th Slender crescent Moon and Venus close at dusk. Later when darker, look a little higher for Mars and Uranus in the same binocular field just below.

Peter

KILMINGTON GARDENING CLUB

The talk on Friday, February 10th is on Echinacea and Rudbeckia by Martin Young.

In an interesting talk, Martin covers the versatility of this very popular plant group, from providing late summer and autumn colour in the garden to the medicinal use of Echinacea.

In the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.
Non-members welcome £1.00.

If you live in Kilmington and have difficulty getting transport to our talks, then please phone Lesley on 01297 32631 or 07900 827 689 and she will try to arrange a lift for you.

Lesley Rew

SHORT TENNIS COACHING

A reminder that there is short tennis coaching for 4 - 11 year olds in the Village Hall from 4.00 - 6.00 pm on Saturdays, 4th and 11th February.

LOST

A Brown Cashmere Shawl or long scarf was lost during a funeral on Friday, 13th January in the Village Hall or St. Giles' Church. Of great sentimental value.

If found please email:
sashadmitchell@gmail.com or call 01297 34405.

Thank you.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Tuesday, 28th February 2017 at 11.20 - 11.50 am at the junction of The Street and The Hill.



Bridget Jones Baby

(15)

**Kilmington Village Hall
Wednesday, 1st February**



This is a better Bridget than the last movie because it doesn't feel the need to indulge shark-jumping set pieces like zipping off to Thailand. We stick in her old London manor of Borough and she's still in the same old scuzzy flat, still working for a cable TV news company, where she has now improbably become a producer.

This is pretty broad comedy we're talking about: not Mrs Brown's Boys-broad, but broad nevertheless. Yet the effect is achieved in the same way as the first movie. Basically, Bridget presides over a kind of coalition government of very good supporting turns which on aggregate enforce their chaotic comic rule over the audience. Just about.

Sadly, Hugh Grant's über-cad Daniel Cleaver is no longer with us, but Colin Firth's uptight Darcy is still a droll turn. There is a nice scene when Darcy and Bridget find themselves having to pose uncomfortably with a baby to which they are now godparents. "Perhaps a kiss on the head, sir...?" says the wheedling photographer, "... mm ... I actually meant the baby." Then there is Emma Thompson, who has cheekily written herself a part as Bridget's droll doctor.

Gemma Jones and Jim Broadbent are amiably back as Bridget's mum and dad, Jones completely unsure how FaceTime works on her smartphone and standing for the parish council for the Conservative Party.

What sealed the deal for me – by a whisker – was the gigantic physical comedy that Dempsey, Zellweger and Firth uncorked as they try to get through the hospital revolving door as Bridget is about to give birth.

Review (abridged) Peter Bradshaw, Guardian

Forthcoming Films: Two more great films: 1st March: I Daniel Blake (15)"; 5th April A United Kingdom (15)

Doors open at 6.45 pm when wine, soft drinks and tea/coffee are available. The evening's entertainment starts at 7.15 pm and ends about 10.00 pm. Tickets £5.50 on the door or £5 in advance from Hurfords Stores (village store and post office); alternatively, contact me, John Watts, on 01297 32335 or email: john@jwatts.demon.co.uk

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Letter from the Churches

On behalf of the church in Kilmington (Anglican and Baptist), we wish all the readers of Postscript a very blessed New Year. We have much to be thankful for living in this part of East Devon. As I write, the sun is streaming through the windows, the wind rushes through the leafless trees and the clouds scud across the sky. Yet, 'the times they are a changing' as Bob Dylan sang some decades ago, with uncertainty in our world perhaps as never before since the end of the Second World War. How the balance of power will work out among the leading nations of the world remains to be seen and what happens in the Middle East affects the rest of the world.

Last April, my wife and I had the privilege of visiting the house in Haarlem, Holland, where Corrie ten Boom and her family lived up to 1942, when they were betrayed for harbouring Jews in their '**Hiding Place**' and sent to concentration camps. Casper the elderly watchmaker, Corrie's father, died soon afterwards, and later so did his daughter Betsie in Ravensbruck concentration camp in Germany. Corrie miraculously was released in December 1944, although later she discovered it was a clerical error as one week later all women over 50 were killed. A total of 90,000 women died in this camp. But Corrie learnt to forgive and there are two famous sayings for which she is

known worldwide. **First, 'there is no pit too deep that God's love is not deeper still'** and, second, '**Only heaven will reveal the top side of God's tapestry**'. After her release, Corrie became a 'Tramp for the Lord' travelling to over 60 countries around the world taking the message of forgiveness to prisons, refugee camps, schools, churches ... even some very dangerous places. She wrote a number of books including *The Hiding Place* which has been made into a feature-length film. I hope we can view it in Kilmington sometime!

As we face an uncertain future, it is good to know that there is One who does not change in his power to love and forgive. Corrie ten Boom is one example of a life that has been changed by God to be able to forgive even enemies and those who have done us harm. In Corrie's story, we also can learn how to handle separation, get along with less, have security in the midst of uncertainty, how God can use weakness, how to deal with difficult people, facing death, loving your enemies and what to do when evil wins.

During this year, there will be new challenges for all of us, so why not resolve to find a good story to read or view that will encourage and inspire you. Corrie's story is one such.

Revd. Simon Holloway

CRIB SERVICE AND POSADA AT ST GILES CHURCH

If you hadn't felt in the "festive mood" before this delightful Service on Christmas Eve you certainly would have done after it. The Posada is the story of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, one which is enacted throughout December by the children from Kilmington Primary School providing shelter for the Holy Family figures day by day. The Open Book Team provided a more visual effect as they carried the figures on the last leg of their journey to the stable.

Musicians from St. Mary's School played splendidly under the direction of Rachel Burrough providing lively accompaniment for the hymns and songs. The three lessons were beautifully read by Lucy and Rebecca Milliner, granddaughters of one of the Churchwardens. The Holy Family were joined at the Crib



by Shepherds (and a huge flock of sheep) and the Three Wise Men. The Church looked very festive and the trees, which had been generously donated by the Miller Family, sparkled and glimmered in the candlelight. Thank you to them and to all who made costumes, played instruments, sang, read lessons, made cakes and served refreshments afterwards. I would like to add a huge 'Thank You' in particular to Alison Dare who quietly organised The Posada with the schoolchildren and their families in the weeks before Christmas.

It is a lovely tradition to maintain and involves so many people, young and old. I do hope that it will stay alive in Kilmington for years to come.

Diana Mellows

*Top photo: Nativity characters
Lower photo: Young people clearly enjoying the experience*

CAROLS AT MILLERS FARM SHOP



Anna Crabbe led the annual Village Carol Singing at Millers Farm Shop on Saturday, 17th December, by kind permission of Malcolm and the family. Many residents, including members of both the Anglican and Baptist Churches in

Kilmington and their Ministers, were joined by shoppers from the local area who clearly enjoyed singing the carols, accompanied by a number of musicians. Mulled wine, hot drinks and snacks were provided. It was a lovely occasion.

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

This traditional Service attracted a large congregation on Sunday, 18th December to St Giles' Church, which was beautifully decorated with a Christmas Tree, a Memory Tree and floral arrangements, the candles creating a lovely atmosphere. Gill Heighway led the Service and Readers from the village, some of whom were husband and wife teams, organised by Dr John Church, read well with the new

sound system helping enormously. No sermon was required on this occasion and the choir under the direction of Margaret Hurford sang anthems and led the congregation singing well-known carols. Mulled wine and mince-pies organised by Elizabeth Stonex were clearly enjoyed afterwards in a real Christmas spirit.

Brian Lavender

MISSION COMMUNITY EPIPHANY PRAISE SERVICE

This informal and moving Service of Epiphany Praise, conducted by the Revd. Simon, was quite well attended but most were our Baptist friends and a few from the other Parishes in the Mission Community. There were the familiar and favourite Epiphany hymns and some other more modern songs together with the set Readings for the day. Iris Morton read T.S. Eliot's *The Journey of the Magi*, chosen by Elisabeth Miller. There were testimonies and reflections from members of the congregation, one of whom had recently visited Cologne Cathedral, where it is alleged the

remains of the Wise Men are embalmed, having been brought there by the Archbishop of Milan.

In his Address, the Revd. Simon stressed the faithfulness and perseverance of the Magi who were among the first gentiles to visit the infant Lord Jesus. Like them, we should share the same joy when we encounter Jesus and have our lives changed as result. After the Blessing, refreshments and fellowship were much appreciated.

Nigel Burton

MUSICIANS TO THE RESCUE!

A trip over a bucket by Margaret Hurford just before Christmas, which resulted in a fractured ankle, not only disrupted her domestic arrangements but also resulted in a cry for help for musicians. Rachel Burrough, with the orchestra and choir from St Mary's RC School in Axminster, helped at the Crib Service and Anna Crabbe came forward to play the carols during the Christmas Eve Holy Communion, led by the Revd. Nigel Freathy; Diana Mellows played the piano for the Christmas Day Holy Communion, led by the Revd. Simon and also at the New Year's Day Service of Morning Worship, led by Brian Lavender. Kathy Laing

played the organ for the Mission Community Epiphany Praise on Friday, 6th January and Jenny Newbery, who used to play at Shute several years ago, played for the Holy Communion on the First Sunday after Epiphany.

Diana Mellows will co-ordinate the musicians through to March when, it is hoped, Margaret will be fit enough to take her seat at the organ again. Many thanks to all those musicians who have helped out which shows the talent that is around in the community.

Brian Lavender, KPCC Secretary

ST GILES CHURCH LIGHTING

As most readers will know, even if they only attend the Kilmington Parish Church for weddings, baptisms and funerals, the lighting has never been very good and it has proved difficult for some to read the hymn texts etc. Furthermore, the mass of electric cable and wiring that has accumulated over centuries has not only puzzled electricians when trying to diagnose faults but there is also an obvious fire risk. These problems were highlighted during a Worship Audit in 2015 when members of the congregation were asked to comment on aspects of the Church which they found difficult. The KPCC decided to take action therefore and visits were made to church resources exhibitions in Exeter during which discussions were held with a number of lighting/electrical contractors. One firm, AJ Smith (Gloucester) Ltd. was particularly helpful and visited the church for a survey and discussions with the churchwardens and members of the Fabric Committee. Meanwhile, a specialist Buildings Advisor from the Exeter Diocese also visited the Church to give his advice. He produced a report with recommendations which were very much in line with those by AJ Smith (Gloucester) Ltd. As a result, Neil Blake,

one of the directors of the company, was asked to draw up a detailed specification to provide modern LED equipment and to address the problem of the redundant electrical wiring and cables.

On 16th December, Neil Blake, gave a practical demonstration of the proposed equipment in the Church which was attended by KPCC members, our church architect, Jo Hibbert, and other residents from the village. Those present were clearly very impressed with what was being proposed and Neil answered the many questions and dealt with the comments well. At an extraordinary meeting of the KPCC on Tuesday, 3rd January the necessary faculty application was approved which will be considered by the Diocesan Advisory Committee on the 3rd February 2017. With any luck, we could have new lighting installed by Easter! The project is an enormous one, costing over £20,000, and grants are being sought and further fund raising events arranged to help with this major improvement to the Parish Church. If any generous benefactors were willing to help financially, it would be much appreciated.

Brian Lavender, KPCC Secretary

THE HOLY DUSTERS



Here is a photograph of all those who clean St Giles' Church, the *Holy Dusters* (as Di calls them).

It was taken on 28th November when Di Seward hosted a get-together to agree the roster for 2017.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Easy

To solve this puzzle, each 3 x 3 square, row and column must contain all of the numbers 1 to 9. The solution is on page 25.

4		2	7			3		6
1				9				2
5	3				4		1	9
6			9	1	3	8	2	
		7		2		6		
	8	9	6	5	7			3
7	5		8				6	4
8				4				1
9		4			2	5		8

MAD moments in the garden



Another year ahead, more lists and plans of what to “sort out”, plant and sow this year. As ever, some things seem to be the same as last year but, with luck and some hard work, this will be a good gardening year.

Amongst the brown currently around the garden, one of the perfect winter flowers is shining bright. *Hamamelis x intermedia* ‘Palida’ grows really well in my garden and its “bad hair day” flowers growing on the bare stems



have a gorgeous sweet scent and the pale but bright yellow flowers stand out like crazy spiders on the branches. It is one of many varieties of *Hamamelis* and, it has to be said, the most common but deservedly so, she says defensively. Others provide a range of colours from pale yellow through orange, reds to a burnt caramel variety. Mine, which is a small young tree, is in a sheltered but relatively sunny spot towards the front of a border where I can enjoy the flowers and scent as I pass. It earns its keep over these six weeks or so and then the eye is drawn to other things since, for the rest of the year, it is unremarkable. Although it is said to have good autumn colour I confess to never having noticed. There is a great collection at Savill Gardens near Windsor, along with other winter plantings. It is well worth a visit. In the same *Hammamelidaceae* family is the *Parrotia persica*, the

Persian Ironwood; in this case, the whole tree always reminds me of a “bad hair day” but the red spider-like flowers are, as I write, splitting their cases and emerging. This is a get-up-close time of year for the tree and its low sprawling growth allows a great view of its tiny flowers over the weeks to come. The tree really comes into its own with one of the best shows of Autumn colour, which is long and glorious and worth planting for that alone.

One of my projects this year is to start an asparagus bed. I am not sure of the wisdom of the venture. Monty Don says “a bit tricky to establish and quite hard work” but I had some success on an allotment I had when living in Bristol so try I shall. The crowns, as they are called, need to be planted in March, they are octopus in shape and need to be planted in a trench on top of a mound so the “legs” drape down. The trench is then filled. Having done some research on varieties, the two that came out best in the RHS trial undertaken over four years are called Cito and Eros. The criteria included shoot size, colour, taste, texture and yield. Frustratingly both of which seem difficult to track down, sadly I may have to resort to another common variety - Connover’s Colossal.

Mary-Anne Driscoll

KGC Meeting 13th January: History and Restoration of Hestercombe Gardens -

David Usher

The gardens at Hestercombe are exceptional in their development, having retained areas of distinct styles associated with periods of landscape design rather than undergoing wholesale make-over as fashions changed. Three separate gardens, Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian, historically independent from one another, have been faithfully restored over the past 40 years. David Usher, Head Gardener at Hestercombe for 18 years, started his talk with a brief, illustrated history of the house and its owners. The Bampfylde family owned the estate for most of the 18th century, upgrading it in Queen Anne style and adding a landscape garden. In the 19th century, the Portman family added Hestercombe to their many properties, modernised and enlarged the house and created the Victorian terrace and later the Edwardian garden. They finally departed in 1951 when the estate was taken over by the Somerset Fire Brigade.

When, in the 1980s, interest grew in restoring the grounds, the 18th century plantation was totally overgrown. With the help of charitable grants, and using old engravings as guides, work started on identifying original features, both plants and buildings, followed by years of hard labour. The lake was cleared of trees, 17,000 tons of silt was excavated and

removed, water flowed down the great cascade once more, derelict classical temples and urns were restored to their former glory and paths made accessible to the general public. Whereas the landscaped acres represented nature controlled, the Victorians preferred less nature and more control. The large terrace in front of the house is now a replica of the original in high 19th century style with fountain, colourful flower beds and immaculate lawn. Down on a lower level is the famous Lutyens and Jeckyll garden, commissioned by Mrs Portman in 1903. Although ‘out of bounds’ to the wartime GIs in WWII, by the 1970s it was severely overgrown and few of the original plants had survived. Happily, all the original plans had been saved, ensuring that the restoration is true to the spirit of an Edwardian garden. David had photographs of the transformation of this wonderful garden, reminding us that plants grow and stonework deteriorates so that the work of restoration is never-ending. Members will have an opportunity to visit Hestercombe with the Club on 25th May.

Sydie Bones

Next Meeting: February 10: Echinacea and Rudbeckia – Martin Young

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION KILMINGTON BRANCH



The RBL Christmas Coffee morning was held on Saturday, 26th November. The Village Hall was festively decorated and was soon buzzing with lively chatter as about 100 people enjoyed their choice of tea, coffee or mulled wine and tucked into mince pies. There were a number of stalls selling cakes, preserves, Christmas gifts and garden plants plus the customary raffle.

Three County representatives had joined the gathering and the County Chairman made presentations to Brian and Caroline Lavender for their 20



years of service as organisers of the Poppy Appeal in the village. Brian and Caroline have handed the baton on to Peter and Louise Wood.

Additionally, Brian Lavender and Michael O'Flaherty were made Life Vice Presidents of the Kilmington Branch in recognition of their many years of service to the Legion.

The coffee morning raised over £1,200 for Legion funds and was declared a total success and much enjoyed by all those who attended.

Sandra Ingles

KILMINGTON QUIZ NIGHT

Clive Garner is pleased to announce that, as a result of the December 2016 Quiz Night, a total of £582 was donated to The Wedding Wishing Well Foundation, the chosen charity of the Bonetta family. Included in the sum raised was a handsome Christmas cake, denoting the Twelve Days of Christmas, auctioned off for £60 and one of the quiz teams "Made in Membury plus Colyton" very generously donated the whole of their Jackpot prize of £210 to the fund.



FIVE ALIVE OIL

The deadline date for the February order will be Tuesday the 28th, a little later than usual as I am on holiday in sunnier climes. Please submit either a request for a specific amount, or, if ordering a top up, please submit as accurate as possible an estimate for the quantity you require with a minimum order of 500 litres. I will be able to acknowledge e-mail requests and will confirm telephone orders on my return.

Oil prices are gradually rising in line with the analysts' predictions which anticipate that they will reach \$60 a barrel in 2017.

Colin Stewart, cogstewart@aol.com
01297 792538

GOODBYE TO THE W.I.

Our branch has now closed but we were able to enjoy a demonstration by Mina Fountain of how to make bhajis and then our last Christmas lunch at the New Inn with members and friends.

It is sad to end Kilmington's association with the WI but lack of members and advancing age were contributory factors. Maybe a new branch will be set up sometime in the future.

The WI had a presence in Kilmington for over 80 years and we look back with nostalgia and a certain amount of pride. It is a long time. Farewell.

Margaret Andrews

KILMINGTON VILLAGE HALL '100' CLUB

A very Happy New Year and our thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership and to all the new members who have joined for 2017. Application forms for anyone else who would like to join are available from either Kim at Hurford's Stores or from me at 8 Whitehayes Close.

Completed forms and subscriptions should be dropped off with either Kim or me.

Again, our sincere thanks for your support.

The winners of the draw held on 10th December 2016

P Burton	£25	P Foster	£5
A Bailey	£10	H Brown	£5
Y Cilia	£10	D Ingles	£5

Winners of the Christmas draw

J Jobson	£5	R Ody	£5
J Hight	£5	N Pollard	£5
V Harding	£5		

For further details, please contact
Angus Falconer - 01297 33708

ST GILES CHURCHYARD LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

A new initiative is to be launched with regard to the churchyard of St Giles'.

Kilmington churchyard dates back to AD 937, together with a church on the site. It has been a focal point of Kilmington for many generations of local families. Whilst the church exists primarily for the practice and support of the Christian faith, it also provides facilities for weddings, christenings and funerals, for all local residents.

However, maintaining the churchyard is costing well in excess of £2,000 a year and is set to rise. This cost, in the long term, based solely on church income, is unsustainable. We feel the best way to cope with this, is to set up a "FRIENDS GROUP" purely for the churchyard that is open to all.

Our aim is to create a churchyard that we are proud of, can afford to maintain, supported by friends and volunteers. We are extremely fortunate in Kilmington to have the land on which our churchyard can exist and remain open for many years to come. So many villages have lost their churchyard owing to the lack of available land. It is up to all of us to ensure this facility is maintained for all in Kilmington.

A committee has been formed, under the title *St Giles' Churchyard League of Friends*, which will be known as "FROGS" for short. A leaflet with full details will be distributed to all households in Kilmington very shortly.

Bill Kerslake

KILMINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Kilmington Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee met again last night (Tuesday, 17th January 2017) for discussion and to firm up the objectives for the village plan moving forwards.

Five areas have been proposed and it was agreed to create small sub-committees to investigate these five areas further,

with a view to producing a village survey which will be sent to each property in the village.

The email for this project will be available shortly, so at present any further details can be found on the village website through which any thoughts or ideas would be welcomed.

Gill Heighway

KILMINGTON PLAYERS

With this season's pantomime fast approaching it seems a good time to focus on the enormous success of Kilmington Players through the past 70+ years. A note about the history of Kilmington Players was written by the late Mrs Philippa Beckingsale for publication in a booklet about the village edited by the late Ben Cudmore, published in 2001. We re-print an updated version of this below.

Kilmington Players came into being in 1944, around the time the war was ending. In the early years the Players performed an annual panto, sometimes plays and occasionally a revue. Over the coming months Postscript will publish a selection of photos of past shows, cast lists and quotes from reviews. Four large scrapbooks exist and we have used these and other materials kindly donated to Kilmington Players. A few months ago, we also invited you, our readers, to contribute memories of pantomimes in the village so your stories will appear over the coming issues too.

To start things off, on this page you will find a brief history and on the facing page are photos and a cast list for *Old King Cole*. Do you recognise any of the cast? On page 15 are three 'memories of panto'. One of the writers, Sandra Ward, was in village panto from the age of 9, took the principal role in Cinderella in 1962, then went on to help behind the scenes and produce. She has contributed memories and anecdotes which bring to life some of the behind the scenes events and which will probably make you chuckle. There will be a further instalment next issue.

We hope you enjoy this series and, if you feel inspired to contribute too, then please contact us in the usual way (using the Postscript email address, giving something to any member of the Postscript team or leaving material with Kim in Hurford's Stores. Thank you ... Judith and the Postscript team

A history of Kilmington during the last one hundred years would not be complete without mentioning our very own Drama Society, started in 1944. The Second World War had been on for five years when a small band of enthusiasts led by Mrs Peppiette, decided to do something to bring some cheer to the village and the Kilmington Players was born.

From the first Committee there are two people still living in the village today. They are Miss M. Hurford (Mrs May Lavender) and Miss B Simmons (Mrs Betty Richards). From the first minutes, we read of a social evening and entertainment that raised the princely sum of £8.10s and this put them in business and they prepared to stage their first pantomime which was Dick Whittington. These days the cost of putting on a show is more like £810!

But this was the start of something that was to grow and flourish and today we are extremely proud of that fact. There have not only been pantomimes but revues, music hall and plays. Literally hundreds of actors have come and gone and it is hardly fair to pick out names. However, one recurring name is the late Jack Lavender, and 'there was nothing like his Dame!' Now, happily, his son, David, has stepped into this role. In fact, in a number of instances there have been second or even third generations of the same family. Bob Newbery's family is one of these.

Producers have come and gone too. Barbara Brierley, who some will still remember, brought professionalism to the job and gave our shows a great name in the district. Marjorie Lambert followed, and Jeremy and Sandra Ward and Joan Humphry and Phillipa Beckingsale, whose collaboration lasted for nearly twenty years.

In the old Hall, the Church Room as it was then, we had some marvellous scenery painters, giving us fairy castles and haunted woods and a world of fantasy where clever perspective made the stage seem at least twice its real size.

From those days one particularly remembers Brigadier 'Nobby' Carter, whose work was outstanding. Sadly, we cannot use the rollers that carried this scenery in the modern hall but Mary Hibberd made the most of the hall facilities.

The stage in the current Village Hall is now the home for productions by Kilmington Players. During the late 1990s and into the new millennium the talented Rob Preece and his wife, Gail, were involved in a number of successful pantomimes. This same period also saw the involvement of the equally gifted Sue Deas, with her daughter Vickie and husband Tim Pearce who shared in the production of some extremely popular pantomimes. Also involved during this time was Malcolm Bettison, headteacher of Kilmington Primary School for many years. Sue Deas went on to direct a run of successful annual pantomimes until 2010 after which Louise Quincey stepped into the director's shoes. Louise has lead a great team effort where the cast have all come together to paint scenery, sort costumes and make props to enable the staging of a number of hilarious pantomimes. Of particular note in recent years is a resurgence in the involvement of the younger members of our community, some of whom have gone on to take principal parts, including her own son, Finin. Kilmington Players continues to be well supported by villagers and beyond, both on and off the stage, ensuring that an annual pantomime can be staged bringing the community together for four nights of fun and entertainment each winter.

(written by Philippa Beckingsale for inclusion in 'The Parish of Kilmington' by Bert Cudmore (revised and brought up to date in 2001). Revised and further updated in 2017 by Lousie Quincey, director of Kilmington Players since 2010.)

PANTO 2017
15-18th February in the Village Hall



OLD KING COLE 1990

King Cole	David Wilsdon
Queen Coke	Dawn Potts
Princess Viola	Michelle Mogford
Princess Sonata	David Lavender
Dick (Pr. Ricardo)	Vicki Deas
Professor Plonk	Julian Livingstone
Albert, Lord Chamberlain	Arthur Trott
Allegro }	Simon Humphrey
Crescendo } (3 fiddlers)	Ben Trott
Pizzicato }	Matthew Stroud
Delia, Lady-in-waiting	Natasha Perkins
Desmond, Chief Courtier	Jane Lucas
Fairy Fantasia	Charlotte Hill
Witch of Discord	Valerie Sinclair
A Page	Andrew Wake

Courtiers

Jane Broom, Gill Perkins, Valerie Quick, Sue Rickard

Dancers

Emma Collier, Julianne Dare, Louise Trott

Soldiers and Demons

Richard Burdett, Alfred Fitzgerald, Ben Lucas, Robert Newbery, Gareth Walker, Grant Walker

Speciality Numbers

Alistair Cope, Simon Hodges, Harry Price, John Lavender, David Lavender, Steve Ricard, Lewis Perkins



A TRADITIONAL RURAL ACTIVITY

Midwinter is the culmination of the farming year for one of our local activities – pheasant rearing for the winter shoot and no more so than up at the “Kilhampton” shoot based at Fernwood and Upper Hampton farms. This sometimes controversial activity is as much part of the rural landscape and culture as dairy farming or growing mangles and, like them, has a significant impact on our local environment and landscape.

The new shooting year begins as the ‘season’ ends at the end of January by cleaning and disinfecting the pens to hold the young pheasants or ‘poults’. These 2 metre-high wire pens have open tops and elaborate entrances which allow the birds to enter and leave but foil predators such as foxes and badgers. For good measure, a low electric fence surrounds the pen. Some 750 six-week old poults are bought-in at the end of July and split between pens on the two farms. The birds are produced by specialist breeders, this is a huge industry nationally. Feeding within the pens trains the birds to use them as a refuge. Young birds gradually roam into the surrounding hedgerows and woodlands and into ‘cover’. It’s here we see one of the most significant impacts of a shoot on the landscape. Along field margins, unploughed areas are planted with a seed mixture of “Pheasant, Finch and Wildflower” mix which produces vegetation about 70-100 cm tall; first a flush of bright blue cornflowers followed by kale at the end of the season. These seeded margins together with retained strips of maize are kept specially as cover for the growing pheasants. Many of the small copses or woods around the village are also retained as cover for game birds. Such environmental modifications provide collateral benefit and habitats for lots of other wildlife.

During summer and autumn, the growing pheasants range further afield moving out from thickets and hedgerows into the fields and even into many of our gardens! Often ‘hen-parties’ of up to 20 chattering birds can be seen, most commonly at the end of Springhead Lane. The pheasants continue to be fed through feeders and drinkers in cover crops, to help them grow but also to keep them in their home patch of woods and thickets for the winter shoot. Over four tons of wheat are put down in the pens and feeders. This huge quantity of grain feeds both the pheasants and a wide range of other animals, from wood mice to deer.

The Kilhampton shoot is considered a small shoot, maintained mostly to continue a rural pastime and is an important social activity. Each member of the syndicate pays to cover costs of raising the pheasants and running the operation. This contrasts with the large commercial shoots in our area, which can cost up to £14,000 a day and even attract clients from overseas. These commercial shoots guarantee a vast number of shot birds, ranging into the hundreds of birds a day. The small shoots, such as Kilhampton, are mainly social; they might only shoot 20% of the reared birds over the five to nine meets per season.



Planning the next “drive”



In position



End of a “drive”



A novel way to deliver the food!



A hearty lunch in the barn



Adult male in cover



Complex entrance to pen to keep out predators



Tools of the trade



Dogs in readiness for retrieving



Feeder in “cover” at edge of field

The day of the shoot

It was a bright and unusually mild winter’s day for this year’s annual memorial-day shoot, held just after Christmas in honour of Alan Seward who started this small shoot in the late 1980s. The ‘shooters’ and beaters were gathering, excited dogs running around anticipating their rummage through Kilhampton’s woods and fields. The buzz of the meet was palpable, old friends meeting up and exchanging gossip over spicy sausages and a tot of port. It was a very mixed bunch with several village faces – from farmers and chippies to local businessmen and family friends, men and women, all dressed in shades of green and brown. Some even ran their own small shoots in the area. Today’s shoot of 16 guns was about twice the normal size for a Kilhampton shoot. Everyone was told of the day’s events and the ground rules – no shooting ‘ground game’, safety first, and pick up spent cartridges. The day was to be a series of five ‘drives’ in which the shooters are carefully placed like sentries around a wood or hedgerow, through which the beaters and their dogs will flush the pheasants. Today was to be a challenge because the sun, while great for a mid-winter’s day in the fields, will have already encouraged the birds to leave their roosts to feed in the fields and hedgerows.

During a drive, the calling and clattering of the beaters and their dogs from the woods either above or below us seems out of place, eerie, incongruous even in the stillness. There is much anticipation. Suddenly, birds break cover, some keep low along the margins of the wood and are too low to shoot, others go high. Shots ring out, a surprising number of the burnished-copper birds glide fast, passing the guns. Others fall, and after a single long hard whistle blows, to signify the end of the drive, well-trained dogs are sent out to “quest” and retrieve the fallen birds. Much time is spent on this shoot accounting for all birds that have been hit or might be hit. There is an underlying respect for the quarry. Another drive, this time below Haddon Corner, where a sleek dog fox slips out of the wood before the pheasants emerge. Shots ring out and soon after there is a curious tinkling in the trees and bushes as high shot caught by the breeze harmlessly falls back to earth. Another drive at Springhead, not all the shooters get a shot on each drive depending on the number of ‘available’ birds passing their way or even being taken by surprise, others do get a shot, some successfully. The final drive is below a duck pond where reared ducks are put up, the wild ducks have long since flown on hearing the chattering party’s approach. The ducks’ flight is more predictable compared to the erratic pheasants and the tally is greater.

Mid-afternoon the shoot finishes, then a large and very satisfying meal for the 30+ participants is enjoyed at a long table in the Fernwood Farm barn admirably provided by Di Seward, delivered appropriately on a tractor! Anecdotes of the day’s events are shared in a very convivial atmosphere and people dig deep into their pockets to raise over £400 for this year’s charity “ Help for Heroes”. The day finished with a toast to ‘Queen, Country & Countrymen’.

So, what makes people spend an often very cold midwinter day on a shoot? “A shared love of the countryside”, “Some people like football, this is what we country boys [and girls] do”, and finally “While it is accepted that this old and rural activity is not to everyone’s taste, it is a part of our heritage and another piece of the jigsaw of why Kilhampton is such a special place to live”.

Stafford Seward in conversation with Richard Lane

CINDERELLA 1962



The title part was awarded to young Sandra Woodage. She has been with the company since she was nine and now, at the ripe old age of 15, has been given her first principal part. Her training in the lower registers has obviously been an advantage. Her youthful bouyancy is like a refreshing breath of spring and her sudden costume change from hearthside rags to a fairy tale gown should bring 'Oohs' from more than one watching child.

Although the basic story of Cinderella is evergreen, each production has different twists. Those at Kilmington are topical and funny and make it a fine and worthwhile excursion for the family.

It is bright and colourful and contains a novel introduction of the Fairy Godmother and a glittering magic coach. The children in the cast make a charming scene as they go through their song and dance routines and all who help in the production deserve praise.

Other principals included: Grace Ayres (Prince Charming); Hilary Morris (Buttons); Bob Newbery (Baron Hangover); Elsie Tonge (Baroness Hangover); Alan Burrow and John Lavender (ugly sisters); Mary Quick (Fairy Godmother); and Mary Burrow (footman). Children taking part: Jill Anning, Gillian Beckingsale, Diana Beckingsale, Jacqueline Boyland, Gillian Clegg, Elizabeth Gill, Mary Hutchings, Pauline Pulman, Susan Sparks, Patsy Sparks, Linda Wareham. Barbara Brierley is producer and director.



CINDERELLA 1989

Dandini	Jill Collier
Little Miss Muffet	Vicky Deas
Prince Charming	Gill Perkins
Baroness Hardup	Dawn Potts
Baron Hardup	David Wilsdon
Buttons	Lewis Perkins
Cinderella	Sara Norrington
Understudy	Michelle Mogford
Tutti	Colin Chesterton
Frutti	David Heighway
Dobbin	Arthur Trott & Sean Parkhouse
Fairy Godmother	Joyce Double
Rag	Rachel Miller
Tag	Ben Trott
Bobtail	Robert Newbery
The King	Julian Livingstone
The Queen	Valerie Sinclair

Chorus

Jane Broom, Jayne England, Marie England, Wendy Hill, Pat Martell, Michelle Mogford, Michelle Potts, Tony Potts, Valerie Quick, Nicola Stonex

Huntsmen

Emma Collier, Julianne Dare, Alfred, Harry & Joseph Fitzgerald, Rachel & Rianne Hopson, Louise Trott

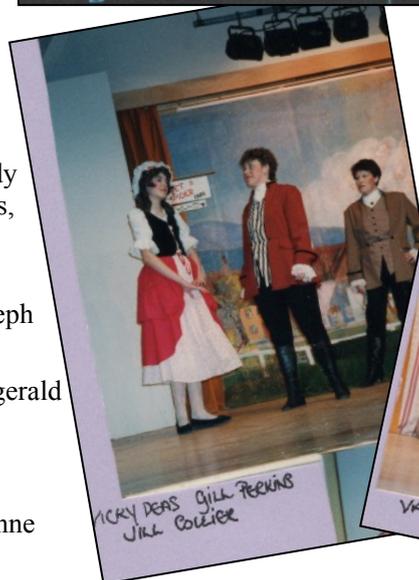
Horses: Louise Trott, Rianne Hopson, Alfred Fitzgerald

Frogs: Natasha Perkins, Michelle Taylor

Footmen: Charlotte Hill, Joseph Fitzgerald

White Mice: Rachel Hopson, Emma Collier, Julianne Dare

Speciality number: Irish bagpipes - Neil Griffin



MEMORIES of panto in Kilmington

Panto was fun and brought everyone together, even teachers from our school. One year it was difficult to get the young girls to volunteer to take part and it turned out that this was because the Church Room was so cold. There was a meeting and the vicar produced an extra electric fire which was positioned at the front of the stage and other forms of heating were investigated too. I think an extra socket was put in for the next year!

Panto always made everyone laugh, there were lots of stories about local people and events and everyone was made fun of and it was good. The girls and boys in the village really enjoyed dressing up, especially the girls with their pretty dresses. Sometimes the panto was able to donate money to local good causes which was nice, although at one time, in the 1950s I think, they were very short of money, even in debt, and there was a lot of make-do and mend. Old, used wood and planks appeared from people's barns to make the scenery but it all came right on the night.

Monica Clegg talking with her daughter, Gill Perkins

During the time in which Philippa Beckingsale was Choreographer, all my family took part in the Annual Pantomime; my husband Michael and children Simon, Jeremy, Richard and Rachael. At that time I played piano accompaniment for rehearsals and performances; nerve racking! Also I was working full time as a District Nursing Sister. I remember the first night one year arriving very late due to pressure of work. All these years later I can't imagine with family, animals, etc: how we all managed.

We also took part in a performance of '1066 and All That' in the time of Revd. Jones; great fun! Most of the males in the village grew sideburns; Gordon Overton was Edward VIII and three of my family were part of the Royal Family. I hope all these memories are accurate.

Linda Heighway (typed by Gill Heighway
from Linda's notes 14/9/16)

FROM PONY TO PRODUCER, part 1 - by Sandra Ward

BACKSTAGE

I read, some time ago of the intention, to "do" something, written-wise, over recounting memories of times past with Kilmington Players. It sort of washed over me. Discounting it, thinking that someone else would do that I dismissed the idea. That was until Kitty Brooms' funeral. Sitting in the church recounting memories, I was aware nobody I was speaking to was living in the village then. Looking round the church, it struck me that the vast majority in the church were newcomers. Those of us born and bred here, as were our parents and grandparents and generations back, are fast dying out. We are, in effect, the last of a few.

So write I must. For those of you that have got this far, but are not interested, I wish you well. For those, who have taken one look at the length of this and will just read a sentence or two, I hope you enjoy what you read. For those of you, who are probably few in numbers, who now intend to battle on to the bitter end ... thank you. I will now close this preamble and cut, as they say, to the chase.

The two dressing rooms, behind the stage, in the Church Rooms, were small. The slightly larger one was the ladies and the adjoining one, which for most of the year, was the kitchen for the Church Rooms, was for the men. The reason always given was that "the ladies" housed the children, so needed more space, although, in my old age, I think the attraction of a sink and a window might have swayed it for the men. Smoke from that dressing room, despite the closed door filled both. Women, who smoked, once costumed up, would join them fleetingly. There was no corridor back stage. To get from one side to the other meant passing through both. So, the door rarely stayed closed long. The door leading onto the playing field was in the ladies and, weather permitting, was frequently open to "clear the air". It rarely did. So we inhaled the intoxicating air of tobacco scent, perfumed by the contents of the stage make-up boxes.

MAKE-UP

Kitty and Margaret, and those before them, followed the tradition of stage make-up faces that, in theatre, went back

generations. Sticks of No 2.5,4 and 9 were generally favoured as the best for foundation. Any child going orange was given an extra dose of 2.5 till all trace was gone. Eye shadow was always blue, red rouge on cheeks was always in a small round circle and red dots were carefully placed in the corners of the eyes, to "make them look bigger". The whole effect was finished off with a bow shape of red lipstick and a generous dust of loose face powder. Despite size, hair colour etc, the make-up team achieved the impossible, everyone looked the same! But we didn't care. Make-up was for adults. We were wearing make-up so ...

The make-up ladies were also responsible for allowing us "young uns" the chance of a taste of being grown up. It all hinged on whether you did the matinée or not. The panto went on for a week, with a matinée on Saturday. This was always well attended and it's a pity it is no longer done. Anyway, with the dancers grouped into A and B one had to do the matinée and both the last night. Ah, the joy: "Don't you go taking that make-up off, we won't have time to do all of you tonight. Yours will just have to be touched up".

Those of us who walked home after the afternoon performance did so, giggling. We had had permission to wear make-up in the street! Official. Neither Mum nor Dad could do anything about it. When you got home, you could really make use of it. "Can't take it off. I'll have Corona through a straw. Bliss. If you were lucky, and if Vimto had been bought at Newberrys, the shoe mender, you could wangle that as well.

Those were the smells that filled my childhood. Stage make-up, the remains of the paraffin heaters' odour, that had been put on in the ladies to try and break the ice on the inside of the walls. Tobacco, and Midnight in Paris, the favourite perfume of the adults, mixing in a heady aroma, enough to make you cough. If I just think a bit, my nose smells them all.

To be continued ...



KILMINGTON KITCHEN



The days are getting longer but we still need some comfort food to get us through the cold snaps so why not spoil everybody with the “Marmalade and Whisky Bread and Butter Pudding”. The “Sweet Potato and Spinach Bake” is a good veggie dish, but would also go very well with a warm casserole.

MARMALADE AND WHISKY BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING

Serves 6-8

8 slices day-old crusty white bread or any leftover fruit bread, crusts removed

50g/2oz very soft butter

4 tbsp orange marmalade plus 4 tsp

300ml full-fat milk

284ml pot double cream

3 large eggs

1tsp vanilla extract

4 tbsp golden caster sugar

1 tbsp whisky

Icing sugar for dusting

1. Butter each piece of bread on both sides, then spread 4 with the marmalade. Pop the remaining bread on the top to make 4 marmalade sandwiches. Cut into triangles and place in rows in a large baking dish. Heat oven to 160C/140fan/gas 3.

2. Beat the milk, cream, eggs, vanilla, sugar and whisky together, then pour over the bread. Leave to soak for 30 mins.

3. Dot the remaining marmalade all over the top of the pudding and dust with the icing sugar. Bake for 45 mins- 1 hr or until puffy and starting to caramelise where the bread breaks out of the custard. Serve hot or warm.

SWEET POTATO AND SPINACH BAKE

serves 4

300ml single or double cream

1 garlic clove, peeled

2 sprigs thyme or rosemary

250g bag frozen spinach

freshly grated nutmeg

butter for greasing

850g sweet potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced

25g grated cheddar or parmesan cheese

1. Heat oven to 200C/180fan/gas 6. Put the cream, garlic and herb sprigs into a small saucepan and slowly bring to just below boiling. Turn off the heat, season and leave to infuse.

2. Put the spinach into a colander, pour over a kettle of boiling water and leave to drain for a few mins. Then squeeze out as much water as possible. Season with salt, pepper and freshly grated nutmeg.

3. Grease an ovenproof dish generously with butter and spread half the sweet potato slices across the bottom. Top with a layer of spinach, then the remaining potato. Pour over the cream mixture through a sieve to remove the garlic and herbs, then sprinkle with cheese. Bake for 1hr - 1hr 30mins until golden and tender..



BEEF AND ONION PIE

Serves 6

For the pastry:

225g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

75g cold butter, cubed

75g mature crumbly Lancashire cheese

1 egg yolk

For the filling:

250g beef mince

1 onion, chopped

1 carrot, finely chopped

1 celery stick finely chopped

2 tps dried mixed herbs

1 tbsp tomato puree

1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce

Splash of beer or red wine

1 egg beaten



1. For the pastry, pulse the flour, butter and a pinch of salt in a food processor until crumbly. Add the cheese and egg yolk and pulse to form a dough. Add a little cold water if necessary to help it bind. Put the dough onto a floured surface and knead until smooth. Wrap and chill for about an hour.

2. For the filling, fry the mince until browned. Remove from the pan with a slotted spoon and set aside. Add the onion, carrot and celery to the pan and fry for 10 mins or until softened. Stir in the meat, tomato puree, Worcestershire sauce, mixed herbs and beer or red wine. Cook for 10 mins and leave to cool.

3. Heat oven to 200C/180fan/gas 6. Lightly grease a 20-25cm pie dish. Halve the dough and roll out on a floured surface in 2 circles just a bit larger than the pie dish. Line the dish with one pastry circle and dampen the edge with beaten egg. Spoon in the filling, then place the pastry lid on top. Trim the edges, using a fork, press down around the edges to seal. Brush egg all over the pie and bake for 20-25 mins or until the pastry is golden and crisp. Serve with mashed potato.

RIDICULOUSLY HEALTHY VEG

The sweet potato has become increasingly available in this country over the last few years. Sometimes it is known as ‘yam’ or ‘kumara’. It is actually not a potato at all but a root vegetable which belongs to the same family as morning glory.

It often has pinkish-orange skin and flesh but may also be more creamy or yellow and, when cooked, is much lighter and fluffier than the flesh of the potato. Traditionally, it has been baked, mashed and roasted but there are also recipes for chips, soups and even puddings and, as Margaret shows us in her recipe, in savoury bakes too. Apparently, you can eat the leaves in salads too.

Sweet potatoes are a non-starchy food and count towards our 5-a-day tally. They also contain vitamin C and are considered, by some, to be one of the world’s healthiest foods. And, you can grow some varieties outdoors or in a greenhouse in Kilmington! -ed

AXMINSTER MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWS

Winter is well and truly upon us and it is wise to take precautions to prevent as many cases of cold and flu as possible, along with all the other winter illnesses: everything is more difficult to recover from when the weather is cold and wet. Do keep warm, eat properly and have plenty of warm drinks.

If you have difficulty getting to the surgery in bad weather it may be worth contacting Axminster Care Service (ACS), 01297 35550, to enquire about help with transport.

The Department of Health have introduced a stage Shingles Vaccination Programme for patients and the Practice will be inviting those who are eligible to make an appointment at one of the clinics they are currently running. If you get an invitation please respond. Shingles is very uncomfortable at the best of times but can be much more serious in the older generations. The vaccinations are a very positive step in the direction of preventative medicine.

Practice Dispensary – The PPG is working closely with the Practice to find robust and feasible procedures for safe and efficient methods for ordering repeat prescriptions. The draft plan is due by the end of January and from that point Patient Consultations could be organised to gather opinions and, if necessary, refine the plan.

In the meantime please think about ordering your repeat prescription online. It is the fastest, safest and most reliable method. If you wish to register for online repeat prescription, pick up a form at reception and take it from there.

Alternatively you can make your request by post or by hand to The Dispensary, Axminster Medical Practice, St. Thomas Court, Church Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AG. Postal requests will take at least eight days from mailing to completion. For more information contact :- The Practice Manager, Linda Coombs, at the Surgery.

How can you help?

1. **Receiving messages** to remind you of appointments etc. by SMS Text – please sign up for this as you will then

receive gentle reminders of upcoming appointments and general information reminders e.g. flu jabs etc. No confidential information will be sent via text or email.

2. **Join our online users** - order medication - make appointments - and more online. Save all that telephone queuing. This is not difficult to do and training can be given if you feel you might need it. Just ask at reception when you have completed your form and been given a password, they will ensure you get start up support.

3. **Join our patient group** - you will receive minutes of meetings and have the opportunity to have your say in future developments at the Practice. Forms are available from reception.

4. Be a good neighbour – with the onset of winter the elderly, people who are infirm, the vulnerable and young families can experience all sorts of problems, many being trapped in their homes for long periods of time. Please keep an eye on them and help if you can. Sometimes just picking up a couple of things from the shop, collecting their prescription if you are going into the surgery or just knocking on the door to say good morning can make a great deal of difference.

Let's keep working together for even better and more patient friendly Health Care.

ARC (A registered charity aiming to provide talking therapy support to patients and staff of Axminster Medical Practice at times of profound loss or grief). Great news, the ARC shop reopened on the 16th January. Please support this shop as much as possible both with donations and by shopping there. The service ARC provides in the Axminster Community is invaluable.

For more information contact :-

Ann Veit – Secretary of the AMPPPG (email AnnVmus@aol.com)

Shelagh Fearnley – Chair of the AMPPPG (email bsfearnley@cloud.com)

TEACH YOURSELF NEW TESTAMENT GREEK

WHY? -

- to keep those little grey cells alert?
- as a spiritual exercise?
- to discover what the authors of the N.T. actually wrote?
- to study in relation to all the English translations?

HOW?

- to buy a good Teach Yourself book.
- to work your way through Chapters and exercises at your own speed.
- if completely stuck, to seek support.

I am suggesting that a good book to use is “The Elements of New Testament Greek” by Jeremy Duff, Cambridge University Press (Third Edition). The Archway Bookshop has confirmed that it is in stock, priced at £21.99; ISBN-13 978-0-521-75551-1. The book has 20 Chapters, and its dictionary contains the 600 most common words in the New Testament.

I am not a ‘Greek Scholar’ but, with dictionary and translators’ help, have read the whole of the New Testament in Greek several times over the years, and am willing to act in support of those who would like occasional help.

A meeting has been arranged for anybody who might be interested in undertaking such a study, to take place on Friday, 10th March, at my home, 3 Meadow Bank, Kilmington, at 7.00 pm., when it will be possible to meet other enquirers, to ask questions about what would be involved in this ‘Teach Yourself’ proposal, and to have a look at the suggested teaching book and a Greek New Testament.

Meanwhile, if you cannot attend this meeting, but would like further information, my telephone number is 01297 34142.

David Wilsdon

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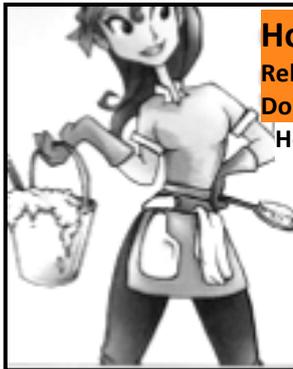
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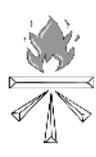
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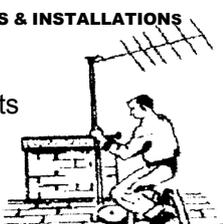
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9	6	4	1	7	2	5	3	8

WEEK TO VIEW (Events that happen the same time every week)

Sunday	10.30 am	The Beacon	The Baptist Church morning service
	6.00 pm	The Beacon	The Baptist Church meet every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday in month
Monday	early	Your house	Recycling collections
Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri	9.15 am	Village Hall	Pre-school playgroup for 3+
Monday	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Village Hall	Country Dancing for all ages
Monday alternate	2.00 - 4.30 pm	Pavilion, dates circulated	Bridge Club
Tuesday	9.30 am	St Giles' Church	Holy Communion followed by coffee
	10.00 - noon	Village Hall	Table Tennis
	10.00 - noon	Village Hall Foyer	Coffee and get-together
	1.30 - 3.30 pm	St Giles' Church	Craft Club - <i>Crafty Knit and Natter</i>
	7.30 pm	Village Hall	Badminton
	7.15 - 8.45 pm	The Beacon	Spectrum Youth Club
	7.30 - 9.00 pm	St Giles' Tower	Bell-ringing practice
Wednesday	9.15 am	The Beacon	Toddlers and Tinies
	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Village Hall	Short mat bowls
Thursday	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Village Hall	Badminton
Friday	10.00 - noon	St Giles' Church	Coffee and a warm welcome
	10.00 - 3.00 pm	Pavilion	Art Group

DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2017

Wed	1st	7.15 pm	Village Hall	Moviola: <i>Bridget Jones Baby</i>
Fri	3rd	6.00 pm	Old Inn	Royal British Legion get-together
Sat	4th	4.00 - 6.00 pm	Village Hall	Short Tennis Coaching for 4 - 11 year olds
Sun	5th	11.00 am	St Giles' Church	Morning Prayer
	5th	8.00 pm	The New Inn	Quiz in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind
Thurs	9th	10.30 am	The Beacon	Messy Sparklers
Fri	10th	7.30 pm	Village Hall	KGC: <i>Echinacea and Rudbeckia - Martin Young</i>
Sat	11th	2.00 pm	The Beacon	Scrabble Club
	11th	4.00 - 6.00 pm	Village Hall	Short Tennis Coaching for 4 - 11 year olds
Sun	12th	9.30 am	St Giles' Church	Parish Communion
Mon	13th	Early	Your House	Landfill with recycling
Tues	14th	10.00 am	The Beacon	CREATE Group
Wed	15th	7.30 pm	Village Hall	Kilminster Players: <i>Dick Whittington</i>
Thurs	16th	7.30 pm	Village Hall	Kilminster Players: <i>Dick Whittington</i>
Fri	17th	7.30 pm	Village Hall	Kilminster Players: <i>Dick Whittington</i>
Sat	18th	7.30 pm	Village Hall	Kilminster Players: <i>Dick Whittington</i>
Sun	19th	11.00 am	Stockland Church	Mission Community Holy Communion
	19th	6.00 pm	St Giles' Church	Evening Prayer
Tues	21st	12.30 pm	The Beacon	Contact Lunch
Sun	25th	8.30 am	St Giles' Church	Holy Communion
	25th	10.30 am	The Beacon	Vince and Clio Turner the new owners of Weycroft Hall will be preaching
	25th	11.00 am	St Giles' Church	Family Service
	25th	6.00 pm	The Beacon	L.I.F.E. Film Evening
Mon	26th	Early	Your House	Landfill with recycling
	26 th Feb - 3 rd March		The Beacon	Keswick in Devon Week
Tues	28th		The Minster, Axminster	Induction of Revd.Clive Sedgewick
	28th	7.30 pm	Pavilion	Parish Council Meeting

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Bell-ringing - Roger Lovegrove	01297 631091	Kilmington's Little Helpers - Sally Huscroft	01297 32243	Sunday School - Christine Thorne	07795 552675
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Country Dancing - Sheila Hill	01297 33795	Kilmington Primary School	01297 32762	Tennis - Juliet Sue	07527 969613 07912 272102
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Hitchcock Pavilion bookings - Michael O'Flaherty	01297 35873	The Old Inn	01297 32096	www.kilmingtonvillage.com - Luke & Michelle Lawson	07719 909532
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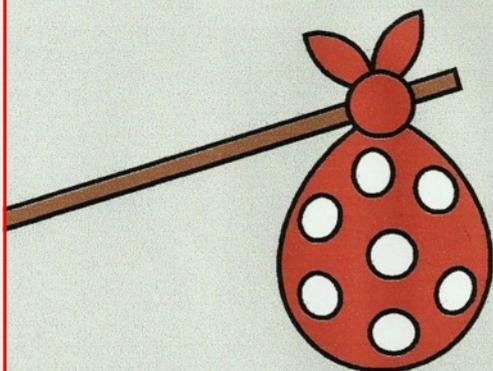
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