

BREMHILL, FOXHAM, THE TYTHERTONS AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

December 2016

The Newsletter



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- 3rd Dec Skittles night - Bremhill
- 5th Dec Parish Council Meeting - Tytherton
- 7th Dec Community Lunch - Moravian Church
- 8th Dec Christmas decoration making evening
- 9th Dec Christmas Fayre - Bremhill
- 19th Dec. Christmas Carol Concert - Moravian Church
- 4th Jan 2017 Community Lunch - Moravian Church
- 9th Jan Closing date for Parish Plan responses
- 15th Jan St Martins Sunday Lunch - Bremhill
- 17th Jan Newsletter AGM - Foxham
- 28th Jan Supper night - Tytherton
- 25th Feb Race Night - Tytherton
- 3rd March Thisbe - Rural Arts - Bremhill Village Hall



Front Cover Steve Harris

EDITORIAL

Fireworks in Bremhill - in more ways than one! The fireworks were spectacular, but the bonfire was magnificent! There was dismay when it was discovered that, in the early hours of the morning of 5th November, someone had set fire to the original bonfire which had taken many days of hard work to build. What a mean-spirited act to destroy something that had been created to give pleasure to the community! But what a reaction! The way people across the whole Parish and beyond rallied to rebuild the bonfire in time for the evening was indeed uplifting and demonstrated the kind of caring Parish we are. As someone said to me at the end of the evening 'The nasties don't win, do they.'

The Newsletter Committee would also like to thank all those people who have so kindly made donations towards covering the cost of producing the Newsletter. We are very grateful for your contributions and we hope we can continue to produce an attractive and interesting publication for the Parish. If anyone would still like to donate, cheques can be made out to 'Bremhill Newsletter' or by bank transfer with sort code 30-91-90 and a/c number 48359368.

Since I was a little boy I've always bypassed the idea of a sock at the end of the bed on Christmas Eve - I've tended to go more for the pillowcase! I fitted in well to the tradition of boys wanting more than they probably deserved. 'No change there, then' I can hear one or two saying! But Christmas does herald an important time for all of us, both secular and religious, whatever we may believe. It creates a warmth and enjoyment to which we should all have access, but when we look around in the world, we know many will be denied this. This last year has been a turbulent one in many ways with referenda and elections and I sincerely hope that in the coming one, we will find acceptable solutions to the many problems facing us. With that in mind, I trust you will all have a very good family celebration and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ewen Bird

All Newsletter items for the following month must be with the editors by the 13th of each month to ensure their publication.

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SPECIAL NOTICES

ST MARTIN'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday 9th December: 6 - 9 pm

Lots of stalls, goodies to buy, food, gifts, bulbs, sewn items, fresh Christmas decorations and much more.



RAFFLE, MULLED WINE, SAUSAGES AND BEEF BURGERS

Come and enjoy an evening together and begin the Christmas celebrations.

FREE ENTRY!

NEWSLETTER AGM

A reminder that the postponed Newsletter AGM will be held at Foxham Reading Room on Tuesday, 17th January 2017. All Bremhill Parish residents welcome. This is your magazine so please come and have your say. The Committee would welcome your opinions.

David Stevens

SKITTLES NIGHT

Saturday 3rd December: 7.30 pm - Bremhill Village Hall

An evening of skittles games, delicious food and drink, a Christmas prize draw and lots of fun. Tickets £7 on the door.

CALNE CHORAL CONCERT

Do come for some Christmas spirit and support those of us from the Parish who will be singing in Calne Choral's annual Christmas concert on 10th December in St. Mary's Church, Calne, starting at 7.30 pm. Calne Choral is recognised as one of the best local choirs and they will be singing a programme of Christmas songs and carols, plus seasonal readings.

Tickets are £10, available from choir members or on the door and includes mulled wine and mince pies.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

East Tytherton Moravian Church invites you to a Community Lunch in the Church Hall on Wednesday 7th. December at 12.30 pm. Come along for lunch to enjoy home-made soups or stew, cake, tea and coffee, meet up with old friends and maybe make new friends. A selection of board games will be provided for your entertainment. All welcome.

For further information and reservation please call Agnieszka on 07941 383 618, a.lewinska@yahoo.co.uk



December garden notes.

Here are some wonderful winter flowering and scented shrubs to plant and enjoy: *Viburnum Bodnantense*; Witch hazel; *Daphne Biholua* or *Odora*; *Sarcococca*.

Try these winter flowers for the border: *Iris Unguicularis* (*Stylosa*); *Cyclamen Coum*; *Helleborus Niger*; *Clematis Cirrhosa* for climbing. Prepared Hyacinths may flower for Christmas if the shoots are 4-6cm tall. Bring them into a light, cool place for 2 weeks. Trim off old Hellebore foliage to help control fungal leaf blotch and encourage flowers to bloom.

Plant broad beans in pots in the greenhouse for early planting when the roots are well grown. Prune autumn raspberries and manure well. Save money by keeping some herbs in the greenhouse or windowsill for ready use and check the stored fruit for any that have gone off.

If you have a wormery, it is advisable to bring it into the greenhouse or garage as protection against the cold weather which may kill the worms. Clean out bird nesting boxes and re hang. Feed birds and always have fresh water for them. Continue to look after the hedgehogs with food and water.

Prepare vegetable plots and flower beds with manure and compost for worms to take down into the ground. The answer lies in the soil!

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CHIPPENHAM BRANCH 2016 HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS

On behalf of the RNLI I would once again like to thank your readers for their generous support for the RNLI during our House to House Collections during September/October which totalled as follows:-

Bremhill	£51.10 (2015: £43.50)
East Tytherton	£83.83 (2015: £119.91)
Foxham	£168.33 (2015: £101.01)
West End Foxham	£76.88 (2015: £16.65)



The Chippenham branch total was £4353.04 (2015: £5256) including Flag Day and one supermarket Collection. The fall is mainly due to the fact that our two supermarkets are restricting our collections to one a year.

Following legislation on cold calling, the RNLI has called time on House to House Collections, so many thanks to our collectors and to you for your support over the years. If you would still like to support the local branch of the RNLI you can do so by joining our 100 Club for £12 per year. This not only supports the RNLI in providing 24-hour cover around our coastline, but you would have the chance to win one of the prizes in our monthly draws.

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Having trouble downloading Strictly or Swindon v Charlton?

Many residents in the parish have very poor broadband speed. Frustration and wasted time? Businesses unable to compete? Ultimately this could affect the selling price of your property as broadband speed becomes the “fourth utility”. There have been national schemes to improve speeds but these have improved broadband only in the centres of East Tytherton and Foxham. These subsidised schemes are now complete and Wiltshire Council have confirmed there are no more plans for improvements in our Parish. If we want to see faster speeds we HAVE to do it ourselves.

So how can you do something positive about it? Some people in the parish have spent the last 2 years finding the right people in BT and all they ask for now is a few minutes of your time to register your interest. Please sign the survey following link: <http://tinyurl.com/h4ulyax>. You are making zero commitment at the moment, but we need the survey responses to get a firm quote from BT. The survey has been setup to collect information needed from each property for an application to BT, with the aim to make all-fibre connection available to all premises in Bremhill Parish. The last of the public funding, which gives the worst affected properties a £300 voucher, will finish in December 2017. It is a very short survey to complete but will make a huge difference.

There are 357 properties in the Parish but only 100 are close enough to the new ‘green cabinets’ to see any significant improvement. If you live anywhere near Bencroft Hill, Bremhill, Charlcutt, Ratford, Spirthill, Stanley, Tytherton Lucas or parts of Foxham (around the Reading Room, Stockham Marsh Farm and Elm Farm) then this will be important to you. The lucky 100 properties will be upgraded to the fast-lane with very fast speeds between 2017 and 2025, the rest will be left in the slow-lane with what they have today or at best will be 1/10th the speed of the fast-lane with no prospect of anything better. The gap in broadband performance is going to widen very quickly. You may have heard about mobile and satellite broadband, which typically cost £20 per month more than a similar fibre broadband package. So by not supporting this campaign these alternative options will cost you an extra £240 per year and be a poor long term solution. Please help our group help you. The aim is to provide an all-fibre connection to all premises who request it.

Scott Walsh
scottwalsh72@googlemail.com / 01249 740462

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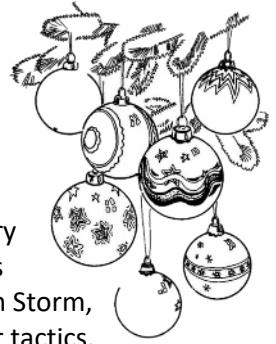
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Book Review

Agent Storm

A spy inside Al Qaeda by Morten Storm



The Guardian is said to have reviewed this book as "revelatory and extraordinary". Well, that is one way of looking at it. This book tells the story about a Danish Al Qaeda convert, Morten Storm, who has a change of mind about their view of Islam and their tactics. He is recruited by the Danish Intelligence Service and subsequently the CIA and MI6. He appears to have an uneasy relationship with all of these organisations over the five years or so that he is active.

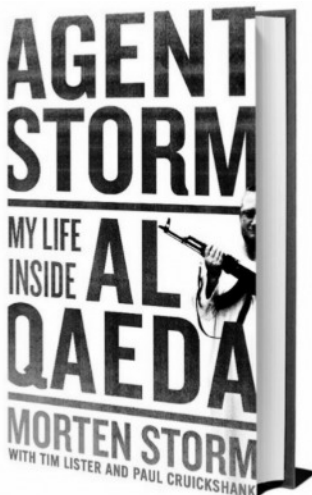
The author has close relationships with many Al Qaeda senior personnel (he even finds a wife for one of the Al Qaeda leaders) all of whom are on the world's wanted list. This is naturally exploited by the Intelligence Services. He agrees to risk his life, and that of his family, on a number of occasions allowing the CIA to take out many of them subsequently.

The problem with this book is that it is written by the man himself and so one wonders how much of this is fact, as we are led to believe it is, and how much is fiction. One could never have any confirmation of his claims but, at the same time, it could be all true. Intriguing.

I would recommend this as a light holiday read but do not think that it is a classic biography or a piece of immaculate prose. It is far from either.

Agent Storm is currently in the library at St Martin's Church, Bremhill. Just 20p in the Fabric book as a donation would be great!

David Stevens



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THE SKY AT NIGHT - DECEMBER

December has everything: fabulous star gazing, the third Supermoon of the year, meteor showers and planets in our solar system that are visible to the naked eye.

So we start off on the 11th December when the planet Mercury can be seen at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset. Mercury is the planet nearest to the sun, and can only be seen from the earth for short periods each year. Next we have the Geminids Meteor Shower on the 13th and 14th December. The Geminids is the king of the meteor showers. It is considered by many to be the best shower in the heavens, producing up to 120 multi-coloured meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by an asteroid known as 3200 Phaethon, which was discovered in 1982. The best viewing of this amazing light show will be from a dark location (with which we are blessed in our villages) after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Gemini, which is located in the northeastern sky.

Gemini is known mainly for its two bright stars, Castor and Pollux. Gemini is located in a rich area of the Milky Way. So if you get a chance to look up and spot this duo, keep looking at the night sky and it will reveal many other star clusters. Other noticeable winter 'stars' at this time of year are Orion's Belt, three stars in perfect formation in an angled straight line; and also the Great Bear, also known as the 'Big Dipper'. Just look up, you can't miss them. On the 14th December we have the third Supermoon of 2016. It will not appear as big as the Supermoon of November, but still as bright and brilliant. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth to the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon is also known as the Full Cold Moon because this is the time of year when the cold winter air settles in and the nights become long and dark. This is also the last of three supermoons for 2016.

On the 21st December we have the December Solstice. The South Pole of the earth will be tilted toward the Sun, which will have reached its southernmost position in the sky and will be directly over the Tropic of Capricorn. This is the first day of winter (known as the winter solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere, so get those thermal long johns ready!

And finally, on the 29th December we have a New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible, making the skies around our villages very dark.

I do hope you have enjoyed reading about the night sky in 2016. I would like to wish you all a wonderful and peaceful Christmas, and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!



Angela Protheroe



TYTHERTON VILLAGE HALL

Many thanks to all who came to our 'Bonfire Breakfast' last month. About £160 was raised for hall funds.

' A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE''

Village Carol Celebration Monday 19th December, 6.30pm

It wouldn't be Christmas without our hugely entertaining feast of carols - traditional favourites sprinkled with added children, choir, Christingles, and the only 12-days-of-Christmas that can double as your weekly exercise class. Sing well and you'll be out in an hour for mulled wine and mince pies in the village hall.

Saturday 28th January 2017: The January Supper. A sell out last year, so book early - contact details below, and on sale in the hall after the Carol Celebration. Tickets: Adults £12, Children up to 16 £6, Family: 2 adults + 2 children £25

Future event: Saturday February 25th - 'It's Race Night' - details to follow

The Bar is open each Friday at 8.00pm, for all members to come and enjoy a drink and chat. **Please note no bar on 23rd and 30th December**

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For further information, Hall bookings, tickets and event enquiries please contact
Sheila Laurence on 07719 176753 or email: events@tythertonhall.co.uk

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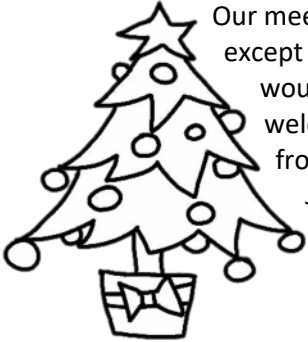
Look on the Tytherton Hall Facebook page for news and photos of recent events

TYTHERTON W.I.

This month we are having our Christmas Meal at The Langley Tap, at 7.30 pm. Don't forget your 'Secret Santa' gift!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The New Year gets off to a good start with our 'Members' Crafts Evening', with demonstrations from 4 members with a certain amount of 'have a go' included.



Our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except August, at 7.30 pm in Tytherton Village Hall. If you would like to come for a 'taster' evening you are very welcome - we are a very friendly bunch, with members from several of the local villages as well as Chippenham. Just come along or for further information ring our Secretary Rose on 07514 538551



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Christmas Recipe - Hot Trifle

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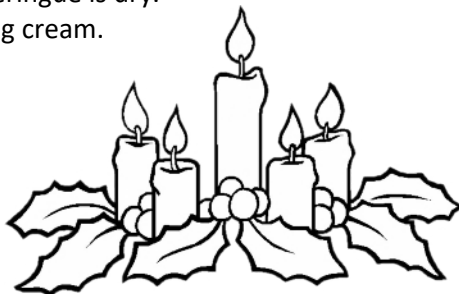
INGREDIENTS

- 1 Swiss Roll (vanilla & jam works well) or a pack of shop-bought chocolate muffins.
- 1 tin sliced peaches (or cherries in alcohol if there is a jar in the cupboard)
- 250ml (1/2 pint) custard
- 3 eggs
- 150g caster sugar



METHOD

1. Heat oven 160/ gas 4
2. Slice Swiss roll/muffins place on the base of the pudding dish.
3. Cover with fruit, including a little of the syrup.
4. Separate the eggs ensuring no yolk contaminates the whites.
5. Add yolks to the custard and warm through in a pan on the hob.
6. Pour custard over fruit and cake layer, allow to cool.
7. In a clean dry bowl, whisk the egg whites until stiff add caster sugar a little at a time beating well between each addition.
8. When all sugar is incorporated, place meringue mixture on top of the cooled custard.
9. Place in oven for 20/25mins till meringue is dry.
10. Serve hot with a jug of cold pouring cream.



FATHER CHRISTMAS...

where does he originate from?

Christmas is everyone's favourite subject in December, especially for children (and some adults I might add) as the anticipation builds with the impending arrival of Father Christmas.

Father Christmas, Santa Claus, Saint Nick, Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle and Santa are all names for the same person, Father Christmas is the traditional British name, although more commonly known in modern times as Santa. He makes children want to behave (always a good thing!) and brings an air of magical mystery to the festive season. We know he lives in the North Pole with Mrs Christmas and his many elves, however, when was the first sighting? Why does he wear that red and white suit? Surely something more discreet would be appropriate for all those silent deliveries as children sleep in their beds on Christmas Eve.



In many western cultures, Father Christmas is depicted as a jolly man who delivers presents to the homes of good children on Christmas Eve, entering homes via the chimney or, in more recent times, using a magic key left out by the children of the house, to allow him to open the front door, ensuring the presents are delivered without complications. In 1435 a song was sung about a figure bringing Christmas and was referred to as Nowell. At this point he was not referred to as Father Christmas. The description of Christmas as a jolly man became apparent in the early 17th century. Father Christmas was described as a kind, older man, who brought good cheer and good tidings. This person was then referred to as 'Christmas', 'Old Christmas' or 'Father Christmas'.

One of the theories is that he is actually said to have come from a Dutch figure Sinterklaas, the British translation being Santa Claus. A rotund man, with a portly tummy, a jovial face with a full white beard and moustache and often seen to be wearing a red suit, with the soft fur trim and robust black boots and belt.

There is a popular myth that the red and white garments we see Father Christmas wearing in all of the Christmas paraphernalia, were chosen by Coca Cola and an advertising campaign that has run for over 30 years depicting him in the familiar outfit. There is, however, another theory that the colours derive from the original Saint Nicholas who was the Bishop of Myra in the 4th century. Red and white were thought to be the colours of the bishops' traditional robes. Some historians will argue he originally wore different colours altogether!

Personally, I don't know if we will ever know the full history of Father Christmas. A man of mystery, the one consistent finding by historians over the centuries is that he is a joyful man who brings happiness and generosity to well-behaved children across the world. Whatever his origins may be, we all know, if you don't believe in him, he will not pay you a visit!

Angie Jones-Moore

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Bremhill Neighbourhood Plan- Submission Consultation

After two years' worth of statutory consultations taking on board the views of parishioners, businesses and numerous organisations, the Parish Council have submitted the final plan. This is now available for further comment.

We are in the final stages which are explained in the information from Wiltshire Council below. Thank you to everyone who has commented so far.....we are nearly there!

Bremhill Parish Council have submitted their proposed Bremhill Neighbourhood Plan to Wiltshire Council, which is to be subject to a period of public consultation ('Regulation 16 consultation'). The consultation documents are available to view at: <http://tiny.cc/bremhillplan>

Comments on the submitted Neighbourhood Plan can be made online using Wiltshire Council's consultation portal <http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal> or alternatively representation forms can be downloaded and returned by email to neighbourhoodplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk or by post to:

Spatial Planning, Economic Development and Planning
Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN

Paper copies of the Bremhill Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents, together with paper copies of the representation forms are also available to view at the following locations during the consultation, in normal opening hours: The Dumb Post Inn, the Foxham Inn, Village Halls at Bremhill, Tytherton and Foxham. Also at-

Wiltshire Council, Bythesea Road, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN
or

Wiltshire Council, Monkton Park offices, Monkton Hill, Chippenham SN15 1ER

The consultation will commence on Monday 21st November 2016 and responses must be received no later than 5 pm on Monday 9th January 2017. Please be aware that all representations will be publicly available and may also appear on the Wiltshire Council website.

Following this consultation the comments received will be passed to an independent examiner to be appointed by the council, who will consider the representations and recommend whether the Neighbourhood Plan should be put to a community referendum.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Spatial Planning on Tel: 01225 713223 or by email to neighbourhoodplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Georgina Clampitt-dix
Head of Spatial Planning, Economic Development and Planning
Wiltshire Council



PLANNING THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH

HEADLINES FROM BREMHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Hill Field Farm

The planning application submitted by Green Hedge for a battery storage unit at Hill Field Farm has been turned down by the Northern Area Planning Committee due to the harmful effect it would have on the landscape. It had been called in to the full council planning committee by Councillor Crisp. The Parish's Neighbourhood Plan was taken into consideration in reaching this decision.

Neighbourhood Plan

Matters are progressing satisfactorily and a letter from Wiltshire County Council is published in this month's edition of the Newsletter. Details can be found on the Wiltshire Council website.

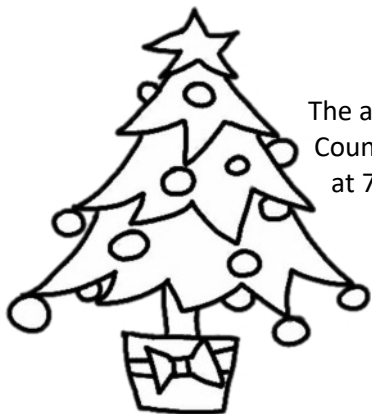
Hedge Cutting

Parishioners will have noticed the hedge cutting that has been undertaken throughout the Parish. Normally paid for by Wiltshire Council but strategic budget cuts have limited their capacity so this has been funded by the Parish Council to ensure that the Parish roads are safe.

Our thanks go to Ford Contracting who carried out this work (photos opposite).

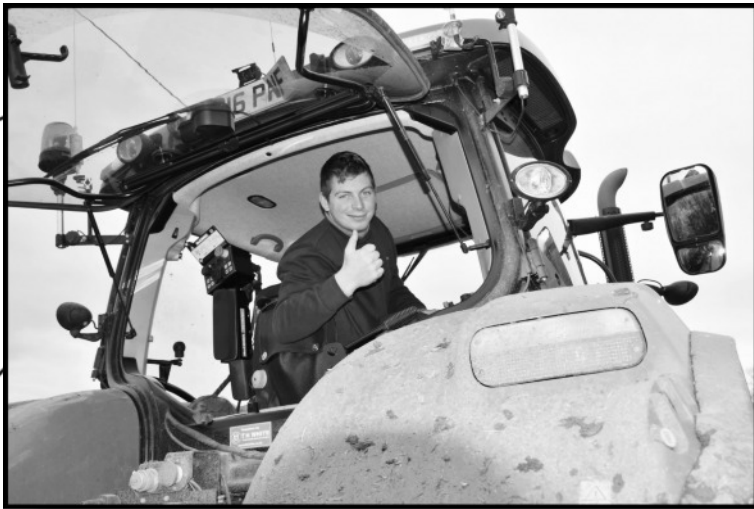
Broadband

There has been deep concern over the poor broadband reception in certain parts of the Parish. Action groups are in contact with BT seeking improvements or alternatives.



The above matters will be ratified at the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday December 5th at 7.30 pm at The Moravian Room East Tytherton.






*Elsbeth Norman
Parish Clerk*





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ST MARTINS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER

6 - 9PM

Lots of stalls, goodies to buy, food, gifts, bulbs, sewn items, fresh Christmas decorations and much more.

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Come and enjoy an evening together
and begin the Christmas celebrations.
FREE ENTRY!



WW1 ENDS

3rd October 2010

Just inside the church gate in Bremhill stands a lovely Memorial Cross dedicated to those from the Parish who lost their lives in the First World War. You will probably have read some of the stories of the individuals in this newsletter, thanks to the sterling investigative work done by David Wood.

The memorial is showing the signs of age and could probably do with some TLC, so I have been in touch with as many people as I can and sought permission to begin the investigation into what is needed.

I think that everyone seems happy with the thought of getting some expert advice and some quotes so that we can consider the next steps. The History Society (in Bremhill) has been in touch with the War Memorials Trust and we are trying to do just this. If you have any interest in this project then please feel free to get in touch.

Before ANYTHING is done we will come back to the community and explain exactly what we've found out and there will be other opportunities to have your say once we know some detail.



Bob Harding
history@bremhill.com

Oh yes - 2010?

My understanding is that 11th November 1918 was when an armistice was agreed to start - a cease fire, not a peace treaty.

Official peace wasn't declared until the war debit (£22 billion at the time) was paid in full. This happened in 2010 - 92 years after the guns fell silent!





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THANK YOU

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, I'd like to thank everyone who attended the Bremhill Bonfire Night and a heartfelt thank you to those who helped build and rebuild the bonfire, or devoted their time and effort to contribute to the success of the event.

The rebuilding of the bonfire turned out to be a great community building event and one which enabled us continue with the event. Without you all, it would not have been possible!



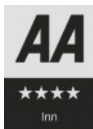
We would love to see you again at the village Skittles Night and Raffle on Saturday 3rd December.

*Roger Griffin
Chairman*



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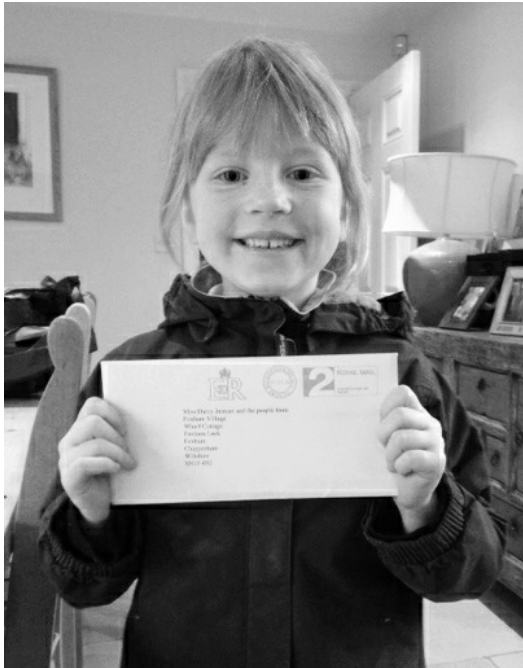
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FOXHAM DEVELOPS ROYAL LINKS

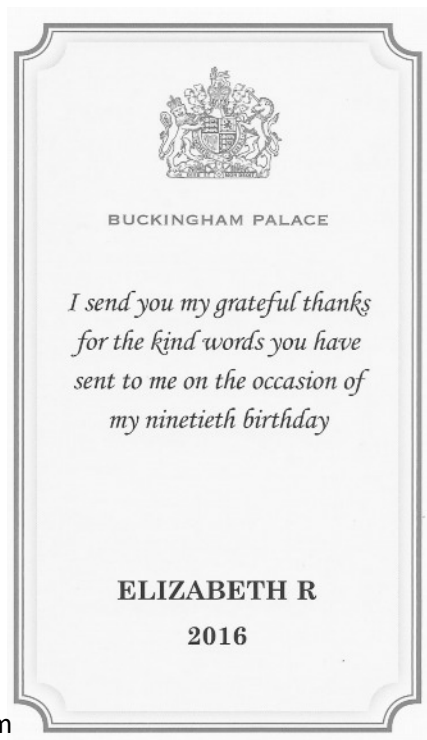
In June, the residents of Foxham gathered in the Reading Room to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. The community combined to provide a feast fit for a monarch and enough wine to float a Royal Barge.

Once the sun had broken through there were games on the green and all ages indulged in apple bobbing, rounders and various agility races. The local children had also been challenged to create art work to celebrate this auspicious occasion and they did not disappoint.



The judges had a tricky time awarding prizes and indeed, the standard was so high that it only seemed fair that a sample was sent to the Queen herself so that she could see how much effort and hard work had been lavished on her celebration. It seems that the Queen was equally impressed by the efforts of the village and Darcy Jarman was lucky enough to receive recently a letter from the Queen's Lady-in-Waiting thanking her and the people of Foxham for the card and best wishes that the village had bestowed on this landmark birthday.

Nick Jarman



To: Miss Darcy Jarman and the people from
Foxham Village

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you all for your kind messages sent with the splendid card made by Darcy Jarman for Her Majesty's ninetieth birthday.

The Queen has been deeply moved by the wonderful response to her milestone birthday, and hopes you will understand that, because of the overwhelming number of messages received, it has not been possible to reply to you until now.

I am to thank you all very much once again for your kind thought for Her Majesty at this time.

Lady-in-Waiting

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PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR LOCAL ARTIST

At the beginning of August, Tytherton Lucas artist Rosalind Robinson, received a prestigious award at the Society of Women Artists Annual Open Exhibition, held at The Mall Galleries in London. Rosalind had three paintings selected for the exhibition and the award for her body of work was presented on the opening day by HRH Princess Michael of Kent who is patron of the Society.

Rosalind studied Fine Art at Hornsey & Walthamstow Colleges of Art and worked as a scenic artist with the BBC. She has previously had paintings and drawings exhibited at:

- The Royal Academy of Arts
- The Royal West of England Academy
- The Royal Watercolour Society
- Devizes Museum

Her talent can be best viewed by visiting public buildings where she has been commissioned to paint murals, and these sites include:

- Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London
- Clermont Club, Berkeley, London
- The Inn on the Park, Hyde Park Corner, London
- Kansas City Hotel, Kansas, USA
- Devizes Museum

Rosalind has also been privileged to have been invited to undertake some prestigious painting projects which include:

- Harrods, Knightsbridge - redecoration of the food halls with painted and gilded plasterwork, tiled medallions and marbling.
- Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford - marbling of the columns in the auditorium.
- The Chinese Pagoda, Cliveden - restoration of the pagoda, with trompe l'oeil effects and gilding for the National Trust.

Rosalind has a particular passion for painting heads, and I am fascinated by these, which can be viewed on Rosalind's website www.rosalindrobinson.com. We are very fortunate to have such a talented artist within our Parish, and I know that there are other talented people here also, so please come forward and share your talent with us!

Stephen Cook

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RURAL ARTS

The Churchfitters: it was great to see so many at the Rural Arts event in October; all those in the Bremhill village hall created a lively atmosphere.

The next event is:

Thisbe
Door Ajar Theatre Company
Friday 3rd March 2017
Bremhill Village Hall

This theatrical production is based around characters from Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. But do not be daunted by this! Thisbe is a magical adventure, full of unruly comedy and live music. Puck will be there with many pranks. There will be six actor-musicians and an original score. It will be another unique evening.

Reminder - Miranda Sykes - Wednesday 17th May 2017

REV ANN WRITES ...

The shops are busy and the traffic is at a standstill as the Christmas shopping begins in earnest! Looking for that perfect present and those 'little bits' that make the difference between an average Christmas and one to remember takes a lot of effort and time!

It is not difficult to be absorbed into a commercial Christmas! Presents are important and so is hospitality when celebrating an event, but Christmas is more than coming together for an extended public holiday, and more than present giving, eating, drinking and playing games. It is Christ's birthday! We tend to celebrate birthdays with the person whose birthday it is, but in Christ's case he is not physically present and so he can easily be overlooked in the celebrations. He is, for Christians, the most precious of gifts from God to them. He is a figure they believe in as the one who came to teach the world about who God is and how we can behave and live as our Creator intended us to do. He also came to teach us that God's ways lead to co-operation one with another, a sharing of resources – never being complacent about a part of creation suffering whilst another has more than enough for its needs. To know God is to know 'love'. At this time of turmoil in the world, where the political landscape is changing, let us remind ourselves that Christ came to change the world. Let us remember that Christ was born into the world two thousand years ago and that we all have the gift to also make a difference in the world. Christmas is a time to remember that Christ reminds us of the hope, the joy, the love and the peace that comes from cooperation with God.

I quote from a re-telling of a French parable:

God is speaking: 'My friends, I have given you everything you need to support life on earth. Life cannot be born except of you and between you. And life will be born anew if each of you share of its nature with all creation. For life is born out of a sharing of life. And where cooperation is refused, life cannot be.'



Let the Christmas festivities begin with celebrating the life that was given to us through God's Son, Jesus Christ. We welcome you to our Christmas services. I wish you every blessing for the Christmas Season and for 2017. May you know the peace of God in your homes and about each of you each day.

With best wishes

Ann

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, TYTHERTON LUCAS

Sunday 4 Dec	Patronal Festival	10 am	Peter Tremelling
Sunday 11 Dec	Eucharist	8.30 am	Derek Copeland
Sunday 18 Dec	Carol Service	6.30 pm	Bryan Pettifer
Sunday 24 Dec	NO SERVICE		
Sunday 25 Dec	Christmas Day Service	10 am	Jeremy Bray
Sunday 1 Jan	NO SERVICE		

There will be sherry and mince pies after our Patronal Festival. Also, following the Carol Service, we have kindly been invited to Kim and Helen Stukey's home for mulled wine and mince pies.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH. FOXHAM

Sunday 4 Dec	9.30 am	D. Wilton
Advent 2	Holy Communion	Romans 15: 4-13
Sunday 11 Dec	9.30 am	TBA
Advent 3	Family Service	Matthew 11:2-11
Sunday 18 Dec	6 pm	Readings by
Carol Service	Live Crib Service and Peace Light	Bill Norman & Fay Wardall
Sunday 25 Dec	9.30 am	Churchwardens
Christmas Day	Family Holy Comm.	Titus 2: 11-14

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year

CHURCH NEWS

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, BREMHILL

	Service	Sidesmen	Readers
Sunday 4 Dec Advent 2 Purple	8 Holy Communion 4pm Evensong	David Stevens Tamsin Castle Anne Jones Susan Tumber	Romans 15: 4-13 David Stevens Isaiah 11: 1-10 Nicol Jordan Matthew 3: 1-12 Jophy Powell
Sunday 11 Dec Advent 3 Purple	11 am Holy Communion	Judy Scott William Wyldbore- Smith	James 5:7-10 Julia King
Sunday 18 Dec Advent 4 Purple	4 pm Carol Service by Candlelight	Arnold Woods Jennifer Lamacraft James Lamacraft	To be arranged
Saturday 24 Dec Christmas Eve White	11.15 pm Midnight Mass	Anne Jones Nicol Jordan Jane Jordan	Hebrews 1: 1-12 Tamsi Castle
Sunday 25 Dec Christmas Day White	9.30 am Family Communion	David Stevens Prisca Wyldbore- Smith	Titus 2: 11-14 William Wyldbore- Smith
Sunday 1 st Jan	10 am Holy Communion	St Mary's, Calne	



	Foxham	Bremhill
Church Wardens	Elizabeth Hannah 740619 Mary Kellond 740633	William Wyldbore- Smith 814969 David Stevens 815337
Treasurer	Robert Pegler 740253	David Stevens 815337
Secretary	To be appointed	Paula Godwin

ST MARTIN'S NOTICES

Auction of Promises. At the Cheese & Wine Party in February this year, somebody bought a joint of Beef. We seem to have lost your name, so please contact Jean Pocock on 01249 740202 who is keen to honour her promise.

Carol singing around the Village. Meet at 7 pm at the Village Hall on Thurs. 15th December. In Aid of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Please come along!

Cleaning Rota. In Church you will see a Church Cleaning Rota. If you can find an hour or two to help clean the Church or polish the Brass, please put your name down as a volunteer. It will be much appreciated. Please bring your own cleaning materials, but there is a fine vacuum cleaner at the back of the Church

Devizes Mobile Library calls at Naish House Farm, Spirthill, this month on Monday 5th December at 9.30 - 10.00 am. Please note the time - we only get one visit each month. Don't forget the church library. Paperbacks only by well-known authors!

Afternoon tea china for hire. Very reasonable rates. Contact Philippa on 815337.

If you have any items of local Church or Village News for the January 2017 edition of this Newsletter, please give them to Jane Jordan (812083) in time for the 8th December 2016 deadline. Thank you.

MORAVIAN CHURCH, EAST TYTHERTON

Morning worship is every Sunday at 10.30 am with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. All welcome

CATHOLIC SERVICES

St Mary's, Chippenham
Saturdays 6 pm
Sundays 9.30 am and 6.30 pm
Station Hill, Chippenham
Canon Desmond Millett

St Edmund's, Calne
Saturdays 6 pm
Sundays 10 am
Oxford Road,
Father Vincent Curtis 01249 813131

POEM:

Among many other important things, Christmas is also a time for music of many kinds. Music-making is a basic human activity, either singing, playing or listening and it affects the emotions in many ways. Shakespeare was well aware of the power of music and makes many references to it in his plays. Here is a passage from *The Merchant of Venice* where he praises music and says that the person who has no music in their soul is a dullard of whom we should be aware!

Act 5 Scene 1: Lorenzo speaks to Jessica:

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Here will we sit and let the sounds of music
Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony.
Sit, Jessica. Look how the floor of heaven
Is thick inlaid with patens of bright gold:
There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st
But in his motion like an angel sings,
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubins;
Such harmony is in immortal souls;
But whilst this muddy vesture of decay
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.
Come, ho! and wake Diana with a hymn!
With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear,
And draw her home with music.....
.....The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils;
The motions of his spirit are dull as night
And his affections dark as Erebus:
Let no such man be trusted. Mark the music.

Ewen





*All of the people who work together
to bring you this newsletter
would like to wish everyone in the Parish*

*A Very Happy Christmas
and offer our
very best wishes for the future*