

BREMHILL, FOXHAM, THE TYTHERTONS AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

February 2017

The Newsletter



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 24th Feb Auction Of Promises - Bremhill
- 25th Feb Race Night - Tytherton
- 25th Feb Soup and Puds - Bremhill
- 3rd March Thisbe - Rural Arts - Bremhill Village Hall
- 25th March Mothers' Day Tea, Bremhill
- 5th April Community Lunch - Tytherton
- 9th April Tytherton Fun Ride
- 28th April Quiz Night - Bremhill
- 3rd May Community Lunch - Tytherton
- 7th June Community Lunch - Tytherton

THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARTIN ANNUAL AUCTION OF PROMISES

24th Feb 2017

AT 7.30 pm - Bremhill Village Hall

For many years we have been fortunate enough to be offered the use of rooms in the lovely homes of many good people in which to hold the auction and the buffet meal that goes with it. We are very grateful for this privilege and (beware!) will no doubt be hoping for such kindness again.

However, for this year we thought we would make use of the facility that stands in the middle of the village - THE VILLAGE HALL. We do hope that people will feel that this is a good venue and support us as they have done in the past, bearing in mind that all profits go to local village charities.

More details from myself or any member of the Friends Committee

Rev Jim Scott
CHAIRMAN

Front Cover - see page 19

EDITORIAL

February was called the 'mud month' in Old English and in some Eastern European countries the month of ice or hard frost, while our modern name comes from the Latin 'februum' which means 'purification', possibly because the often cold weather kills off evil spirits! It is often considered the last month of winter, but at least it is the shortest month and at last we have the gradual lengthening of days to look forward to, as well as, of course, St. Valentine's Day!

While we wait for the arrival of Spring, there are some interesting items in this month's Newsletter for us to digest. The article on the 1939 Register I found particularly interesting as I remember my father having an identity card and the accompanying illustration gives some fascinating information on previous occupants of our house. Our Parish is rich in history and there must be, likewise, some interesting stories about houses and their occupants, so here's a plea - let us have an article about your house and its history. There have been some fascinating and perhaps eccentric characters, too, among the parishioners. I'm told there was a lady who walked her geese to market in Calne from Spirthill, so if you know a story, then write it up and send it in.

As in many houses, we often need to renew items or have repair jobs done and one of the first places I turn to in order to find appropriate information is the Newsletter and look through all the advertising. The magazine provides a good information service and it reaches many people. We need advertising very much to help cover our costs, so if any readers know people, small or large businesses, who may be interested in having an advert, please contact our advertising manager whose phone number is in the magazine.

Hopefully the Newsletter plays a role in helping the different parts of our Community to come together, so enjoy this issue and I look forward to many contributions in the near future.

Ewen Bird

SPECIAL NOTICES

COMMUNITY LUNCH

East Tytherton Moravian Church invites you to a Community Lunch held on the first Wednesday of the month in the Church Hall.

The next lunch will be served on 1st February and 1st March at 12.30 pm. Come along for lunch to enjoy home-made soups and stew with crusty bread, 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

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, TYTHERTON LUCAS SKITTLES

Saturday 18th March

Once again we are holding a skittles evening with ploughman's supper in Tytherton Village Hall, starting at 7pm. The bar will be open. Tickets are £5.00 per person to include your ploughman's supper and can be obtained from me. We play as individuals with prizes for the highest scoring man and woman on the evening with also have a booby prize for the lowest score of the evening. It is good fun and helps to raise money for the maintenance of our lovely church.

*Sheila Laurence 07887641043
sheila.a.laurence@gmail.com*

MIRANDA SYKES

Wednesday 17th May 2017

This is a return visit of Miranda Sykes, "by popular demand". If you did not see her perform last time then you missed a treat. Come along to see her in May.

Tickets £12 from Marilyn or Rosie 01249 661369 or 813642

MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday 25th March: Bremhill Village Hall, 3-5 pm.

Celebrate Mother's Day in style. Treat Mum, Grandma or Auntie to a delicious Champagne Afternoon Tea.

Adults £5, children £2.50 - to include a delicious selection of cakes, sandwiches and scones as well as a glass of bubbly and gift for mum.

To reserve your table and gift please call Jennifer 819003 or Philippa 815337
We look forward to seeing you all on the 25th March.

TYTHERTON RIDE

Sunday 9th April - Save The Date

After the disappointment of the 2016 Tytherton Ride being cancelled due to the atrocious ground conditions, we are hoping for a drier later winter and good going for the 2017 Ride. The date for your diaries is Sunday, 9th April, starting a 12 mile or 6 mile ride from 10 am at Bremhill Field Farm.

As before, all profits from the ride are distributed amongst the Churches and Village Halls in the Parish, plus the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal. If you would like to help out at the ride, in stewarding or car parks, contact Camilla Glass via email at camilla.glass@hotmail.co.uk.

TOWN HALL MOVIOLA

Our film for February will be 'The Girl on the Train' (15) based on the book of the same title and starring Emily Blunt and Justin Theroux. A divorcee becomes entangled in a missing person's investigation that promises to send shock waves throughout her life.

Showing on Wednesday, 22nd Feb in Calne Town Hall. Doors open at 7.00 pm. Refreshments available. Tickets £6.00, available from the information office or on the door.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Bremhill Village Hall Produce Show

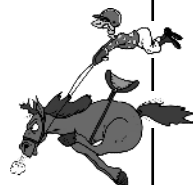
The date and schedule will be published soon on the Bremhill Village Hall website. Then you can plan what you will be growing this year and what you will be making. Do have a look on the Village Hall website (www.bremhill.com) and follow the links to the Village Produce Show 2017.



TYTHERTON VILLAGE HALL

"Come to the Races"

Saturday 25th February at 7.30pm



Full race card. Delicious Deli Supper. Bar open.

Tickets £10 each, from 07719 176753 or email: events@tythertonhall.co.uk

Then on **Sunday 12th March 9.00am - 11.00am**

The ever-popular '**Tytherton Breakfast**'

Full details next month

Would you like to join the Committee?

Three of our Committee members have recently moved from the area and so resigned from the Committee. Therefore we would welcome enquiries from anyone interested in joining us. If you would like more information please call 07719 176753 or email: events@tythertonhall.co.uk

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

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Rural Arts "Thisbe"

The Door Ajar Theatre Company
Friday 3rd March 2017

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theatre and live music. The actors are
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7.30 pm

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PARISH HISTORY

A comprehensive history of the parish of Bremhill, including the surrounding villages, is being planned. This is part of the work being prepared for volume 20 of the Wiltshire Victoria County History, "Chippenham and Environs". The VCH - "The Greatest Publishing Project in English Local History" was founded in 1899 to publish a history of every community in England. Three-quarters of the volumes for Wiltshire have been published, and now the Wiltshire VCH Trust is carrying forward the programme of research and publication. The websites www.mychippenham.org.uk and www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/Wiltshire provide more detail.

The VCH initiative presents the opportunity for the parish of Bremhill to produce a book and related web material that would have a broader scope and be more accessible to the general reader than the scholarly VCH format. The book will be written by a professional historian under the supervision of the Wiltshire VCH Trust, although there will be an opportunity for local people to get involved. The Bremhill History Society will partner with the Wiltshire VCH Trust to apply for funding for this project from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Additionally, some funding will need to be raised locally.

Please let us know if you are interested in helping with this exciting project, and especially if you have material or research which could be helpful - perhaps from researching the history of your family or house. In particular, we are looking for a project manager to co-ordinate the programme on behalf of the parish and to liaise with the Wiltshire VCH Trust. This will require quite a time commitment, as the process of applying for funding and completing the project will take several years. The role requires a combination of organisational, IT and commercial skills plus super-human levels of tenacity and persuasiveness. Previous historical experience is not essential.

Please email us at martin@cadenham.com. Further updates will be published here and on the parish website in due course.

*Jim Scott and
Martin Nye*

BREMHILL VILLAGE HALL AGM

The AGM for Bremhill Village Hall was held on 19th November. Our thanks go to everyone who was able to attend despite it being a cold night possibly better suited to curling up in front of the fire.



The Chairman (Roger Griffin) reported that the overall situation for the last year was extremely positive with many events proving to be popular and, in many cases, returning good financial rewards for the benefit of the hall. Bonfire Night was particularly positive both financially and for the sense of community spirit. In order to reduce costs, an external review had been carried out on a complimentary basis and had not been completed in time for this meeting. It was raised that an extraordinary general meeting would be needed as soon as possible in order to review information when available.

There was a strong core of the committee who were prepared to serve for another year, including: Kit Hawkins, Roger Griffin, Linda Sankey, Jim Scott, Sue Webb and Jonathan Satchell. These members were joined by Kate Wilson, Chris English and Bob Harding, making 9 members in total.

A short committee meeting was held after the AGM where Roger was elected chairman, Linda - treasurer and Chris - Secretary.

Bremhill Village Hall Committee

The first full meeting of the new committee was held on the 28th Dec. We discussed priorities for the year. Two sub-groups were established, one to look at Events and the other to look at the building and administration.

One of the first tasks for the 'Buildings' sub-group is to make information much more available; updating the Village Hall page on the bremhill.com website was considered to be a good starting point. By the time you are reading this, the page should be up to date, so please take a look.

Wiltshire council (through 'Community First') have an excellent scheme called 'Hallmark' that provides a way to measure how 'good' a hall is. The previous committee had been looking at this and this will continue to be used to guide developments for Bremhill hall.

There will be an extraordinary general meeting on the 9th March at 8:00 and the next committee meeting will be on the 29th March. Agendas will be published on the website and we invite everyone to submit comments or raise questions in advance by contacting the hall secretary. Contact details for all the committee (names given in the AGM report) will also be on the website.

We look forward to an energetic year and hope that the Hall will continue to go from strength to strength.

*Bremhill Hall Committee
hall.secretary@bremhill.com*

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CHRISTIAN MALFORD & FOXHAM WI

We managed to raise enough money at our Christmas party to fund at least four vulnerable youngsters in the Chippenham area on a project organised by 'Splash'. This local charity, supported by the police, provides positive activities for young people between the ages of 9-16, who are facing challenges in life. Thank you all so much for your generosity, including those of you who could not make the festivities but still gave generously, in making a fantastic total of £300!

Future meetings in February are a Table Top Sale, 10.00am - 12.00 on Saturday, 4th February with fantastic bargains, The Big Indian Take Away at 7.00 pm on Saturday, 11th February, with eating and dancing on the agenda and A Walk into the World of Italian Style at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 16th February, enabling us to look elegant and stylish - all held in Christian Malford Village Hall.

Subs are due so remember to bring your £39 cheque to our next meeting.

New members are always welcome. All our information and club activities can be found on the notice board outside the Christian Malford village shop and also on the village website. Contact Tina: 01249 720956.

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SHAKESPEARE, BALLET OR OPERA AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA

You must be joking, I hear you call. However, it is true! You do not have to dress up or spend a fortune. About every fortnight, a screening of a live performance is beamed to your local cinema from venues like the National Theatre, Covent Garden or the Met in New York. There are close ups of the performers which give you a view better than the Stalls and it costs up to £15.

We have seen a number of performances over the last 2 years, including Hamlet and War Horse from the National, La Traviata from Covent Garden and, recently, Nabucco from the Met. Nabucco was a magnificent spectacle. It is set in Old Testament times when the Hebrews were at war with the Babylonians. The drama was tangible with romance, betrayal and brutality, but magnificent performances from the leading stars, including Placido Domingo in the title role. The most famous piece of music is the Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves called "Va Pensiero". An encore was duly demanded and given.

You might say it is a bit "high-brow" but if you have ever thought of trying an opera or a ballet but have been put off, give it a go. There is no substitute for attending a live performance, but this is the next best thing. Popular events coming soon: "Saint Joan" from the National on 16 February; "The Sleeping Beauty", the ballet from Covent Garden on 28th Feb; "La Traviata" from the Met on 11th March; and "Madame Butterfly" from Covent Garden on 30th March.



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VALE ACTION OPEN DAY

Funding to support our rural economy

I am a volunteer member of the Vale Action Management Group. Through Vale Action, businesses and organisations in the rural parts of North West Wiltshire have access to around £1.1m of EU 'Leader' funding. This is targeted at increasing the number of jobs and improving key parts of our rural economy over the next few years.

The type of projects that will win backing - typically a contribution of between £5,000 and up to £100,000 at a rate of 40% of total project capital costs - will directly or indirectly increase jobs and the rural economy, the project will also give support for:

- Growing micro and small enterprises
- Increasing farming and forestry productivity and farm diversification
- Rural tourism
- The provision of rural services
- Cultural and heritage activity

Applying for a grant is a competitive two stage process - an Outline Application, which needs to be accepted by the Management Group, followed by a Full Application and further approval by the Management Group and DEFRA. Applicants are given full support throughout the process by the project team. We have seen that 'Leader' funding can make a real difference to the daily lives of people in rural areas, and help grow businesses and organisations.

Vale Action is having an OPEN DAY on

FEBRUARY 23rd 2017

Bushton and Clyffe Pypard Village Hall,
Bushton, Wiltshire SN4 7PX

From 10am - 1pm

to promote the programme and explain more about the application process. Do come along and hear more about the grants and discuss whether your project might be eligible.

Please email info@plainaction.org.uk to book a place at the Open Day.

If you can't attend that day, you can see more about Vale Action and the application process at <http://www.plainaction.org.uk/vale-action/vale-action-intro>

For informal information about Vale Action or the Open Day, please contact me - sally.cross@engageforgrowth.com (Bridge Cottage, Avon).



TYTHERTON W.I.

On December, 23rd members sat down to a very enjoyable and delicious Christmas meal at The Langley Tap. Crackers were pulled, Secret Santa presents distributed and a very good evening enjoyed by all.

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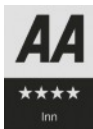
At this month's meeting Paul Jupp, from Devizes, will be giving an illustrated talk on 'Gardening for Wildlife'. Paul and his wife set up their own eco-friendly business 'Meadow in my Garden' from their home in Devizes.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except August, at 7.30pm 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.

If you would like further information ring our secretary Rose on 07514 538551

THE FOXHAM INN

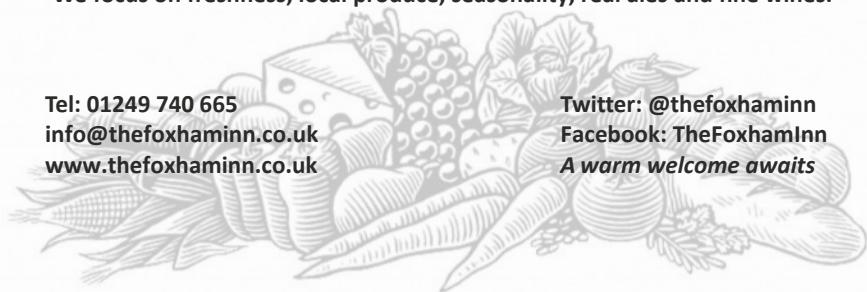
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NANCY KYTE, BOBBIN LACE MAKER

As someone who always likes to be busy Nancy was looking for something interesting to occupy her time when she retired from her job at Springfield School, Calne in the 70's.

Picking up a leaflet in the Spar shop and P.O. that used to be very much part of Bremhill life, Nancy was interested to read about a lace making course in Marden House. That was the start of a love affair with the craft and after six months of practice she was proficient enough to make her much admired lace bookmarks. Bobbin lace, also known as pillow lace, is a method of making lace by weaving threads held on bobbins by pinning them onto a pattern laid over a pillow base.

Some of her more intricate creations are very special and, as many of the brides in the locality already know, one of Nancy's favourite items to make is her much sought after wedding garter. Other things include pin cushions with lace edging and some larger cushion types. Whilst she makes these lovely things mostly for family and friends Nancy sells some items, along with her other craft interest, that of cross stitch, to help raise funds for the Bremhill Church.

Nancy loves her craftwork and says "it gives me a great sense of achievement and I find it very relaxing even if these days I occasionally pull out the magnifying glass!"



THE 1939 REGISTER

At Christmas 1938, with war looming in Europe, it was announced by Parliament that, in the event of war, a National Register would be taken that listed the details of every civilian in Great Britain. This Register was to be an important document in preparing for war. It would be used to issue identity cards, organise rationing and much more. On September 1st 1939, Poland was invaded by Germany. Britain declared war on 3rd September, 1939 and two days later the National Registration Act received royal assent with registration day planned for September 29th 1939.

Every household, including all of those in the Bremhill parish, and covering the population of over 41 million people, was issued with a form to fill in giving their full details of name, address, date of birth, marital status and occupation and any war-related community work they would be involved with. The questions had a major difference from censuses in that they did not ask for place of birth. As with collecting census details, enumerators visited every household in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to collect the completed forms. After briefly checking the details, identity cards were issued by the enumerator at the time of collecting the form. Pretty efficient by today's standards, but it also meant that checking the details was pretty minimal. The collecting enumerator transcribed the details on to a larger form and a typical example is shown.

The identity cards issued were in use up until 1952, when the legal requirement to carry them ceased. I still have mine, however, in case it is needed and I am sure many others in the parish have theirs hidden away somewhere in a drawer. Until that point in 1952, every member of the civilian population had to be able to present their card upon request by an official, or bring them to a police station for verification within 2 days of the request. The 1939 Register, represents one of the most important documents in 20th century Britain for historians and genealogists. The information it contains not only helped toward the war effort, it was also used in the founding of the National Health Service. The written records were updated manually and in use until the early 1970's when they were computerised. A couple of years ago, after much wrangling, the records were released but any person born less than 100 years ago was blacked out as can be seen in the record attached.

Bremhill History Group

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or L.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 Globe Cottages Breamhill	25	1	MILCOCK, Levi	-	M	6.6	04	M	Cowman.
		2	MILCOCK Violet A.	-	F	13.2	05	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.									
2 Globe Cottages Breamhill	26	4	MILCOCK, James A.	-	M	12.6	81	M	At School.
		1	HAND, Francis J.	-	M	30.8	03	M	Baker & Journeyman
		2	HAND, Minnie L.	-	F	4.1	98	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		This record is officially closed.							
3 Globe Cottages Breamhill	27	1	HOBBES, Albert James	-	M	10.5	00	M	General Labourer.
		2	HOBBES Emily E.	-	F	28.3	06	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.									
24 Breamhill	28	4	HOBBES, Albert John	-	M	28.2	37	S	Under School Age.
		1	FRY, Frank Barton	-	M	28.4	81	S	Baker & Grocer.
		2	FRY, Mary Ann	-	F	5.1	83	S	Housekeeper & Shop Assistant
		3	MINTY, Myra G.	-	F	4.11	90	W	Household Duties & Book-keeping
		4	CLARK, Charles W.	-	M	27.3	10	S	Cartier & Lorry Driver.
25 Breamhill	29	5	CLARK, Francis W.	-	M	10.6	14	S	Providence Mill Worker.
		1	FRY, Emma	-	F	13.2	82	W	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		2	FRY, Vera P.	-	F	28.6	19	S	Domestic Duties.
26 Breamhill	30	1	WHEELER, Herbert H.	-	M	7.10	88	W	Farm Cartier.
27 Breamhill	31	1	HAND, Ernest	-	M	7.3	80	M	Lawyer, Private Estates
		2	HAND, Blanche H.	-	F	5.4	79	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
28 Breamhill	32	1	HOBBES, Frederick C.	-	M	20.2	97	S	General Labourer.
29 Breamhill	33	1	HORSELL, Edward J.	-	M	17.3	07	M	Aeroplane Ground Freshener
		2	HORSELL, Kathleen B.	-	F	3.1	10	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
30 Breamhill	34	1	FREGGARD, Albert G.	-	M	5.4	91	M	Foundry Labourer.
		2	FREGGARD, Elizabeth	-	F	16.3	05	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.									
31 Breamhill	35	4	FREGGARD, Ernest L.	-	M	29.4	26	S	At School.
		1	LEWIS, Fred	-	M	26.12	84	M	Farm Cartier.
		2	LEWIS, Lilian L.	-	F	30.9	91	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		3	LEWIS, Leslie G. F.	-	M	27.11	10	S	Builder's Labourer.
		4	LEWIS, Edward J.	-	M	30.3	17	S	Labourer Government Works
This record is officially closed.									
This record is officially closed.									
4 Globe Cottages Breamhill	36	1	DOLMAN, Dorothy M.	-	F	10.3	13	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		2	DOLMAN, Frances D.	-	F	30.1	36	S	Under School Age.
32 Breamhill	37	1	FRY, Percy John	-	M	17.1	03	M	Iron Foundry Labourer
		2	FRY, Florence	-	F	21.11	98	M	Domestic Duties Unpaid
		3	FRY, Sylvia K. M.	-	F	26.9	28	S	At School.
		4	FRY, Douglas J.	-	M	6.5	30	S	At School.
33 Breamhill	38	1	PONTING, Henry J.	-	M	28.11	65	M	Farm Cartier, Politician
		2	PONTING, Edna	-	F	10.3	76	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.									
34 Breamhill	39	1	WHEELER, Helen J.	-	M	2.1	86	M	General Labourer.

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THE SKY AT NIGHT FEBRUARY 2017

We start this month's celestial delights on 11th Feb when we have a Full Moon. 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 known as the Full Hunger Moon, since the harsh weather makes hunting difficult.

On the 11th Feb there will also be a Penumbral Lunar Eclipse. A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through the Earth's partial shadow, or "penumbra". During this type of eclipse the Moon will darken slightly but not completely, but unfortunately it is unlikely that we will see this eclipse. On the 26th February there will be another eclipse known as an Annular Solar Eclipse which occurs when the Moon is too far away from the Earth to completely cover the Sun. This results in a ring of light around the darkened Moon. Again, it is a great shame that we won't be able to see this as we are too far north- but watch out for it on the news as this type of eclipse provides stunning footage.

On the 26th Feb we will have a New Moon. As the Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun, it will not be visible in the night sky. This will mean that the skies around our villages will be very dark, so this is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere with your viewing.

You may think that you need to have a telescope or binoculars to see the stars properly. Whilst such equipment will give you a close-up view, there is no better way to enjoy the riches of the night sky than with the naked eye. There is so much that needs no equipment to be seen. A good example is the constellation of Orion the hunter. This is the best time to see Orion as it is visible from early evening. The basic shape of Orion is made up of four stars in a rectangle, with three distinct stars in a diagonal line in the centre of the rectangle. These three belt stars are called Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka. After you find Orion, wait for your eyes to adapt to the dark and then count how many stars you can see inside the main rectangle. On a clear night you may be able to see between twenty to forty stars. The brightest star in Orion is the blue giant star Rigel. This glows a brilliantly Blue-white and is located in the lower right corner of the rectangle whilst in the upper left corner of the rectangle is Betelgeuse. You can't miss this beauty as it glows an orange-red colour. If you don't look at anything else have a look at Orion next time he's up - you can't miss him!

Angela Protheroe

Well being for everybody

This is a New Year and you have just had two weeks of eating mince pies, chocolate and puddings. If you look in the mirror and think “I am feeling fresh as a daisy, happy as a clam, nothing can stop me – bring it on!”, read no further. If not (“Who is that person in the mirror? Not sure I like it.”) then join me on a journey to feeling fantastic, looking great and living longer.

Over the next few months I will be sharing with you the thoughts and knowledge of people who understand this, and I welcome your contributions - we all have something to add.

Firstly, let me share my big secret with you. Leading a healthy lifestyle doesn't mean sweating for hours in the gym or saying 'no' to chocolate and take-always. It is not about sacrifice and it is not about willpower. We are not super-humans. Feeling good is about knowledge. It is about knowing what small things can take you a long way and how you can trick your body and mind into keeping up with your best intentions.

January is the time for 'New Me' resolutions and an opportunity for sports shops and gyms to make a small fortune (from you). Go steady – your mind and body won't cope with big changes very well. Giving up favourite snacks completely and suddenly is likely to bring misery. A grand sudden dose of exercise can cause long-term injuries. Be patient with yourself, make the journey last longer – but go further and enjoy it more!

Challenge of the month: think what you would like to change in your lifestyle this year. Be realistic!

Ekaterina Rowell

GARDEN NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

Cut back shrubs such as Cornus and Salix to almost ground level and also ornamental grasses before they begin to grow. Clear the beds of waste material, but be sure to compost it so the grubs can crawl out in the spring.



Mulch the beds where bulbs are showing, but wait until the ground warms up a little before mulching everywhere else and ensure the weeds are cleared first. Prune Grapevines and Wisteria. Buddleia and summer flowering Clematis need pruning by reducing last year's growth to within a couple of buds of the old wood. Dig and divide clumps of snowdrops whilst still in the green. Root cuttings of perennial Poppies, Verbascum Mullein, Acanthus and Phlox can be done now as well as planting new rose bushes.

Early seed potatoes should be chitted in a cool, light, frost free place and they will be ready to plant in late March. Sow outdoors under cloche early carrots, broad beans and parsnips while shallots can be planted in late February. Finish pruning fruit trees and bushes before growth commences and cover rhubarb crowns to encourage early pink fruit. Dig and divide the crowns where they are too congested.

Continue to feed the birds and if the weather is not too cold, the hedgehogs will still be around. Ensure there is a plentiful supply of water for them all.

Be careful when moving piles of leaves and compost which may house wildlife.

Gardening Guru

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BROADBAND IN BREMHILL VILLAGE

As many people will be aware, Wiltshire Council have been helping Wiltshire people obtain High Speed internet service (through a project called "Wiltshire Online"). Some areas of the Parish have benefited directly and are already getting fast speeds. Across the county there has been a high demand for this improved service and this has triggered further investment. The good news is that some areas of Bremhill Parish are now back on the plans.

Currently the plans are described as 'High Level', meaning that there is little detail and we will have to wait for area surveys which will not be completed any time soon (indeed will not even start until September 2017) but it's encouraging to know that we are back under consideration. This doesn't mean that the whole parish will be upgraded to a high speed service and plans are currently by 'Postcode' but Bremhill Village is included (SN11 9LD and SN11 9LA).

We are in touch with Wiltshire Online and will do all we can to keep people aware of updates as they become available but please feel free to register interest with the Wiltshire Project at <http://tiny.cc/bremhillreg>

Bob Harding

FOXHAM SKITTLES KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT






The skittles knockout was won by "the West End Wonders" after a good evening with ten teams enjoying the fun. While the skittles was taking place, Bill Norman amused with a Shove Halfpenny Board with real halfpennies. This caused good rivalry between the players and was won by Michelle Hanson who took the prize of a bottle of whisky. A happy evening which resulted in a sum of nearly £300 for the church in Foxham. A lot of work went into the evening and thanks go to all those who spent Saturday morning getting the room set up and who stayed behind at the end to clear everything away. Thanks also to the 3 people who helped behind the scenes with the food and the washing up - Daphne must have felt wedded to the sink as she tackled the masses of plates and glasses. Finally, thanks to the young man who spent his evening retrieving and re-siting the pins. It was a successful evening giving enjoyment to all and, in spite of being 2 teams short, it raised good money for the church, so thank you all who came. Watch for details of the next one...

Elizabeth Hannah.



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Waste Not Want Not is a registered charity, based in Chippenham, that has helped over 30,000 people improve their homes since it was formed in 2002. By donating unwanted furniture or electrical goods to WNWN you can help those with little income make their home a better place or even start a home for those moving into an empty house. A recently launched programme called "Fresh Start" is designed to help those fleeing domestic abuse and the homeless, with the aim of helping 20 families over the next year. Contact (WNWN) on 01249 447140 or wawn303@aol.com, with free collection of all usable items from Malmesbury down to Trowbridge or from Corsham across to Calne and the towns and villages in-between.

WNWN has only two full time staff; everyone else is a volunteer and the charity also helps volunteers gain employability skills so that they can move back into the world of paid work. WNWN does its bit for the environment too, by reducing landfill by around 70 tonnes per year and by reducing fly tipping that can blight the countryside; for further information see: www.waste-not-want-not.org.uk.

Jan Darts, WNWN Trustee

NEWS FROM GIRL-GUIDES

The last months of the year were cold and dark but the world of the girl-guides was bright and warm. Winter didn't stop our brave spirits from taking a journey into the woods with only stars, small torches and glow sticks guiding our way. It was gloomy outside, but inside the school hall the girls were taking on a Mission Spectacular challenge, which involved in particular some serious cooking. It was cold, but we went out to sing carols to people who live in the village and bring them the light of Christmas. And then we travelled even further – we went to a local care home and sang Christmas songs with elderly residents. The girls sang like angels – Wiltshire has definitely got talents!

It wasn't however all work for us – we found time for parties as well. Autumn brought us a chance to get dressed in scary costumes for Hallowe'en and enjoy quizzes and games. We also learnt a few facts about Hallowe'en on the way and discovered that it's not only a chance to get 'Trick-or-Treat' sweets but an ancient festival with a fascinating history and traditions.

PS. We would also like to say special 'thank you' to Charlotte Lewis (Foxham) for her time, leadership and great ideas!

katerina Rowell

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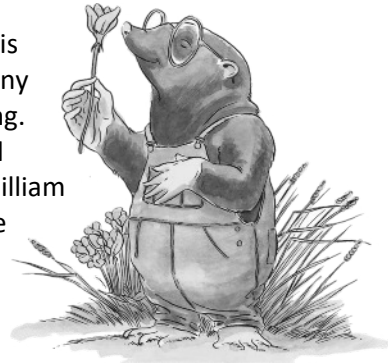
NATURE MATTERS

When mornings reveal a hard frost it appears as if not much wildlife is moving about, but there is always something going on, even if you don't always see the animal itself. My dog, Tully, has discovered the joys of digging for 'moldwarps', otherwise known as 'tapes' or 'wants' in Wiltshire, but probably better known to you as plain old mole.

The mole is one of our most common and familiar animals, and yet probably never seen live by most people. The name mole seems to be an abbreviation of the Middle English name moldwarp, which itself derives from old English for 'earth-thrower'. This is apt as moles usually make their presence known by making their little mounds of earth, which they create by pushing soil to the surface that has been excavated from their underground tunnels. It is these portals to the subterranean mole world that Tully finds so exciting and sends him into a frenzy of digging trying to find the elusive mole – not that I fear too much for their safety as their tunnels can be over 1m under ground and up to 200m long, and that's a lot of digging - even for a dog.

Moles do not hibernate, but spend their days alternating between phases of activity (digging, hunting for worms, repairing tunnels and grooming) and of rest (sleeping in moss/grass lined chambers – very cosy on a cold winter day).

The most famous mole, Mole in *Wind in the Willows*, is cast as a thoroughly decent little chap doing no-one any harm and keeping himself busy with his spring cleaning. This appears to reflect true life and apart from a small blip when a mole was blamed for the death of King William of Orange (his horse tripped over a mole hill, he broke his collar bone and died 3 weeks later of complications) they do seem to be very passive creatures. They are even kind to their prey. Moles create larger 'fortress' mounds which may contain stores of worms to eat in times of hardship. Moles will bite the heads off worms, twist them up and push them into holes in the soil, but if the worms are not needed they re-grow their heads and make their escape!



*Stephen Dangerfield, Ecologist
sfdangerfield@btinternet.com*

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Broadband in Bremhill Parish

If you have not done so, please sign the survey on <http://tinyurl.com/h4ulyax>. Signing the survey registers your interest with no commitment at this time. Many properties in Bremhill Parish are included in the last 5% of the UK which do not have superfast broadband. Thank you to those people who took time to see their neighbours and put flyers through letterboxes in an active effort over the last 2 months to get people to sign the survey in Foxham, Charlcutt and Ratford. More people are still needed to sign the survey to make it worthwhile to submit a request to BT for fibre connections to be bought to the area.

There is some potentially good news for Bremhill Village. You may have heard at the end of 2016 about further investment in superfast broadband in Bremhill Parish, but the only location being considered is Bremhill Village. *[See separate article on Bremhill Village. –Ed.]*

If nothing is done, between 2020 and 2025 as much as 60% of the UK will have access to +100Mb/s speeds from BT. There is a trial in Swindon due to start very soon offering that technology which relies on your property being less than 500m from a green cabinet. The digital divide between the UK and this Parish is very quickly getting wider which will have an effect on property prices and their rental incomes.

So if you read this and previous articles, have had a flyer and have been meaning to sign the survey but have not done so, please take 2 minutes to do so.

Scott Walsh

scottwalsh72@googlemail.com

01249 740462



REV ANN WRITES ...

Dear All

Christmas seems but a memory now as we move swiftly towards Spring and new birth! Lent begins on 1st March this year - also St David's Day - so we have a little time to adjust to post-Christmas joy before beginning preparation for Easter. The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, so called because of the custom of wearing sackcloth and ashes for penance or mourning whilst also praying for forgiveness and deliverance. Sackcloth incidentally is a coarse, black cloth made from goat's hair that was worn together with burnt wood ash. It was very uncomfortable!! The earliest reference to sackcloth and ashes in the Bible is in the first book of Genesis (C37:34) when Jacob believes his son Joseph is dead and wears sackcloth and ashes to mourn him. We need to pray for the next forty days to be a period of change in our lives that brings us closer to God and the people He intends us to be.

I suggest that one of the most common deviations that contributes to our disobedience is the reduction in time we spend with God. There seems to be no time to fit him into the busy schedule for many; and when time is found it passes fleetingly with the eye on the clock to be elsewhere! So much competition for our time often leads to God being pushed into the background. But our time with God is fundamental to our well-being for coping with everything else! As we approach Lent perhaps you could look at your own lifestyle? Is God being treated as a distant friend, just receiving a Christmas message once a year? Incidentally, do you find that a card once per year is enough to continue to know your friend and appreciate who they are?

At Christ Church at 7.30 pm on 1st March we will have a service called the Imposition of Ashes where each person who wishes to, receives a cross in ash on their forehead to symbolise repentance for things done that are not in the will of God and to pray for a closer relationship with God. The invitation to come to this service is to all. The 40 days that follow are dedicated to knowing God better and discerning His will for our future journeys - just as Jesus did when He went into the Wilderness.... and walk with Him into the desert. It is often said by those who take part - a good Lent leads to a good Easter!

With best wishes, Ann

Ann

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH. FOXHAM

Sunday 5 Feb 4 th Sunday before Lent	9.30 am Holy Communion	E. Hannah 1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Sunday 12 Feb 3 rd Sunday before Lent	9.30 am Family Service	M. Kellond 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Sunday 19 Feb 2 nd Sunday before Lent	9.30 am Holy Communion	R. Pegler Romans 8:18-25
Sunday 26 Feb Sunday before Lent	6 pm Evensong	D. Scott Exodus 24:12-end
Wednesday 1 Mar Ash Wednesday	9.30 am Holy Communion	D. Wilton 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, TYTHERTON LUCAS

Sunday 5 Feb	Morning Service	10 am	Derek Copeland
Sunday 12 Feb	Eucharist	8.30 am	Jim Scott
Sunday 19 Feb	Mattins	10 am	Eryl Spencer
Sunday 26 Feb	Eucharist	8.30 am	Bryan Pettifer
Sunday 5 Mar	Morning Service	10 am	Peter Tremelling

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

CHURCH NEWS

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, BREMHILL

	Service	Sidesmen	Readers
Sunday 5 Feb 4th Sunday before Lent White	8 am Holy Communion 4 pm Evensong	William & Prisca Wyldbore-Smith Ann Jones Sue Tumber	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 William Wyldbore-Smith Isaiah 58: 1-9a Elizabeth Parlett Matthew 5:12-23 Arnold Woods
Sunday 12 Feb 3rd Sunday before Lent	11 am Holy Communion	David Stevens Judy Scott	1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Tom King
Sunday 19 Feb 2nd Sun before Lent	4 pm Evensong	William Bailey Mark	Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 June Hughes Matthew 6:25-end Tamsin Castle
Sunday 26 Feb Sunday next before Lent	9.30 Family Service	Arnold Woods	Matthew 17: 1-9 Nicol Jordan
Wednesday 1 Mar Purple	Ash Wednesday 7.30 pm Derry Hill		
Sunday 5 Mar Lent 1 Purple	8 am Holy Communion 4 pm Evensong	David Stevens Tamsi Castle Nicol Jordan June Hughes	Romans 5: 12-19 David Stevens Genesis 2: 15-17, 3:1-7 George Powell Matthew 4:1-11 Mark Kyte

ST MARTIN'S NOTICES

Auction of Promises. There will be an Auction of Promises in aid of the Friends of St Martin to be held in Bremhill Village Hall on Friday, 23rd February at 7.30 pm.

The Sunday Roast Meal was a great success but very hard work for the many people who helped. Thank you so much to you all. You know who you are! We raised about £600 net for the St Martin's Fabric Fund. This will go towards the numerous projects we have planned. See the previous Newsletter.

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, 20th February at 9.30 - 10.00 am. It is on the third Monday of each month.

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 February, 2017 deadline.

Thank you.

CATHOLIC SERVICES

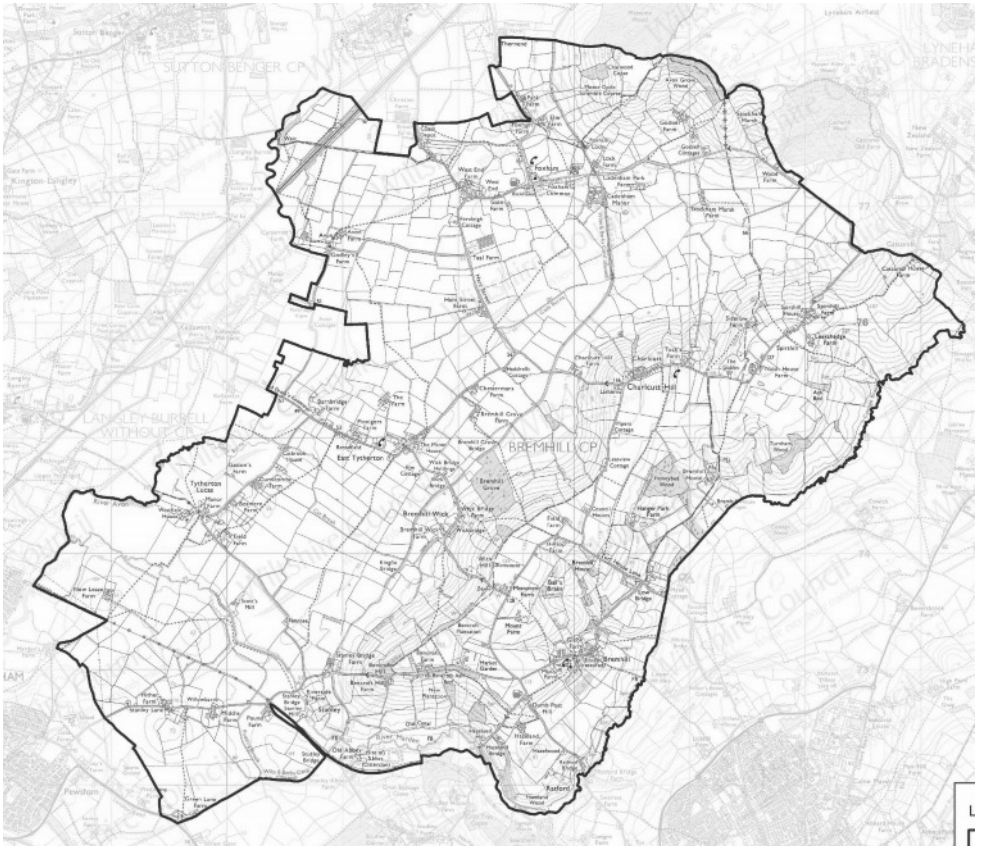
St Mary's, Chippenham
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Sundays 9.30 am and 6.30 pm
Station Hill, Chippenham
Canon Desmond Millett

www.stmaryschippenham.co.uk

St Edmund's, Calne
Saturdays 6 pm
Sundays 10 am
Oxford Road,
Father Vincent Curtis
01249 813131
www.saintedmundsparish.org.uk

	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

For any information (Weddings, Funerals, Christenings and Special services)
Contact: Rev. Ann Massey 817926 (ea.massey@btinternet.com)



POEM:

Leonard Cohen, who died in November last year, was called "the high priest of pathos" and the "godfather of gloom", but the influence and appeal of this poet, novelist, and songwriter has endured throughout his career. Often prone to depression, his witty, charming and self-deprecating manner was reflected in his lyrics. This song is also a reminder that in the imperfect grand scheme of things, all you can do is move forward and do the best you can with what you have.

"Anthem"

The birds, they sang
At the break of day
Start again I heard them say
Don't dwell on what
Has passed away
Or what is yet to be
Ah, the wars
They will be fought again
The holy dove
She will be caught again
Bought and sold And bought again
The dove is never free

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

We asked for signs
The signs were sent:
The birth betrayed
The marriage spent
Yeah the widowhood
Of every government
Signs for all to see

I can't run no more
With that lawless crowd
While the killers in high places
Say their prayers out loud
But they've summoned,
they've summoned up
A thundercloud
And they're going to hear from me

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

You can add up the parts
But you won't have the sum
You can strike up the march
There is no drum
Every heart, every heart
To love will come
But like a refugee

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

Ewen



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Colin Pearson

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