

BREMHILL, FOXHAM, THE TYTHERTONS AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

February 2018

The Newsletter



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 7th Feb Moravian Church Community Lunch
- 8th February **Development Plan Vote**
- 16th Feb Rural Arts at Bremhill - Spiltmilk Dance
- 17th Feb St Martin's Soup and Puds
- 2nd March Auction Of Promises - Friends Of St Martin
- 23rd Feb St Mary's Concert
- 10/11 March Parish Clean-up
- 18th March Breakfast, Tytherton
- 23rd March Knockout Skittles - Foxham
- 14th April Inter-village skittles evening

ST MARY'S CHOIR CONCERT

In aid of

Once in a Lifetime

and

St Martin's Church,
Bremhill



FRIDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 7 pm

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, BREMHILL

Bookings and Details Ring Judy 813114

EDITORIAL

I enjoy reading non-fiction as I like to garner facts about whatever takes my momentary interest. The only problem is that when I return to the book the next day, I can't remember half of them! Then, of course, I feel I have to re-read previous pages and so it takes me twice as long as it should to get through a book. Is this a result of increasing years? Whatever, but facts still remain both interesting and important, informing and entertaining us in equal measure.

Hopefully that is the service the Newsletter attempts to provide to the Parish. Whether it is through Jim's well-considered thoughts, the images of Nature Matters, the mysteries of the Sky at Night, the historical items or the illuminating musings of our Luddite Towers friend, plus the host of announcements of all the various activities taking place within the Parish, we trust we are successful in both entertaining and informing you.

Two items in this Newsletter are of particular importance. The Neighbourhood Plan is the result of much hard work and consultation over time and sets out an important scenario for the future of the Parish, so please remember to cast your vote on 8th February at your local polling station.

In addition, as the Government puts forward plans to limit, in particular, plastic waste, we are reminded in an article of the damage that can be done to the countryside and wildlife by the indiscriminate disposal of plastic goods. We can help by participating, if we have time, in the Parish Clean-up on 10/11 March.

Well, I hope you will be informed by this edition of the Newsletter and that you can take some pleasure in reading the articles. Oh ... and by the way, I'll tell you tomorrow if I can remember what I have just written!

Ewen Bird

Please send your contributions by emailing them to editor@bremhill.com
by the 13th of each month.

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SPECIAL NOTICES

FOXHAM KNOCK-OUT SKITTLES TOURNAMENT

This annual event, which is a fund raiser for the Church, will take place in the early spring on Friday, March 23rd at 7.00 p.m.

This will take place in the Reading Room and is a fun evening while also fund raising. So start arranging your teams and we hope to see you there. Contact me for details of team entrance fees etc. on 740619.

*Elizabeth Hannah
Church Warden.*

TOWN HALL MOVIOLA

Our February film is 'Victoria and Abdul' (PG).

Abdul Karim travels from India to take part in the golden jubilee and is surprised to find favour with the Queen herself. They form an alliance which the household and inner circle all attempt to destroy. Starring Judi Dench and Ali Fazal.

Showing in Calne Town Hall on Wed 21st Feb at 7.30 pm.

Doors open At 7.00. Refreshments available. Tickets from the Information Office or on the door.

FOXHAM CAROL SERVICE

The annual Carol Service held in St. John the Baptist church was, as usual, well attended. Rev. Jim Scott presided and guided us through the usual 9 lessons and carols. If the singing was an indication of enjoyment, then all present were enjoying the chance to join in and sing out the well-known carols while watching as the children made the Crib. A collection made for the Church of England Children's Society resulted in over £200 being sent to this worthy cause. After the service, the congregation was welcomed to the Reading Room for drinks and Christmas nibbles, a welcome end to a happy evening.

FIGS

Foxham Inn Golf Society - We will be starting up again after our winter break on Monday 12th February and we will be playing at Kingsdown Golf Club in Corsham. For more information call Neil on 01249-740665.

BREMHILL CAROL SINGING

I would like to say thank you to Bob and his friends for playing carols in the Village Hall and also to Hillary for the mulled wine. Also to Steve and Jo for our refreshments at the Dumb Post afterwards. We raised a total of £182 for the Air Ambulance. Grateful thanks to all those who sang and those who contributed.

Chris Searle

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Groan!!

"Really Bad Jokes" for after Sunday lunch.

Every now and then we come across a sign, announcement, advertisement or headline which, because of ambiguous wording, can inadvertently have an amusing double meaning. Here are some examples:

1. A sign seen recently on the notice board in a local village read: FOR SALE £250, Pedigree bulldog. House trained. Eats anything. Very fond of young children.
2. A local electrician working in Bremhill, gave some excellent advice on the latest labour-saving machines, saying: "Don't kill yourself with work, let electricity take over."
3. A local couple took their new dog to see the Vet for advice. They told the Vet that the dog was a real nuisance. "He chases everyone on a bicycle. What can we do" Showing a sense of humour, the vet said, "If I were you, I would take his bike away"!
4. A couple of years ago the following headline appeared in one of our popular 'red-top' newspapers - "Home Secretary to act on video nasties". The mind boggles! Similarly a Sunday paper made the announcement "Judge to rule on nude beach!"
5. A sign placed outside a garage to attract customers read: "Fast Service - No Matter How Long It Takes"!
6. In America, in a Mid-West newspaper this headline appeared: "Federal Agents Raid Gunshop - Find Weapons".
7. A sign outside IKEA invited customers to "Come in and check out our stool samples." Again, the mind boggles!
8. Finally this appeared in a local newspaper (NOT the G&H or the Advertiser!) "Dead man found in graveyard"!

Come on then! Have you come across any such notices? We would love to see some more for future editions! If you have any similar examples, please send them in to editor@bremhill.com - but make sure we can print them! - Ed.

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Several people in our Parish sing in the choir, so why not come and join us. All voices are welcome and our web-site is calnechoral.co.uk. Our next concert is on April 28th when we will be singing Haydn's 'The Seasons' with full orchestra and soloists. Come and join us, or if not, come and listen to us!



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TYTHERTON W.I.

We ended last year with an evening of Carols and Poems in The Moravian Church, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the village hall. Many thanks to Rev Patsy Holdsworth for her welcome, to our President Jane for finding such beautiful and appropriate poems to accompany the carols, to Lynda for playing the organ and to the readers.



The Committee is now busy finalising the coming year's varied programme of talks, outings and activities, including the role of Mercy Ships, a visit from Scrapstore, making Venetian masks and a talk on Bees & Honey making. This month Hazel Mitchell, an independent funeral celebrant gives us a talk entitled "Mind How You Go - your final right to choose".

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 or for further information ring our Secretary Rose on 07514 538551

SOUP AND PUDDS



In Bremhill Village Hall

Saturday 17th February
from 12.30

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CHRISTIAN MALFORD & FOXHAM WI

BBC Wiltshire radio Gold award winner James Thomas had to cook recipes organised by Gillian Hinton from our WI group. Well done to Gillian for promoting the WI all around the county.



Aunt Martha Victorian Experience Thursday 15th February, 7.30. This is a humorous talk by Philip 'The Professor' on "A Rose by any other name" about the English language, the origins of many of whose words are open to debate. Come along to the Christian Malford Village Hall and be entertained.

Discover, Cook and Eat Italian Winter Wednesday 28th February. Open to all WI members. Bookings in advance to Tina at the Village Shop or to Christine Bowyer. £5 per session; 10.30-12.30 in Christian Malford Village Hall.

Chocolate/Flowers Outlet - Saturday 6th March (booking essential). You will be making a chocolate/flower gift for Mothering Sunday at Kelston near Bath. Bookings in advance at the Village Shop or Helen Hylands

The Big Chinese Takeaway - Saturday 10th March, (booking essential). 'In the pipeline'. More info nearer the date, but just keep it in your diaries as you won't want to miss this!

MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA

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BREMHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Bremhill Parish Council met on the 4th December, 2017.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is coming to fruition after four years of consultation as mentioned in last month's Newsletter. Please make sure you have your say and vote on the 8th February 2018 at your normal polling station.

Emergency Plan

The Emergency Plan for Bremhill Parish Council is now on the Bremhill Parish Council web-site, giving information of Emergency contact numbers. Details are displayed on Public Notice Boards throughout the Parish.

Parish Clean-up

The Parish Clean-up will take place on the weekend of 10/11th March 2018. Equipment will be provided. Anyone wishing to assist please contact your Ward Councillor.

The date of the next meeting - 5th February at Bremhill Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Elsbeth Norman
Clerk to Bremhill Parish Council

NEW PARISH WEBSITE

On behalf of the Parish Council, I am very pleased to let you know that our new Parish website - bremhillparish.org is now up and running. The new website was created for the whole Parish by Craig and Sarah Gingell of Foxham, with input from John Harris and the Parish Council.

Parish Council Minutes and the Neighbourhood Plan documents are all accessible and up to date. I am sure that you will like the new layout and content. If you want additions or find errors, please let me know. Likewise if you want anything posted please forward it to me, preferably as a PDF document.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jerome Semichon for creating the previous website and for the past four years, making sure that content forwarded to him was up to date.

Richard Tucker,
Chairman, Bremhill Parish Council

East Tytherton Moravian Church
Invites you to a Community Lunch

*To be held every first Wednesday of the month.
The next lunch will be served on:*

Wednesday 7th Feb at 12.30 pm at East Tytherton Moravian Church Hall

*Menu: Home made soup with crusty bread,
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For further information and reservation,
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TOPICS AND DATES

February 6 2018 - Emotional Maturity at Work

March 14 2018 - Dealing with Depression

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LPSEVENTS 

In Memory of

206585 DRIVER EDWIN GEORGE MINTY

20th Ammunition column Royal Horse Artillery

Born 26th August, 1890, died 5th February, 1918, aged 27 years



Edwin Minty was born on 26th August, 1890, and baptised 14th September, 1890 at St. Cyriac's Church, Lacock, the third of 4 sons and 4 daughters born to John Francis Minty and Mary Jane (Nee Fry), my grandparents. The family moved to Hare Street Farm, East Tytherton from Mill Farm at Lacock. Uncle Edwin married Myra Grace Fry (David Fry's Great aunt) on the 31st January 1917 at St Martin's Church in Bremhill. After marriage they lived at the Old Bakery in Bremhill.

Edwin's brother Herbert Minty (who later farmed at Bencroft Farm, Stanley) was a prisoner of war and perhaps this influenced Edwin to join the 1st Berks Royal Horse Artillery. After training, Edwin was posted out to Egypt to fight the Turks, leaving auntie Myra pregnant with their first child in Bremhill. Uncle Edwin died on the 5th February, 1918 and is buried at the Deir El Belah war cemetery in Palestine, south-west of Gaza, grave number 385 with an inscription requested by the family as follows:-



Saviour in thy blessed keeping
Leave we now our loved ones sleeping

The shock of my uncle's death caused auntie Myra to lose her baby. She never remarried and lived in Bremhill for the rest of her life, dying in 1973 aged 83 years and was buried 7th November 1973 in St Martin's churchyard. A widow for 55 years.

*Chris Minty
November 2017*

Postscript:- The First Battle of Gaza was fought on 26th March 1917, the first attempt to invade the south of Palestine controlled by the Ottoman Empire during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign.

It is likely that Edwin was involved in the preparation for this campaign, scheduled a few weeks after his death. Each division would have had an Ammunition column to move ammunition from storage up to the proposed front. It was a mammoth task involving motor and horse drawn transport, heavy and light rail and tramways.

Ammunition dumps and transport near the Front Line were high priority targets of the enemy's guns. Horse drawn transport laden with ammunition was a doubly risky business. Horses were vulnerable to all forms of small arms and artillery and the cargo was such that a hit was generally catastrophic.

RURAL ARTS AT BREMHILL

Friday 16th February 2018

SPILTMILK DANCE

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"Dance but not dance.....like hiding vegetables in kids' food".

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NATURE MATTERS

Something I notice when it snows is how the clean, white blanket of snow hides a multitude of sins, particularly discarded rubbish. It is only after the snow has disappeared that you again notice how much rubbish is along our road verges and in our hedgerows. During a stroll I saw discarded plastic and glass bottles, aluminium drink cans, sweet wrappers, crisp packets, cigarette packets, plastic containers, and plastic carrier bags. Rubbish obviously has a big impact on how our villages look and feel, as well as attracting rats which spread disease. However, rubbish can also adversely affect our wildlife. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust states that every year animal welfare and wildlife rescue charities treat animals that have been trapped and/or injured by carelessly discarded rubbish.

Some rubbish can last for a very long time. For example, aluminium cans do not degrade and some plastics take hundreds of years to break down. Discarded rubbish affects wildlife in different ways. Small mammals, such as mice and voles, are attracted to sugary drinks bottles which they can climb into but cannot get out of. Similarly hedgehogs get attracted to leftover food in tin cans and plastic pots into which they can get their heads stuck as they are unable to reverse out due to their spines. Trapped animals will die of thirst or starvation. Lizards can crawl inside bottles or cans to bask in their warm interiors and will die of overheating if they cannot get out, while amphibians will crawl into bottles left in ponds and being unable to escape will eventually drown or suffocate. Wire, plastic ties and plastic bags can trap animals, particularly birds, and cause strangulation. Small items of plastic can be ingested by animals causing suffocation or starvation as their stomachs fill up with indigestible plastic objects leaving no room for food.

There are some things one can do to help the situation. Try to reduce the amount of packaging you use - one of the easiest steps is to forsake supermarket plastic bags for cloth re-usable bags and buy loose produce. However, the most important action to safeguard our villages and local wildlife is to put all rubbish in a bin - preferably one at home which is animal-proof. To further improve the wider situation, sort and recycle as much of your rubbish as possible and using recycling points for items such as plastic bags. This hopefully avoids many items ending up in landfill or rubbish tips to be picked over by birds and animals.

*Stephen Dangerfield, Ecologist
sfdangerfield@btinternet.com*

THE SKY AT NIGHT - FEBRUARY 2018

We ended 2017 with an astronomical flurry of activity in the night sky, including the much talked about 'Super' moon.

We started off 2018 with equal celestial delight with not one, but two "Super moons" in the month of January! The first Super moon occurred on the 2nd January. The Super moon phenomenon happens when the Moon reaches its closest point to Earth, known as a perigee, and the moon will look larger and brighter than usual. The second full moon in January 2018 occurred on the 31st, and was not only a Super Moon but also a "Blue moon". A Blue Moon occurs when there are 2 Full Moons in one month. A Full Moon occurs roughly every 29.5 days and on the rare occasions when the Full Moon falls at the very beginning of a month there is a chance a Blue Moon will occur at the end of the month. A Blue Moon happens on average about once every 2.7 years, hence the saying 'once in a blue moon'. But this year is unique in that January and March both contain two full moons, or Blue moons, while February has no full moon.

On the 15th February 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 in the night sky. This means that in February it will be a great time to gaze at the stars as there will be little light pollution from either the moon or from man-made light pollution. February is a great time to seek out the "Hunter". There are few constellations that grab the imagination quite like that icon of the winter heavens, Orion. The bright stars, the instantly recognisable belt and the many glowing nebulae scattered within the Hunters belt all make Orion a wonder to gaze at on a frosty night. Just look to the sky and look for the diagonal 3 stars in a line (his belt, known as Alnilam, Alnitak and Mintaka). Orion's belt is also known as the Three Sisters. Orion's two brightest stars, ruddy Betelgeuse to the north and Rigel to the south are equally noticeable. Betelgeuse glows a red colour, whilst Rigel glows a blue-white colour.

So happy star gazing, and I look forward to telling you all about the sights and delights of the night sky during 2018.

Angela Protheroe

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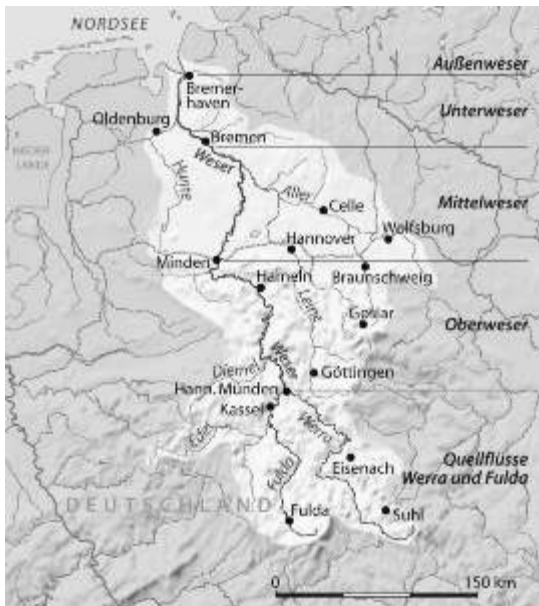
A NATIONAL SERVICE (MIS)ADVENTURE

In early 1957, I was a member of a small R.E.M.E. workshop in the beautiful, peaceful town of Hameln (of Pied Piper fame) on the River Weser in Northern Germany. Our workshop officer decreed that the next Saturday morning, instead of normal duties in the workshop, we would indulge, all of us, in a mass blanket shaking at our barracks - and this indeed took place as ordered.



And lo, there did descend upon the centre of the town a thick fog! So thick, pedestrians bumped into each other and tripped on kerb edges. Cyclists collided with the trees lining the cycleways. Road traffic was reduced to a crawl requiring headlamps on full and horns pressed to avoid chaos.

The Town Elders investigated the situation and concluded that the cause emanated from the former German Army barracks, Scharnhorst Kaserne, where R.E.M.E. were billeted and demanded from the Commanding Officer an explanation. He explained that indeed the R.E.M.E. personnel did seem to be responsible, said that he had grossly underestimated the results of the shaking and duly apologised unreservedly.



The Town Elders demanded of the Commandant that, should further shaking be planned, they should be advised in advance, so that extra street lighting could be arranged and policemen with bright wands to control road junctions!

A Likely story, I hear you say

A very senior citizen



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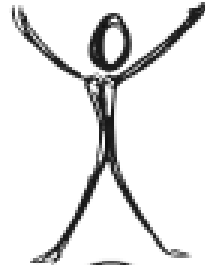
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GARDEN NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Prepare vegetable seed beds and begin to set potatoes to chit in a frost free place. Some salad crops can be sown this month but undercover and with straw around them. Cover your rhubarb to give tender pink fruit and, again, put straw around them.

Prune winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering. Prune Wisteria now. If pruned twice a year they will produce more flowers than if allowed to ramble, so prune again in July or August. Cut back the growth to 2 or 3 buds to tidy it up before the growing season.

Divide herbaceous perennials and replant some. Divide Snowdrops when they have finished flowering but when the greenery is still visible. Replant in small clumps to increase your show next year.

Lily bulbs can be planted in pots. Dahlia tubers can be started into growth in a light, warm place. Sweet peas can be sown under cloches. Cut back deciduous ornamental grasses and dead-head winter Pansies to encourage more flowers. Plant new Rose bushes and put rotted organic matter in the hole to encourage good root growth.

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BREMHILL PARISH HISTORY PROJECT

The inaugural meeting of this new project took place on 15th January with 55 of us packed into the Bremhill village hall. Martin Nye introduced the rest of the committee: Helen Stuckey, Sarah Jones, John Harris and Bob Harding. He explained the aims of the project which are to research and produce an engaging publication on the history of Bremhill Parish (including all the villages) and in parallel provide a chapter for the Victoria County History (VCH) of Wiltshire. John Chandler, a trustee of the Wiltshire VCH, told us more about the Victoria County History which was started under Queen Victoria - hopefully our project won't take quite so long! Then Julie Davis explained the kinds of resources and help available at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre (W&SHC) in Chippenham.

There is clearly huge enthusiasm to support this project. At the end of the meeting a form was handed out to everyone to help us understand how people want to be involved and to formulate plans for taking the project forward. Thank you to everyone who came to our inaugural meeting. Interest was expressed in many aspects of our parish history including: Archaeology, Landscape, Settlement going back to the Romans, Buildings, Photos, Maps, World wars, Family history, Farming, Local trades, Social history, Local government and crime, Stanley Abbey, Churches and religious non-conformity (inc. Moravians and Quakers), Schools and education, Maud Heath's causeway, the railway and canal, the influence of Bowood estate, etc. One of the challenges will be how to sift through all the material and decide what will go into the publication - a nice problem to have!

The next steps include:

- A group visit to The History Centre in Chippenham - late February
- A group visit to The Wiltshire Museum in Devizes - March
- Kicking off local groups to look at our buildings and who lived in them - March
- Another full group meeting to include feedback on our initial findings - May



If anyone else would like to be involved in the Bremhill Parish History project - whether it's just following our progress, contributing material or helping with research please contact helen_stuckey@btinternet.com . You will then receive our email updates including the dates of the group visits to the History Centre and the Wiltshire Museum. We will also post details on our website www.bremhillparishhistory.com

Helen Stuckey

CHOCOLATE GATEAU

From Brussels!

Ingredients

- 6oz bar Bourneville Plain Chocolate
- 3oz butter or Margarine (unsalted butter preferably)
- 3oz caster Sugar
- 2 eggs
- Milk
- 45 or so 'Nice' biscuits
- they are the right size and become 'cakey'.

Method

Melt the chocolate very gently with a tablespoon of milk. Cream the butter and sugar together and beat in the egg yolks, then mix in the chocolate. Whisk egg whites stiffly and fold into the rest of the mixture. To prepare the biscuits, pour a small amount of milk into a shallow dish, such as a soup plate, and dip each biscuit just long enough to take off the crispness (in, out and shake).

Arrange a layer of biscuits on greaseproof paper in 3 rows of 3. Cover the biscuits with some of the filling and continue in layers until the biscuits and filling are used up. Finish with a coating of chocolate and decorate with glacé cherries, blanched almonds or any decoration of your choice.
Set aside for at least 6 hours before cutting.

This can be used as a cold sweet, topped with whipped cream or as a tea time snack. You can make it oblong, like a Yule time log.

Liz Sinden

A GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

for elderly Luddite Towers residents

BANDWIDTH. The amount of stage a band occupies when standing 3 deep with the drums at the rear. Different rules apply at Glastonbury.

EGGCRYPTION. The technique of scrambling eggs in a crypton pan so that they arrive on the toast nice and fluffy. The yellow should be finely blended with the white, and all evenly cooked and garnished with a sprig of fresh parsley. The Banks use this technique in the staff-room kitchen.

P.C. Political correctness. Personal values apply if you are a labour, liberal or conservative supporter. For instance a labour supporter can stroke a beard (so long as it's yours) whilst conservative supporters can wear pretty kitten heels. Liberal supporters usually continue to sit on the fence.

FREEVIEW. Watching the TV in the UK without a license

BLUE SCREEN OF DEATH. This is what happens when you do not have a current TV Licence. Locked up, as death penalty now suspended.

SKY. If you look up at midday you should be able to see it, unless it's a foggy day. If you take out a subscription you will be able to see more sky from dawn to dusk, but only in England.

TERABYTE. Tear 'n share bread before eating as first described by Jamie Oliver. Can be purchased at the Foxham Inn.

RAM. A problem many of us luddites suffer from as we get older. Random access to our memories - ... now where exactly was that hotspot?

RESOLUTION What we all make on January 1st and break in February. The more resolutions the clearer it becomes - maybe.

NOTEBOOK. A generic term used to apply to a thick heavy book used to press new £5 and £10 plastic notes overnight, in an attempt to flatten them, ready to go in your wallet. Sometimes family bibles are used very successfully for this purpose. A word of warning, from experience, do not apply excessive heat.

GB. A shortened version of Great Britain. Sometimes used to describe the country's capacity for population storage. Also often seen in label form on the back of cars, often old Volvo's. Probably more so after March 2019.

USB Dongle. Just how rude can you get.

HTML. Hypertension - take medical lozenges. Prescription medication for high blood pressure.

HOTSPOT. An area of Chippenham that I was not allowed to visit again, but I still remember my first visit as a 14-year old with great passion.

WINDOWS EXPLORER. Similar to a stamp collector or a train spotter. A person that keeps a record of how many sashes, jambs, muntins or mullions that have been explored. Tytherton Lucas is a very popular area for these explorers. Often seen standing by Gates looking at the nearest window.

(to be [possibly] continued)



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STANLEY BRIDGE HALT

In the Newsletter Christmas quiz 2017, one of the correct answers was Stanley Bridge Halt on the old Calne to Chippenham railway line, between Black Dog Halt and Chippenham. This was located near to the Pound Farm junction along Stanley Lane and opened in 1905.

Nothing remains of the halt now, apart from many apple trees possibly grown from apple pips when passengers threw away apple cores whilst waiting for the next train.



When the halt was built, GWR was then, as now, keen to keep costs down and standardised many aspects of the railway. Along with many other railway companies, they made significant use of corrugated iron as a building material. An example at GWR of this was the elegant and efficient 'pagoda-style' shelter utilised at Stanley halt as in this picture taken in 1905. Pagoda shelters were relatively simple prefabricated structures, to a standard design. They were later simplified further to a simple box shelter.

Typically the Pagoda structure would be used to provide a platform based passenger shelter and a small storage hut; in addition the basic station would be furnished with a couple of oil lamps, a name board and timetable board as can be seen at Stanley. Also notice the telegraph wire which runs parallel to the single line track.



Bremhill History Group

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SMALL THOUGHTS OF A LARGE CLERGYMAN

We are so lucky to have our "Newsletter". It provides such a valuable service in our villages, keeping us up to date on local activities and - very important - providing a platform for the views and experiences of the many interesting people in our communities. And I think it's safe to say that the news in our "Newsletter" is usually "good news" (alright, broadband is the exception!). In fact, in the past, there was only "good news" or "bad news". But now it seems we have to cope with "fake news"!

Instantaneous messaging tools like Twitter or Facebook, have been used by unscrupulous people to put out "news" or information that are partial truths or outright lies. "Fake news" is powerful because it can take a life of its own as it spreads rapidly and widely. Fake information in politics, culture, health etc can damage reputations, even rob people of their faith in the human race. Fake news, fake information is, by its very nature, a tissue of lies. Lying is a world-wide, multi-billion pound industrial complex - it's evil. Lies such as "greed is good", "God is dead" - and in some cultures - "Guns make us safer". So....whether in the form of "fake news" or just general untruths, lies are corrosive and contagious and, sadly, they are everywhere in today's society.

How do we combat this all-pervasive evil? Well, it has to start in our own thoughts. Knowing the difference between the truth and a lie is urgent business for us and none the less urgent because, if we are Christians, the work is spiritual. If we want to know the truth and disempower the lies that impose upon us, we can ask a simple question - where is the love? Lies have no love in them. Greed, pride, anger perhaps, but not love. The truth, God's truth, the truth that makes us free and therefore the only truth, is always loving, always shining with love. That's true for us, right here and right now. Anything that doesn't shine with God's love is a lie of one kind or another! It's true, of course, that we human beings don't walk the earth shining with God's love all the time. But God knows us. God knows the truth. God is love.

So, let's dismantle the lies. We can start now with our own fear, our own guilt. Just claim the love. It's right here. It's not magic. It's simply the truth, God's truth, the truth that heals. And that is never "fake".

Jim Scott

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, TYTHERTON LUCAS

Sunday 4 Feb	Morning Service	10 am	Derek Copeland
Sunday 11 Feb	Eucharist	8.30 am	Peter Tremelling
Sunday 18 Feb	Mattins	10 am	Bryan Pettifer
Sunday 26 Feb	Eucharist	8.30 am	Rod Key
Sunday 4 Mar	Morning Service	10 am	Margaret Gubbins

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH. FOXHAM

Sunday 4 Feb	9.30 am	E. Hannah
Candlemas	Holy Communion	Hebrews 2:14-end
Sunday 11 Feb	9.30 am	R. Pegler
Sunday bef. Lent	Family Service	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Sunday 18 Feb	9.30 am	D. Scott
Lent 1	Holy Communion	1 Peter 3:18-end
Sunday 25 Feb	6 pm	D. Wilton
Lent 2	Evensong	Genesis 17:1-7
Sunday 4 Mar	9.30 am	E. Hannah
Lent 3	Holy Communion	1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For any information (Weddings, Funerals, Christenings and Special services), please contact:

Church House: 30, Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU. Open 10.30-12.30
Tuesday to Saturday. 816522 - office@parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk
Team Rector: Rev Bob Kenway:812340
frbob@parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, BREMHILL

	Service	Sidesmen	Readers
4 Feb 2 before Lent Green	8.00 Holy Communion (LSC) 6.00 Evensong (JS)	Prisca W-S Tamsin Castle Arnold Woods Gwen Woods	Colossians 1: 15-20 Mark Kyte Proverbs 8: 1,22-31 Michael Kitching John 1: 1-14 Michael Parlett
11 Feb Next before Lent Green	11.00 Holy Communion (LSC)	Nicol Jordan Jane Jordan	2 Corinthians 4:3-12 David Stevens
14 Feb Ash Wednesday Purple	10.00 Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 7.30 Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes		St Mary's Church, Calne Christchurch, Derry Hill
18 Feb Lent 1 Purple	6.00 Evensong (JS)	William Bailey Mark Kyte	Genesis 9: 8-17 Judy Scott Mark 1: 9-15 Tamsin Castle
25 Feb Lent 2 Purple	9.30 Family Service (LSC)	Jennifer Lamacraft June Hughes	Mark 8: 31-end J Holland Hibbert
4 Mar Lent 3 Purple	8.00 Holy Communion 6.00 Evensong	David Stevens William W-S Mervyn Wells Beryl Wells	1 Cor 1:13-31 Prisca W-S Exodus 20: 1-7 William Bailey John 2: 13-22 Nicol Jordan

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The times of Derry Hill and Calne Services are on www.mardenvale.org.uk

ST MARTIN'S NOTICES

Salisbury Glass finished the opening of the windows in January. We are in a position to re-erect the Hatchment and repair the interior of the north wall. This will be a big step forward.

The next task will be to have a proper church sign with a new notice board. Then we can think of more ambitious plans that will include the creation of a toilet and water for the interior of the church with all the opportunities that will provide.

Cleaning Rota. The Church Cleaning and Flower Rotas are in the church. 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.

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EXODUS: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

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All of these will be at Holy Trinity CE Academy, Quemerford in Calne at a cost of £3 per session. Leaflet and booking form available in church and from Church House, 30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU.

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CHARLES STANLEY CAUSLEY, CBE, FRSL

(24 August 1917 - 4 November 2003) was a Cornish poet, schoolmaster and writer. His work is noted for its simplicity and directness and for its associations with folklore, especially when linked to his native Cornwall.

He was, in his day, probably the finest writer of ballads in English and wrote many poems for children.

I SAW A JOLLY HUNTER

I saw a jolly hunter
With a jolly gun
Walking in the country
In the jolly sun.

In the jolly meadow
Sat a jolly hare.
Saw the jolly hunter.
Took jolly care.

Hunter jolly eager-
Sight of jolly prey.
Forgot gun pointing
Wrong jolly way.

Jolly hunter jolly head
Over heels gone.
Jolly old safety catch
Not jolly on.

Bang went the jolly gun.
Hunter jolly dead.
Jolly hare got clean away.
Jolly good, I said.



FRIENDSHIP



This photo was taken on New Year's Eve 2017, when Nancy visited Muriel for a chat and a cup of tea. Nancy and Muriel have known each other since 1934, when Muriel's parents moved to number 16 Bremhill, next door to Nancy's family at number 15. They have been friends ever since.

They both had to leave school when they were 14; in those days a trip to Calne or Chippenham meant going by bike. During the years following the Second World War they both enjoyed the dances put on locally, where they met servicemen from far and wide, many of them at Yatesbury for basic training. They both settled down and married local boys and they were both married at Bremhill Church. Both couples set up their first homes in small flats (probably more like bedsits) in the Old Vicarage in Bremhill and in 1954 Muriel moved to Calne. Nancy stayed in Bremhill, moving in to one of the new houses in Lodowicks in the 1960's. Muriel and Nancy's sons are also good friends, both being 'Best Man' at the other's wedding.

Ask the two of them about the village and it's likely that you will be told a story that goes back 60 years! The day that Muriel was sent out to the bakehouse down the village for a loaf of bread and one of the village boys shot the bread with a pellet gun, or how they used to go 'through the hedge' to visit one another. Memories of village fetes in the vicarage garden and the days when they both went to school in what is now the village hall.



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