

News and Views



February 2015

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Calendar of Services in the Lavingtons, Cheverells & Easterton
February 2015

Date	Market Lavington	West Lavington	Easterton	Great Cheverell	Little Cheverell
1st February 4th of Epiphany	9.30 am Half Hour Service*	9.30 am Parish Communion	11.00 am Parish Communion	11.00 am Simple Celebration Communion	11.00 am Matins (BCP)
8th February 2nd before Lent	11.00 am United Service	9.30 am Parish Communion	11.00 am United Service at St Mary's ML	4.00 pm Evensong (BCP)	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
15th February Next before Lent	9.30 am Parish Communion	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30 am Matins (BCP)	11.00 am Matins (BCP)	10.00 am Welcome to Worship	11.00 am Parish Communion (BCP)
Wednesday 18th February Ash Wednesday		7.00 pm Ash Wednesday Service			
22nd February Lent 1	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00 am JAM Club (Old School)	9.30 am Thinking Day Service (Guides and Brownies)		11.00 am Parish Communion (BCP)	

Regular worship in our sister churches:

9.00am St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Littleton Panell
10.30am Trinity Church in the Community Hall Market Lavington
11.00am & 6.00pm Ebenezer Baptist Church West Lavington.

VILLAGE CARE
West Lavington, Littleton Panell & Little Cheverell
TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 816826

Dear Friends,

Mary and I were recently given a book of daily reflections written by Simon Guillebaud who has worked in Burundi for many years.

He tells the story of a rich man who enjoyed collecting rare works of art. His son was tragically killed in Vietnam saving another soldier's life. Months later the man whose life was saved visited the grieving father and presented him with a painting he'd done: "Your son was my friend; I loved him. He spoke so highly of you as a father. It's not great art, but I painted him one day in the jungle. It's for you." The father greatly treasured the painting of his son.

A few years later the rich man died and all his works of art were sold. The auction began with the picture of the son. The experts complained that it wasn't real art. The auctioneer asked for bids, but nobody responded. Eventually, a frail old man who had been the deceased man's gardener, offered \$10; it was all he could afford. There were no other bids; it was his.

With that, the auctioneer laid down his gavel and declared that the auction over; there was confusion and outrage. He explained that the deceased man's will stipulated that whoever bought the painting of the son would inherit the entire estate, including all the other paintings. "The man who took the son gets everything!"

Like the auctioneer, God asks today, "Who will take the son?" Whoever takes the son gets everything. As Jesus himself said, "*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not, perish but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16).

James Campbell

Rector: Revd Canon James Campbell

Tel. (01380) 816963
The Rectory, 14 Church Street,
Market Lavington,
Devizes, SN10 4DT.
lavingtonrector@gmail.com
Office email churchlavington@gmail.com

LITTLE CHEVERELL'S SPRING WALK

Get fit for the Spring and beat the Winter blues – join us on Sunday 22nd March 2015 starting at 11.00 a.m. from the Village Hall in Little Cheverell. Return there after a good walk for hot food and drinks at approximately 1.00 p.m. Please bring your own wine and beer and we will provide the rest. Everyone is welcome (not just those from Little Cheverell) including children, and well behaved dogs, on leads when necessary. All this for just £9.00 per adult and £4.50 for children 12 and under. Dogs are free. If the walk is too much, then please join us for lunch only. To book your place, please telephone Helena Warnock on 813487 or e-mail helenawarnock@btinternet.com. We can only fit so many into the Hall so please book early. Proceeds in aid of the Village Hall.

Village Hall Committee.

LENT 2015

Do you pray? **Come and explore the subject further...**

'The Prayer Course' devised by Pete Greig with 15 minute talk plus time for discussion, based on his best-selling book, *'God on Mute - Engaging the Silence of Unanswered Prayer'*

WHEN

Six Wednesday Evenings:
25 February, 4 March, 11 March, 18 March, 25 March, 1 April
8.00 – 9.30pm

WHERE

At the Rectory, 14 Church Street, Market Lavington with coffee and cake.

WHO

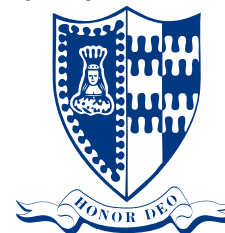
All welcome; no prior expertise required.

For more details, contact Mary & James Campbell (816963) or Caroline & Mark Spindlow (813445)

DAUNTSEY'S SCHOOL HOSTS AN EVENING WITH SHABANA BASIJ-RASIKH

Shabana Basij-Rasikh is co-founder and President of the first all-girl boarding school in Kabul, Afghanistan. In 2008 SOLA started with four students. Today, 34 students aged 11 to 19 representing all major ethnic groups, religious sects and tribes, and 14 out of 34 Afghan provinces attend SOLA's preparatory program in Kabul. In recognition of her work, Shabana was named by CNN's Leading Women among the most inspiring women of 2014.

Shabana will be speaking at 7.30pm in the William Dauntsey Room, Dauntsey's School on Monday 23rd February. If you would like to attend, please phone Dauntsey's reception (814500) to confirm a place. For further details, please contact Demelza Hills: d.hills@dauntseys.org



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My thanks to Marlis Rawlins for the cover picture. Pictures of this nature about life within our villages are always welcome – and may be included if suitable.

Jim Hodges

BENEFICE CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Thank you to everyone who bought a quiz this year. There were 80 questions; Carol and David Part are the winners with a score of 64 1/2 marks, closely followed by Moirai Armstrong with 62. By the time you read this they will have received their prizes! And we hope enjoyed them! I feel it is time for someone else to have fun with our annual quiz and this has been my last one. It isn't a big task and I'm happy to do a handover if anyone would like to take it on. It does raise a useful amount each year.

Henri Goggs

Sunday 22nd February

Why not join us at the Old School? 9am for Breakfast, craft, activities & worship - ends 10.30



Contact us at St Mary's 816963

Usually the 4th Sunday in the month
Old School Market Lavington

Lavington & District Gardening Club

Meetings held **3rd Wednesday of each month** at West Lavington village hall at **7.15pm**.

Why not come and see how our club can help you make the most of your garden.

Gardening Tip

PASTRY BIRD FEEDERS – A REAL TWEET!

Don't throw away any pastry off-cuts when baking. Mould them into different fun shapes (the kids will love to help). Press birdseed into the surface and make a hole for hanging before baking in the oven. The result is a selection of bird feeders to hang around the garden.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday February 18th

Subject: Peonies & Irises

Guest Speaker: Sue Applegate

Monthly Competition: Pot of Marmalade

WEST LAVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

This year is the Hall's 50th Anniversary. To mark this very special occasion the Committee will be holding a number of events throughout the year.

The first date for your diary will be a repeat of the very successful **Spring Fayre** to be held on **Saturday April 11th from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** More details to follow next month.

The Village Hall Committee seeks an individual familiar with Book Keeping to take an independent look at the Village Hall accounts. In order to comply with the Charity Commission rules, the individual cannot be a member of the Village Hall Committee; hence this plea for help. A formal audit is not required, simply an independent assurance that the accounts are sound. In terms of time taken, half a day per annum would probably cover the requirement. It would be good, but certainly not essential, to have someone from outside the hard core of folk that currently engage in voluntary work for the village.

If anyone would be willing to take on this fairly gentle task, please contact me. Thank you in anticipation.

**Steve Barr, 818782 / 3 Fieldside
Village Hall Committee Chairman**

BLOOD DONING 2015

Support is always very good from our villages and allows the Team to rely on a good turnout and plenty of much needed blood to be collected.

Friday	20th February
Thursday	28th May
Friday	30th October

All sessions take place in the Community Hall, Market Lavington, and sessions run from 1.45 p.m. - 3.45 p.m., and 4.45 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Appointments can be booked and any queries to www.blood.co.uk or 0300 123 23

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Repair Cafe

St Arbucks Cafe, Church Street, Market Lavington
Bringing back the Mend-It culture! Saturday 7th February, 10am – 1pm

Just turn up, no appointment needed

Something broken? Torn? Come Apart? Stuck? Fallen Off? Not working?
Can we fix it? Yes we can! (hopefully)

All free, but donations welcome

- clothes & textiles – buttons, tears, holes, hems
- computers – from power supply to software fails
- electrical items – radio, toaster, hoovers
- bric-a-brac – glass, china, wood

Event organised by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Devizes Freegle & St Arbucks who have volunteered their space.

Contact Beth at the Cafe or Sarah on 0789 094 0822 savvysalli@gmail.com

WEST LAVINGTON WEATHER 2014

Average Temperature for 2014	11.9 C (53.4 F)
Average Temperature over 37 years	10.47 C (50.8 F)
Total Rainfall for 2014	1105.4 mm (43.5 ins)
Average Rainfall over 37 years	920.3 mm (36.21 ins)
Driest Month (September)	16.0 mm (0.62 ins)
Wettest Month (January)	217.2 mm (8.5 ins)
Wettest Day (January 4th)	30.0 mm (1.18 ins)
Lowest Overnight Temperature (Dec 29th)	-5.8 C (21.56 F)
Highest Daytime Temperature (July 17th)	29.1 C (84.3 F)
Lowest Daytime Max. Temperature (Jan 30th)	3.8 C (38.8 F)
Highest Wind Speed (February 12th)	38.0 mph South Westerly
Lowest Barometric Pressure (March 3rd)	980 mbs

To summarize – 2014 was the warmest year on my records of 37 years which is more apparent on a graph than a few figures on paper.

Not the wettest year but quite wet enough for most of us.

It may be of interest to note that there were no dry days in January and only one in February, a couple of months we probably won't forget in a hurry.

Also no dry days in November but the rainfall total was only 109.6 mm (4.3 ins) compared with the January figure above .

Some fairly lengthily dry spells in June ,July and September so not all gloom.

The only snow fall was just a wet snow shower late on December 27th and depending on whose point of view as to whether that was good news or bad !

Generally speaking we are very lucky in this village whatever the weather because of our geographical location.

As ever, my thanks to Michael Peet for his detailed and scrupulous recording of the local weather details - Editor



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A LOCAL TREASURE

Tesco may be having troublesome times but we all know that over the last forty years, with the rise of the supermarkets, most of the shops and services that we used to enjoy have disappeared without trace from our villages. Nevertheless it is worth recording that we have one family enterprise in Littleton Panell that has survived and still continues in its steadfast and unobtrusive way.

The Coxhead business (see our cover picture), which had been started in 1900 by James Topp, was taken over by his grandson, Bertie Coxhead, who had from the age of 11 been delivering the milk – in those early days by pail – and who continued to serve the needs of his customers until his death at the age of 81 in 1989. Bertie was an instantly recognisable figure with his white hair and even more luxuriant white moustache (rather like Mr Pastry for those who remember the early days of television). His 80th birthday in 1988 had been celebrated by an article in the Wiltshire Gazette, with a picture of him displaying his much loved cello on which, I was told, he played to celebrate the occasion.

At first, after his death, the business was shared by two of his sons, David and Jim, until 2006 when David took over, with sister Doreen running the shop in Littleton Panell. There can be few people in the local villages that have not seen the family van, Homestead Dairies, doing its daily rounds, visiting 60 households and delivering milk, fruit, vegetables, and other basic grocery necessities. Sometimes these are delivered to houses where the occupants are confined by age or disability to the premises, but, whatever the reason, his regularity offers reassurance and reliability. More than that, the Coxhead shop is much used for its ready supply of plants, cut flowers and compost. And why Homestead Dairies? Well, in the old days, they would milk 30 or more cows as well.

For those of us who are regularly visited by David, there is a great regard for the man himself; no fuss, no attempt to chat up the customers, no special offers brandished, just a simple operation simply carried out.

David has undertaken many other roles beyond the demands of Homestead Dairies. Gardening, farming, tending the churchyard and preparing the ground for burial have been but a few of the jobs he has done in his quiet way.

Like his father and so many of his seven siblings, David is, and always has been, a regular worshipper at and supporter of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. It is appropriate that we should record the affection and trust that all those who know him or are his customers share. To us he is indeed a local treasure.

Jim Hodges

A CHANCE TO VOLUNTEER

Kick start 2015 with a new challenge!

Have you started on your New Year's resolution? Let Volunteer Centre Wiltshire help you find an exciting new challenge to take on. Whether you are looking to support your community a few hours a month or a day a week, there is a volunteering opportunity that suits your interest! Here are just a few of the 1500 opportunities we have in Wiltshire:

- Complementary Therapies/Beauty Treatments, Carer Support Wiltshire
- Visiting volunteer with dog/cat, Pets as Therapy
- Memory Awareness Volunteer, Alzheimer's Support
- NHS Complaints Advocate Volunteer, SWAN Advocacy Volunteer

Have you set yourself a new resolution for this year? Volunteering can help you achieve those goals! If you are looking to spend more time outdoors, or meet new people, or improve your IT skills, we can help you find the right opportunity.

Debbie got in touch with Volunteer Centre Wiltshire after being unemployed for some time due to ill health. She shared her experience with us:

"I feel more positive going forward and I am looking forward to getting out and meeting new people."

If you'd like to start volunteering get in touch and we can help find the best role for you. Visit our website: www.volunteercentrewiltshire.org.uk or call us on 0845 521 6224 to talk to one of our Volunteering Advisers. Volunteer Centre Wiltshire is located in DEVELOP's offices in Chippenham, 3 -4 New Road, SN15 1EJ.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

February 1915

All Fairly Quiet on the Western Front

The 1st battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment were in the trenches at Kemmel, about six miles south west of Ypres, with regular periods of rest at Loche. Things remained fairly quiet, and although there was daily shelling or sniper fire, and a good deal of rifle fire at night, there were few casualties.

The 2nd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment was at Fleurbaix, in France. All was pretty quiet there too, but the battalion HQ at Fleurbaix was shelled on 19th February, and rendered uninhabitable. They took over a large house near the Brigade HQ the next day, but this was bombed on 22nd February, and three men were wounded.

There were no casualties from any of our villages during February.

Lyn Dyson 01380 813943 e-mail: lyndadyson@yahoo.co.uk

CALLING ALL GUIDES, PAST AND PRESENT

Were you a member of 1st West Lavington Guide Unit?

Do you know someone who was? We are 40 years old this year, and have decided to have a party, for current and as many past members as we can.

On **Sunday 15th March** at

The Old School in Market Lavington (our current home) from 1-5 p.m.

Please get in contact we Emma Sysum on 1stWLGuiders@gmail.com for more info

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May 12,26 June 9,23

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Great Cheverell	The old school	10.05-10.20
Littleton Panell	Lay-by in High Street	10.30-10.45
West Lavington	School	10.50-12.10



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WEST LAVINGTON VILLAGE HALL HIRE RATES - 2015

Rates per hour Day – 8 am-6 pm Evening 6pm - 12	Weekday (Mon-Fri)		Weekend (Sat & Sun)	
	Local & Charity	Other	Local & Charity	Other
Hall - Daytime	£5.00	£7.00	£6.00	£9.00
Hall - Evening	£7.00	£9.00	£8.00	£11.00
Giles Meeting Room - Day	£4.00	£5.00	£5.00	£6.00
Giles Meeting Room - Eve	£5.00	£7.00	£6.00	£8.00
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- Email bookings to Lynne@movement4you.com.
- Bookings must include event preparation and clear-up time
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- The deposit will be forfeited unless we are able to rebook that date.
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A MESSAGE FROM RICHARD GAMBLE Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons & Erlestoke Division

Money seems to feature rather highly as a subject for consideration at this time of year.

At one level you are (perhaps that should be “I am”) coping with the costs of Christmas which, like most good causes, does not come cheap.

At another level, you may have just submitted your tax return and HMRC could be smiling at receipt of more of your hard-earned cash.

It can be tough for businesses too. If you are a retailer, this is when you have to pay the suppliers of stock you may or may not have sold in the pre- or post-Christmas rush.

Money features equally large in the mind of the public sector, although the chemistry is slightly different. Public sector budgets work strictly to an annual cycle that runs (to all intents and purposes) from April in one year to March in the next year. As a general rule, any allocated funds not spent by the end of March cannot be carried over to the following year, so some public institutions may be found to be fairly extravagant in this season. I am an admirer of Prudence but, sadly, she sometime goes on holiday at this time of year.

Of course, Wiltshire Council cannot be accused of extravagance and has saved some £100m of expenditure in the past few years by judicious management and without significant loss of services. The miracle is that we have done this while keeping Council Tax unchanged for 5 years. This represents a saving over the period of £782 pounds for a Band D property. So when you look at your bank statement, please consider how much worse it could have been if Wiltshire Council had not tightened its own belt over the period.

More savings must be made in the year ahead and Wiltshire Council is now discussing the budget for 2015/16. We must tighten the belt by a further £30 million, which will be tough but not impossible.

The public sector is sometimes accused of being flabby and self-indulgent but there is no doubt in my mind that financial discipline has made Wiltshire Council more fit for purpose. I only wish my own personal regime had been as effective in improving my physique!

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to richard.gamble@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on 07762 018209.

WEST LAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Members of the Council were sad to say goodbye to **Michael Page** at the end of 2014 as he stood down after 23 years as councillor, a number of those as Vice Chairman of the Council. Michael is well known for his service to the community, including as chairman of the Village Care & Link. He is succeeded by Mike Challinor who joins Mair Rowles as new Council members. Both have strong village ties and bring valuable experience to the Council. For over two decades before her retirement, Mair worked with the elderly as manager of Dauntsey House. Mike, who was born in the parish, is chairman of West Lavington Royal British Legion and a trustee of Dauntsey Almshouses charity. Mike's father was a chairman of the Council and a signatory to the deed that created the Village Hall, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The Council is pleased to report that **budget** discussions for 2015/16 have resulted in a precept demand of £25,725.02. This is a Band D house equivalent of £57.28 and represents a 0% rise in the precept on last year.

As reported in the December/January magazine, the Council has received a **payphone consultation** from Wiltshire Council, acting on behalf of BT. Having provided usage data, BT has proposed that the kiosks in both Lavington Lane and Rutts Lane should either be discontinued or adopted by the parish for other purposes. Following community consultation, the Council wrote to Wiltshire Council stating that the Council wishes to adopt the kiosk at the junction of Rutts Lane and Church Street for the purpose of installing the last of our three defibrillators in the villages. The Council also objected to the proposal to remove the kiosk at the junction of Lavington Lane and the High Street. Several reasons were advanced for its retention, including its central position in the parish, its strategic road siting at an interconnecting bus route crossroads in central Wiltshire and the fact that it would become the only kiosk with public access in the whole parish for use, particularly by those residents without mobile phone ownership or availability. The outcome of the consultation will be advised once BT has responded.

Sandra Gamble, Chairman

You can now follow the Parish Council on Twitter- find us at www.twitter.com/westlavingtonpc and keep in touch.

If you have ANY QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT The Clerk to the Parish Council,
Peter Baxter on 07734 483883 or clerkpc@sky.com
Parish Website www.westlavington.info

CHEVERELL MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New year.

At the beginning of the January meeting a minute's silence was held for all those members of our Parish who passed away during 2014. Thoughts are with all their families and friends.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor: Following the recent resignation of a Parish Councillor, the council has unanimously co-opted Alan Thompson to the post with effect from February 2015. We welcome him to the council and look forward to his joining the team.

Dog Fouling: It has been brought to the council's attention that the issue of dog fouling is becoming more prevalent in the village. The main issue concerns dog walkers picking up after their dog but then leaving the plastic bag of faeces in the nearest hedge rather than taking it to the nearest litter bin. This is still an offence and if reported to the dog warden and convicted it carries a fine of up to £1000. The dog warden has been notified of the issue and may visit the village unannounced to monitor the situation.

Planning

14/11935/TCA – Amberley Cottage, 26 High Street – Tree works. The Parish Council has requested that the Tree Officer visit the site as some of the description of tree sizes on the application do not seem to be as per the actual tree size.

14/06395/FUL – Mill Farm Bungalow – Retrospective application for change of use of Dutch barns and cattle shed for storage undercover of caravans and small boat within redundant farmyard.

15/00013/TCA – Manor Farm House 9 Church Road – Fell Conifer

The Parish Council raised no objection to the above two applications.

Gladman Planning Appeal: The Gladman appeal has been adjourned until the 5th, 6th and 10th to 13th of February 2015, starting at 10 a.m. at the Civic Centre in Trowbridge.

The reasons for the adjournment are as follows:

- There is a need for a Habitat Regulation Assessment because there are Stone Curlews nesting within 4km (this is a planning requirement),
- Wiltshire Core Strategy Inspector Report has now been published and the 5 year land supply within in it will have a bearing on this appeal,
- The Heritage impact. The inspector has requested further information and long views, beyond what is included in the landscape evidence of the development on the conservation area. Gladman Developments requested the adjournment to allow both parties to present their additional evidence.

The Parish Council expresses its sincere thanks to everyone who made the time to attend the first stage of the appeal and hope that your support will continue for the next stage from the 5th of February. If you require transport please contact Lynda Wearn.

Traffic Issues: Devizes Area Board have been supplied with the required information for them to write to the freight companies who regularly use Great Cheverell, asking them to try and find an alternative route if possible.

A request for a 30 mph limit on The Green (from the 20 mph signs to near the village entrance signs) is now an Area Board Issue (reference number 3756). It can be followed on the Devizes Area Board website.

Annual Parish Meeting: The Parish Council has decided to hold the village's Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 23rd April 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Pavilion on Witchcombe Close. Please put the date in your diary. We hope to have the new Community Area Youth Co-ordinator as the main speaker. More information to follow.

Next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 2nd February 2015 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, Witchcombe close.

Parish Council contact details, Mrs Anita Whittle, Clerk to Cheverell Magna Council, 18 Southay, Bratton, Westbury, BA13 4RT. Tel 01380 830765 or email parishcouncil@greatcheverell.org



DAUNTSEY ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We hope everyone had a peaceful Christmas and enjoyed the New Year celebrations. It was lovely to see the children return to school energised and full of excitement with great memories of their holiday.

The teachers have been busy over the break planning lots of exciting learning opportunities for the forthcoming term.

The children thoroughly enjoyed an introduction to our new topic 'What a Book' with visits from Story Raiders! Characters from class books came into school and answered children's questions.

Hazel and Alder Class became the first participants in the Devides Decorative and Fine Arts Society's Church Trail at All Saints Church, West Lavington. The children had fun finding out about the church, its architecture, history and furnishings. They especially enjoyed exploring parts of the church that they had never seen before.

The Wiltshire Gardens Trust have very generously given our Garden Club a grant to replace the raised bed timbers. A huge thank you for this much needed funding.

Mandy Francis
Admin. Asst.

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY



Academic success

We were delighted to be ranked first in Wiltshire this year by the Times newspaper in its school league tables. This newspaper uses the same criteria as Ofsted for their judgements. We were also ranked in the top 600 schools in the country (including fee paying and state primary schools) by the Sunday Times – using highest attainment for their measure. It is a huge tribute to our immensely talented staff that we are able to reach these targets. And we are extremely lucky to work with such aspirational and dedicated children and their families.

More importantly...

Although academic success is extremely important, we are always just as delighted with other aspects of our children's education and development. It is wonderful to see them growing into generous, truthful, responsible young people of great integrity. Each term, they choose a charity to support, and will fund raise enthusiastically to help those less fortunate than themselves. Last academic year, they "Bought Bricks" for an orphanage in India, which is linked to our school. Before Christmas, the children raised money to send a cow to Africa (or perhaps a sheep or donkey!). And this year they are working to raise funds for Wateraid, and hope to send ten water pumps to villages that have no access to clean water. Our children show a great sensitivity to the needs of others and it is a joy to us to see how readily they reach out to others who need support.

Christmas fun

End-of-term was lovely, with handbells, recorder and choir concerts, the Christmas plays, Christmas party and quiet time for reflection. The whole school had a very moving carol service in St Peter's Church in Great Cheverell in the last week of term. The children held LED candles, and sang beautifully, enjoying the re-telling of the timeless Christmas story.

Bluebell Wood

The early signs of Spring are starting to show in our little on-site woodland, with bulbs just peeking up through the cold earth. We will soon have snowdrops and crocuses, and, in a few months, the bluebells which give the area its name. The children love this space and know they have to treat it with respect, as an important living habitat on our school field.

Winter By Fergus (Year 3)

In winter, I like
Some hot buttered toast
That's what I like about winter most.

A warm, lovely sitting room
Where I can relax
Some wood in the fire
Chopped up by an axe.

The countdown to Christmas
Seemed so long
And now its over
Christmas is gone.

Happy New Year, Everyone!

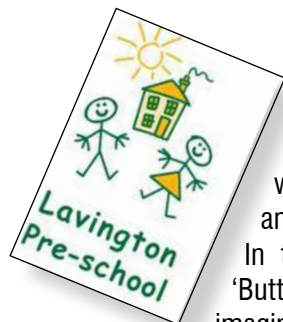
look at our webpage where there is lots more information about our school.
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LAVINGTON PRE-SCHOOL

This term, at Lavington Pre-school, we are delighted to have 3 new starters, Jack, Edee and Jessica; we welcome them and their families to our Pre-school. Everyone has settled in well after the Christmas holiday and has come back refreshed and ready to have fun.

In term 3 the children's investigations have been centred on 'Butterflies, dragons, and things that fly' and it has inspired lots of imagination and creativity. We have made a large painted dragon and butterfly for our wall display and we have made lots of flying animals using cardboard tubes and ribbon. We have heard stories about flying things and danced like butterflies in the classroom. This term has also seen the introduction of Phonics sheets for the children who are getting ready to go to school in September this year. This will prepare them for phonics in their Reception year. We will also be continuing to do our phonics sessions with all the children in the pre-school as part of our daily routine.

We are planning lots of exciting visitors to the children before Easter. ACTIVE Trowbridge will be visiting us regularly throughout the term, as usual, and we also have visits planned from the police and Pippa from Mossy Green Feet.

TOP TIP: As part of our monthly entry we have decided to incorporate a top tip to help extend your child's learning and development. Our Top Tip for this month ties in nicely with our theme of dragons and animals that fly and is from 'Expressive arts and design: Being imaginative' 40 – 60 months 'Create imaginary words to describe, for example, monsters or other strong characters in stories and poems.'

2 YEAR OLD FUNDING: In April 2014 the Government broadened the criteria for 2 year old funding for up to 15 hours per week and you may now find that you fall into the eligibility criteria if you have a child between 24 - 36 months old. If you think you might be eligible, you will need to complete a funding form: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/early-years-better-2gether-funding.pdf>

We currently have spaces available at our Outstanding Pre-school, if you would like to find out more information about us you can visit our website www.lavingtonpreschool.org.uk or contact our Manager,

Becky Gray, on (01380) 812551 or Email: info@lavingtonpreschool.org.uk

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

We had our AGM at the beginning of January. This will be my last year as leader of the group. Barbara Wood has kindly agreed to do our accounts. Sandra Gamble will be freer now to help me more.

Ann Cowburn gave us a talk on the MU Caravan at Rockley Park at Poole. This is a wonderful caravan site, in a lovely setting. This caravan is there to help those who are badly in need of a break. If anyone knows of someone who would benefit from a holiday, do get in touch with me and I can refer them and give them more details.

Janet Hodges (812467)

WEST LAVINGTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Yes I know we are twinned with St Pierre d'Autils in Northern France, but our recent fund raising event had a distinctly Eastern flavour, in more ways than one!

Our "Curry Evening" at West Lavington Village Hall was superbly organised by Sue Robson.

to whom many thanks, and the hall was decorated in Indian style.

The evening encompassed demonstrations of Sari dressing for the ladies, Indian Food provided by Zeera Indian Take-away in Market Lavington, videos ranging from Classical Indian hand positions to full blown Bollywood dancing, Indian music and all washed down with Indian Beer (though some preferred to stick to good old Merlot).

More exciting events are due in 2015 in the middle of which is our weekend away in St Pierre. Why not join the Twinning Association and share in the fun?

Contact Malcolm Johnson email: blocker38@hotmail.com or phone 818147.

P.S. we also hold French lessons for beginners and more advanced pupils every Monday evening at The Bridge Inn; these are open to non-members for a small fee.

Michael Page, Secretary (818510)



Organisations & Committees

BOOKMARK



Members revisited their childhood stories at the Christmas social in December (substituting 'lashings of ginger beer' for mulled wine!). We now take this opportunity to wish everyone a fresh and healthy new year.

We began our January session by showing friendship and support for fellow member, Janet, whose husband, Derek Stamp, had tragically passed away. We were pleased she felt able to join us for our two January reads. These were *Spilt Milk* by Amanda Hodgkinson, a fictional chronicler of British women's family lives in the mid-20th century and Ellen Feldman's *The Unwitting*, a tale of two successful New York journalists whose lives are turned upside down on November 22nd, 1963. *Spilt Milk* was liked by some for its realistic descriptions of country life in rural Suffolk; something which others found a tad tedious. This novel was probably best summed up by Mary, who felt it was written in the style of Catherine Cookson, but was a stronger read; it scored 8 marks out of 10. *The Unwitting* is part romance and part political thriller, mainly set in Manhattan during the cold war of the 1950s and 60s, and the book divided the group's opinions. Although deemed a good story line with accurate detail, some members disliked the style of writing and others felt it 'didn't quite gel'. Therefore, despite three individual scores of 8, 8 and 9, this novel was awarded an average group rating of seven. We rounded off our January session by finishing the wine (obviously) over a lively topical debate.

Our reading group meets again at Great Cheverell's Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 18th February. The novels under discussion will be Susan Vreeland's *Luncheon of the Boating Party* and *The Enlightenment of Nina Finlay* by Andrea Gillies. Please feel free to look us up on Cheverell's parish website or email Hild Marrow at hildward@tiscali.co.uk

Hild Marrow



Our Christmas meeting was very festive with mulled wine, a selection of nibbles (courtesy of M&S) and games. 'Everyone's a winner' took on a new meaning for our rather shambolic bingo. The numbers on the cards were not only grey on grey, but were not arranged in order. This led to a somewhat protracted game as visually challenged members frantically searched while the caller slowly related each numeral. As the game continued with no winners and only two balls left we realised we all had the same card - they had been photocopied. It didn't matter though, as laughter, is as they say, the best medicine.

January was the 'Resolutions' meeting, which I dread. The WI resolutions usually state the obvious, such as 'The WI asks HM Government not to employ children under the age of 5 to clean chimneys'. The only response is to agree. However, this resolution was to remove the distinction between medical and personal care in the care system. As the former is free and the latter isn't, the NHS and local councils spend an inordinate amount of time and resources arguing the toss and in the middle are the patients and their family. We agreed that the current system was a waste of precious resources and gave families, medical and social staff unnecessary pressure and stress; effectively fighting each other when they should be working together.

The Programme Committee then gave a lively interpretation of 'Ladies of the Lakes', namely, Dorothy Wordsworth, Mary Hutchinson (Wordsworth's wife and Dorothy's childhood friend) and Beatrix Potter. Their lives reflected the times, full of privation as rural life became more harsh. The relationship between Dorothy and her brother was very close; some would say rather too close, but that was not entirely surprising as they had been raised separately and only met again when she was 16. A very enjoyable evening.

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There was a good turnout for our first talk of 2015, *Keeping hens in the garden*. Our speaker Charlotte Popescue started off by keeping just four chickens in her Wiltshire garden. Now she has fifty chickens that have the run of her garden and an adjacent field. She

has a large selection of breeds and they are all shapes and sizes. Charlotte showed us pictures of some of her hens and cockerels. Some had come from breeders and others were rescues from battery farms. Many were purchased at the monthly poultry market in Salisbury. As Charlotte showed each variety she gave a summary of the breed characteristics, tendency towards broodiness, colour of the eggs etc.

We learned that hens like grass and it is from grass that they get the xanthophyll that gives the egg yolk its characteristic yellow colour. They love picking through leaf litter and they quickly learn to come to the back door for treats. You are not allowed to feed kitchen scraps to hens but you can feed them things that you have grown in your garden, such as fruit and vegetables. They need access to shelter from the weather and predators and to shade from hot sunshine. And they need a supply of grit to aid digestion. They need places where they can take a dust bath to prevent mites. They need a constant source of fresh drinking water and they need feeding with layers pellets or mixed poultry corn. They need places where they can perch. If you do not want to be searching the entire garden for eggs you need to supply nest boxes.

Hens will eat slugs and snails, earwigs, wood lice and other garden pests. They will also eat your vegetables unless you fence them off. They may curl up in your prize border and squash the plants and they will perch on your patio tables and chairs so that you will have to clean them before you sit down. There are shelters to build, feeding to be done, eggs to collect, broody hens to be observed and protected, and other responsibilities and expenses involved in chicken ownership. But hens will look beautiful in your garden and keep you supplied with fresh eggs.

Charlotte Popescue, through her years of experience, has become a sought after writer and speaker on the topic of keeping hens. She also sells eggs and some of the rare breed chickens she has raised. Charlotte is an interesting and knowledgeable ambassador for keeping chickens.

There was a lively discussion about predators. Foxes are a big problem for local poultry owners. Charlotte enlists the help of a local gamekeeper to deal with hers. Electric fences seem to work with some smaller gardens.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10th February. Geoff Hobson will give a talk entitled *Easy Orchids*. You are invited to bring in your own orchids for help with problems and advice on pruning and repotting etc. Geoff has been involved in horticulture for 50 years and with orchids for 25 years. Meet at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at Great Cheverell Village Hall. New members are always welcome.



WORTON AND CHEVERELL F.C. 'The Badgers'

Since our last publication the Christmas break and numerous game postponements means that there is not a lot of reporting this month. This is with the exception of the Sunday Adult team who continue to perform well in their league with 2 very good away wins in January so far : 1-5 against FC North Wiltshire, and 0-8 against the Mallard FC.

Below are some interesting trivia you may find interesting on the English Premier League today (current at start of season):

- Of the 10 players to take 10 or more penalties, Leighton Baines (Everton superstar), is the only one to score with each one.
- Jamie Carragher scored as many goals for Spurs as he did for Liverpool (own goals.....could only happen to a Liverpool player...)
- Only 5 players have scored a hat-trick coming on as a substitute in a game: Lukaku (Everton), Solskjaer, Hasselbaink, Earnshaw, Adebayor.
- 57% of the teams being promoted to the top flight through play-offs have been relegated the following season.
- February 2003, Man Utd v Fulham, was the last game where no substitutes were used. (Before August 1965 substitutes were not allowed in English football).
- Everton have competed in the top flight of English football for a record 111 seasons, playing more league games than any other team.
- Worton and Cheverell FC 'The Badgers' – are one of the top flight Village teams in the area.

Steve Dagnall 01380-72796

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FUNERALS

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have recently been bereaved.

Una SHEPPARD died on 13th November 2014 at BUPA Market Lavington, aged 90 years. Her funeral at West Wiltshire Crematorium took place on 28th November 2014.

Thomas (Tom) Douglas SHARP of West Park Farm, Market Lavington died on 27th November 2014, aged 91 years. A service of Thanksgiving was held at St Mary's Church, Market Lavington after cremation on 4th December 2014.

BAPTISMS

Bella Sophie HEATH of Market Lavington was baptised on 20th December 2014 at All Saints' Church, West Lavington, by Rev James Campbell.

BENEFICE 200 CLUB

The draw for December was done by Elisabeth Holford on behalf of West Lavington. The winner was Bob Young of Market Lavington. Second was Hazel Jennings of West Lavington – a just reward for having done years as Draw ticket seller in West Lavington.

The first draw for the new set of ticket holders was done by my wife, Henrietta, celebrating her return from hospital. The well deserved winner of the £40 first prize is David Dyer of Market Lavington Post Office; and of the £20 second prize is Stella Wilson of Great Cheverell.

Quentin Goggs, Benefice Treasurer

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EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

Free Speech

The world is still reeling from the murder of twelve people at Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris by Islamic terrorists. The atrocity has prompted debate on the extent and limits of free speech. Some are of the opinion that more or less anything goes. Others have said that religious beliefs should not be held up to public scrutiny, much less ridiculed. Where do Christians stand on this? We are certainly willing for our beliefs to be examined and challenged. We invite investigation of the historical claims of our faith such as the bodily resurrection of Jesus. We're up for robust and searching discussion of the Christian faith. We can even cope with our beliefs being satirised and ridiculed. The claim of Jesus to be the Son of God was mercilessly mocked when he was crucified. His response? Jesus prayed, 'Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.'

Christians enjoy the right to proclaim and practise their faith in this country. We are happy that the same right is extended to people of other faiths and that people with no faith are also free to express their views. The open exchange of ideas in a free and tolerant society is to be valued and preserved. The publication of offensive cartoons of depicting religious figures should not be made illegal. Free speech carries with it the possibility that someone may say something with which we may disagree, or even find insulting. We just have to be thick skinned enough to cope with that. But I for one can't say, 'Je suis Charlie'. The Bible encourages Christians to 'speak the truth in love' and that means avoiding being gratuitously offensive just for the sake of it. Believers want free speech that we may speak the truth that sets us free.

Pastor: Guy Davies
www.providence-ebenezer.org.uk

Events:

- Coffee Morning, join us for a cuppa and a chat, 1st Saturday of the month, 10am-12 noon.
- 'Knit & Chat' women's meeting, 4th Monday of the month, from 2.30pm.

MAGAZINE DATES

PLEASE NOTE - DATE FOR HANDING IN COPY IS
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The scheme is run by local communities' charity Community First.
For more information about the Wheels to Work scheme please visit www.communityfirst.org.uk/Wheels-to-work.htm or call (01380) 722475 and ask for Liam Tatton-Bennett or Sheila Martin.

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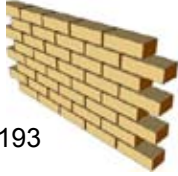


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