

Rev. Jane Durham tel: 01458 223417 Mobile: 07421 700 242 email: rev.jane.durham@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Keinton Mandeville with Kingweston
Mrs Rachel Willcox (01458) 224644
Mrs Jane Sedgman (01458) 223237

Lydford on Fosse
Mr Ralph Berry (01963) 240164
Mrs Jennie Cooper (01963) 240236

Barton St David
Mrs Carolyn Giddings (01458) 851617
Mrs Wendy Eitzen (01458) 850011

Lay Ministers: Jane Sedgman (01458) 223237 Jan Jones (01458) 851608
Benefice Administrator, Jo Oubridge – Email: wheathillbenefice@gmail.com

Web Page : wheathill.org Parish Magazine Editor – Email: wheathillbeneficemagazine@gmail.com

Grill a Vicar – Coffee & Chat

Do you have questions for clergy ?

Do you wonder about things: –

faith, baptism, marriage, challenges or something else?

Jane will be in Newlands Farm Shop Cafe,
Keinton Mandeville on Thursday, 25th April
from 2:00pm — 3:00pm

Come and join her there for tea/coffee and a chat



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"When more than the Quails quailed"

A light hearted but true story of when Her Majesty, our late Queen, came to lunch and tea and everything that could go wrong, went wrong!

At
**The Community Hall,
Queen Street, Keinton Mandeville**

The talk will be followed by supper with tea & coffee included
Non-alcoholic cash bar All ages welcomed

Tickets with meal £10 - paid by 12 noon Monday 15th April

Tickets at door £12

Tickets available from:

Alison: (01458) 223656: Celia: (01458) 224601: Douglas: (01458) 223703

Raffle

This will be the first of a series of talks given by members of our village.
Do come and enjoy some very interesting talks

In aid of Methodist Chapel funds

Wheathill Benefice Worship – April 2024

Date	08:30 am	10:30 am (or as noted)	Other Services
7th April Easter 2	Holy Communion Keinton	Morning Prayer & Baptism Lydford on Fosse	—
10th April Wednesday	—	3:00pm House Communion Lydford parish Room	—
14th April Easter 3	—	Morning Prayer & Baptism Lydford on Fosse	12:30 pm Baptism Lydford
21st April Easter 4	Morning Prayer Barton St David	Holy Communion Keinton then KM/KW APCM at 11:45 am	3:30 pm Tea & Talk Lydford
28th April Easter 5	Morning Prayer Lydford on Fosse	Holy Communion Barton St David followed by APCM at 11:45 am	4:00 pm Faith 'n Fun Keinton

'Save the Date'

Holiday Club in Keinton Methodist Chapel Community Hall

August 20th, 21st, 22nd 10am - 12:00pm

All Primary School Age children welcome
Further details soon!

Benefice Churches

Churches opening for private prayer

The churches of Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville and Kingweston are now all open daily. Lydford church will open at the weekends as before once local conditions allow.

Church Car Parks

In Keinton, Kingweston and Lydford it is now possible to give when you visit using the QR codes found on noticeboards or at the door.

If you use the churchyards or car park please do consider making occasional or regular donations towards their maintenance and their ongoing place in the lives of our communities.

Transport to Church

An understanding has been reached with **Wheathill Priory Community Transport** for those people who need lifts to Church Services. WPCT will try to assist on Sunday mornings, so if this applies to you or someone you know, **please ring 07799 487 719**, preferably 48 hours in advance.

Thank you WPCT!

From the Registers

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:

Joanna Elizabeth BEARDSWORTH of West Lydford who died at Yeovil Hospital on the 16th January 2024 aged 66. Her cremation was held at Mendip Crematorium on the 1st February. A Thanksgiving Service followed by the interment of her ashes was held at St Peter's Church West Lydford on the 26th February.

Derek and Jennifer BROWN were interred at West Lydford Church on the 26th February.

Elizabeth Mary SPENCER of Charlton Adam who died at Yeovil Hospital on the 3rd February 2024 aged 79. The funeral service was held at St Mary Magdalene Church, Keinton Mandeville on the 29th February followed by the committal.



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Dear all

April is a month that holds all sorts of change and opportunity within it --

- The days are truly lengthening and getting warmer, maybe the mud will begin to dry out soon!
- Plants in gardens and fields are beginning to put on spurts of growth and produce crops.
- Children and young people are preparing for exams, entering their final term at a school or nursery
- Some of us are planning holidays, or visits from family over the summer.

Into all of those comes the season of Easter, which combines many of them:

- The word is associated with the pagan spring festival of rebirth.
- Easter in the church speaks of hope of life beyond the grave, and a risen Jesus who comes to be with His people.

The Easter narrative is one that includes: betrayal, denial, death, despair, and the end of hope and then a complete transformation as the women go to the tomb and find it empty, with the grave cloths neatly folded (*which meant that they were no longer needed*) and then there were encounters with the risen Jesus.

Easter is not a one-day event, we focus on it for 7 weeks, until mid-May this year. But in the church every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, that is why we meet on a Sunday.

I suspect that for many of us there are parts of life that we long would change, it may be a family situation, ongoing illness and treatment, bereavement, unemployment, future uncertainties, or almost anything else. The good news of Easter is that because Jesus rose from the dead, he comes to be with us, to accompany us in any and every situation. He doesn't require us to welcome him, but he offers to be there. The disciples were usually surprised when he arrived, they were not quite sure when he would come and they did not always recognise him.

So may we learn to recognise his presence and to trust him in any and every situation. If you'd like to know more then please do give me a call

Wishing you a very Happy Easter Season

Jane



Keinton Mandeville Meet Up (includes surrounding villages)



We guarantee a warm welcome for **Carers, the Cared for** and anyone who would benefit from getting together for fun, company, information on hot topics – Fraud, Fire Prevention etc. and availability of local support.

We welcome attendees suggesting ideas for future speakers/topics. Everything is free including refreshments.

Where - Keinton Mandeville Village Hall TA11 6ES.

When - First Wednesday of the Month. **Time** - 11:0am to 12:30pm For further information contact – jane.carers@outlook.com

Wheathill Priory Community Transport – WPCT

We are a volunteer driving service by and for the residents of Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford and Barton St David. If you reside in any of these villages, do not drive or have your own transport and have difficulty with public transport you may be eligible to use the scheme.

It can be used for, but not necessarily restricted to, journeys up to 25 miles each way:

- to the doctor, hospital (if free transport is not available), post office, shopping.
- visits to friends or relatives (including when in hospital)
- to bus stops, bus stations, railway stations for onward journeys.

Should you need to use the Transport Scheme please give us a call – preferably 48hrs in advance – and we will do what we can to help:

contact number is: 07799 487 719

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Keinton Mandeville Church Openers – Feb/March 2024

Should you need to swap, please could you let Emma know as well as the person due to hand the key onto you. Meanwhile, if anyone else would like to help with the locking and unlocking of the church, please call 223344.

April 2024

Sunday 31 st Mar - Sunday 7 th Apr	Sandra & Chris Weigh	224696
Sunday 7 th Apr – Sunday 14 th	Anthea Walton	223500
Sunday 14 th Apr – Sunday 21 st	Roger Locke	224287
Sunday 21 st Apr– Sunday 28 th	Neill Thomas	223613
Sunday 28 th Apr - Sunday 5 th May	Helen & Tony Gosney	224192

Volunteer Church Cleaners

We know You're Out there – wish we could find you!

Would you like to join a friendly, albeit currently dwindling, band of volunteers to help clean Keinton Mandeville Village Church? Time commitment is not onerous and is dependent on the number of Services held there each month. (For example, both February and March 2024 recently only had two Services each at St Mary Magdalene). Working in a pair, a church clean takes between 1½ - 2 hours. Four hours a month is not a lot to ask, but more importantly not a lot to give.

Everyone has such busy lives and we understand this. If you feel unable to make a regular commitment perhaps you would be willing to go on a list of "emergency supply" helpers to step in to cover the odd unforeseen absence of one of our usual cleaners.

Even if you are not a regular Church goer St. Mary Magdalene's is a beautiful building that deserves to be loved, looked after and maintained for the benefit of the whole Village. All offers of help will be gratefully received.

If you are interested in helping, either as a regular or an occasional cleaner, or would like further information then please contact Belinda on (01458) 223470 or at belindasimson@icloud.com

The Henry Livius Trust

The Livius Trust Aims to provide items, services or facilities at Keinton Mandeville Primary School to advance religion in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England. The Trustees are open to any proposals to accord with the Trusts aims.

Rev. Jane Durham (01458) 223417

Deborah Whittingham (01458) 224057 Belinda Simson (01458) 223470

Keinton Mandeville Table Top Games Group

If you would like to come along for a drink and a chat or have a coffee/tea while playing table top games like **Scrabble, Boggle, Rummikub, Logo, cards, chess** etc. then why not come along to the group which meets in KM Village Hall.

We chat, drink tea and coffee and play table top games if we want to!

If you would like to come along just for a coffee and a chat without playing any games then you will be made just as welcome. There is no charge as the sessions are funded by Keinton Mandeville Parish Council.

The group is open to anyone who would like to come, you don't need to live in Keinton Mandeville.

Future dates

Wednesdays, April 17th, June 12th and July 10th all between 10:00am and 12 noon.

There is no need to book... just come along if you can.

We look forward to seeing you and the kettle will be on!

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Date for your Diary – Sunday, 5th May
The Wheathill Benefice 4 - Church Walk



The popular 4-Church Walk is back, starting from St Peter's Church, Lydford at 10:45 on Sunday, 5th May and to which EVERYONE is warmly welcomed to join in. If you would like to walk the complete circuit taking in the 4 Churches, or a section of the walk to call in at any of the churches during the day, or just attend a short walkers' service in Lydford at 10:00am before the start, it will be lovely to see you. We suggest you bring a picnic lunch to eat in St Mary Magdalene, Keinton Mandeville.

Setting off from Lydford Church at 10:45am, the route heads west through orchards and across farmland to Barton St David. From there, it continues west up a farm track and across the fields to the Church of All Saints, Kingweston.

Walking south through Kingweston village, the route crosses the B3153 at the Lower Farm Grain Store and then picks up a green lane and well-marked footpaths to St Mary Magdalene, Keinton Mandeville where a stop for a picnic lunch could be taken. The last section follows an ancient track crossing over the B3153 once more, before a final downhill walk back to Lydford.

ANYONE wishing to join friends and members of the four parishes on any length of the walk will be warmly welcomed and we hope particularly that many families will join in. It will be a fun day, full of fellowship and fresh air. For those who complete the circle, the distance is about 8 miles [12km] of easy to moderate going although, *if it is or has been wet*, the ground could be very muddy in places.

Route cards will be available on the day and the route will be indicated by arrows at important junctions. There will be people walking who know the way across the fields and along the footpaths. Dogs on leads will be welcome with the usual request to observe dog-walking etiquette, the countryside code and to respect non-dog lovers! *Please note not all styles or gates are dog friendly.* Limited cloakroom facilities will be available in all the churches. Donations welcome to Benefice funds.

Further information will be available from any of the churchwardens of the four Benefice churches or on the website <https://wheathill.org/> and we look forward to seeing you on the 5th May.

Women's Institute

Keinton Mandeville and surrounding villages

Our WI serves Keinton Mandeville and many other local villages. We meet in Barton St. David Village Hall at 7:15 pm on the third Thursday of each month. We also meet regularly for a variety of informal events in between.

We have a wide and varied programme of speakers and activities, which are both fun and informative. Some members play Pickleball each week to keep fit and/or to be sociable. We are a friendly and supportive group and look forward to welcoming any new members to our relaxed and enjoyable meetings. We have members of all ages. For more information or if you would like to join us please email: secretarykmwi@gmail.com

Help Mid Wessex Singers Celebrate
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Our evening Spring Celebration concert, conducted by Musical Director, Alice Dicker, is on Saturday, 4th May in the beautiful setting of St Michael's Church, Somerton.

The programme will include some previously performed favourites, including Vivaldi's Gloria and Faure's Cantique de Jean Racine and will also look to the future with modern choral compositions by Karl Jenkins, Philip Stopford and Matthew Coleridge.

For this very special occasion we welcome professional organist, Malcolm Archer and soloists, Louise Innes and Eloise Routledge.

Advance tickets, to include nibbles, are available at £12 each from Cobbs Wholefoods in Somerton or from choir members.

(On the door tickets will be priced at £15)

For more information visit our website: www.midwessexsingers.co.uk ; call our Secretary, Sheena on 07768 704883 or e-mail: info@midwessexsingers.co.uk



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The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7:30pm in the village hall. Public session will take place at 7:30pm immediately before the formal meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Annual Parish Meeting – 19th April 2024 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall

The main agenda for this meeting will be for the community to review the traffic report that was commissioned by the parish council and the recommendations that have been made. There will also be an opportunity to see reports from community groups.

Traffic Report – The finalised version of the report is now available on the parish council website: <https://keintonmandevillepc.org.uk/Contents/Contentitems/46waqrc7czhf9xmeb33r3r01xr>

Temporary Road Closure:

ttro419333S Babcary Lane – Wessex Water works are expected to commence on 8th April 2024 and to last for 5 days.

The parish council want to thank all those member of the community who clear up litter on a weekly basis and keep the village looking good.

Kaye Elston

Keinton Environment Group (KEG)

Keinton Community Copse

Our "Adopt a Tree" scheme should be available later in the Spring; we are in the process of producing a map and catalogue. We hope this will get you involved in looking after your own little part of the copse or just letting us know if you see a problem.

Rewilding/wildflower planting

Over the weekend of 16th/17th March we sowed wildflower meadow seeds at a number of sites around the village:

*including a large area of the churchyard,
the bank beside the Methodist Chapel and a number of roadside verges.*

We hope this will be just a beginning and that more residents will volunteer their verges or other areas for the wildflower treatment. Do let us know if you'd like to get involved – we have plenty of seeds available and it's not too late to sow seeds until the dry (we hope) summer weather arrives.

Save the date

On 15th June, KEG will be holding their annual Environment Day in the Village Hall. There will be a number of local speakers, food, fun things for kids and a chance to calculate and work out how you might reduce your personal carbon footprint.

We are looking for nominations for the best "wild or eco-friendly" garden for an award to be presented at this event. Please send nominations or suggestions to KEG using one of the links below.

Hedgehogs – and more

Please keep the sightings of hedgehogs - and any other wildlife - coming in. Do contact us (or come to a meeting) if you would like advice on feeding and providing shelter for wildlife. Some of our members are skilful at constructing hedgehog, bat and bird boxes and would be delighted to pass their expertise on to you and your family.

Our meetings are open to anyone to attend and we'd love to get more people involved in what we do.

KEG's next meeting

This will be on Wednesday, 10th April at 7:00 pm in the Quarry Inn.

Facebook: (5) Keinton Environment Group (KEG) Facebook

Email: info@keintonenvironmentgroup.org.uk



Open Gardens 2024



Open Gardens 2024



Update:

The Open Gardens event is being held in Keinton Mandeville on **Sunday, 19th June**. Ten gardens minimum should be open to the public but we do need a few more *so please do telephone me, Neill Thomas on 01458 223613 if you would like to open your garden*. With Spring reluctantly beginning to stir, providing expectations of the beauty of the summer to come (Magnolia trees are giving us glorious displays of flowers), your gardens must be emerging from their winter slumbers crying out to be nurtured by you keen gardeners .

For visitors, open times will be from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. The gardens vary in size and represent a wide range of design styles, planting plans and colour combinations so whatever your tastes you should find something of interest and, of course, it is always a pleasure to look round someone else's garden.

Most important though, we are confident that you will enjoy the afternoon and at the end of the day take away with you a few ideas that you may at some time in the future wish to incorporate into your own garden. In addition, cream teas will be served in one of the gardens and a selection of plants will be on sale at some others. And there could be some further attractions To keep all the family happy!

Entry tickets will be on sale at ALL the open gardens, prices as follows:

Adults £5.00; Children 12 to 16 years £1.00; Children under 12 Free

Buy your tickets at the first garden you visit. *Once bought the ticket will gain you entry to all the other gardens so please hold on to it and keep your group together.*

All gardens will have a numbered sign outside and your ticket will give you information on the other open gardens and a map of where they are situated. *There will be no dedicated car park – street parking only.*

We cannot guarantee the weather but we are willing it to be good. Whatever it is, please do come along for what will be a most enjoyable afternoon - rain or shine. *All proceeds will go towards church upkeep.*

Church Service

And, for those of you who wish, there will be a short service with a garden theme in Keinton Mandeville church commencing at 6:00pm. I will give you another reminder of events in the May edition of this magazine.

Benefice Choir

*"I don't sing because I'm happy, I'm happy because I sing!"
(William James - American philosopher)*

Singing at the services on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday is always very special, but it becomes even more so when the choir is able to share its love of music and worship with those at Castle House Nursing Home in Keinton, who are unable to get to church.

After Easter, besides looking at music for the monthly services, the Benefice choir will also be starting to put together a programme for a short recital in the Bishop's Palace, Wells Cathedral at 2.00pm on Sunday 19th May, to which everyone is warmly welcome.

The choir normally meets on a Thursday evening at 7:30pm in Kingweston Church, so if you would like to join, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Lynne Kirkman on 01458 224158 – you'll be very welcome.



Keinton Knit & Natter

Knit and Natter has been going now for almost 15 years. We meet on Monday afternoons from 2:00pm – 4:00 pm in the Methodist Church rooms. Everyone, including complete beginners, are welcome irrespective of their level of ability.

We guarantee lots of interesting discussions, love and support and continuous laughter during the meetings. So, if you would like to come along then contact us on (01458) 223344. You are guaranteed a warm welcome.

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St Peter's Church, Lydford on Fosse

The Services for January are on page 2 of the magazine.

Planting of Easter Garden and Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, 30th March at 10:30 am

The morning will start with the planting of the Easter Garden which will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard. Please join us for this happy morning.

House Communion – Wednesday, 7th February at 3:00pm

In West Lydford Parish Hall. All in the Benefice are invited to come and join us for a short Service of Holy Communion with enough time left for chat and afternoon tea with friends. Any problems with transport please contact Ralph on (01963) 240164 or 07530 296 885.

Tea and Talk

Sunday, 21st April at 3:30pm in West Lydford Parish Hall. This month we are thinking about *the problem of Mental Health in our community and society as a whole*. We have Alison Baker from **Mind In Somerset** coming to enlighten us about the problem and hopefully ideas on how we can help support those suffering from this illness. It does seem to be becoming an ever increasing problem, with so many different causes.

Do come along at 3:30pm on the 21st to hear Alison and then to talk about what we can do to help over a cup of tea after. We look forward to seeing you then.

Welcome & POPin Cafe

Tuesday 23rd April in the Parish Hall at 10:30am to 12 midday

Hopefully by the time you are reading this the sun is shining and it's warmer and drier! Also, that last month's Coffee and Biscuits morning Cafe saw a welcome return. The usual excellent coffee and wonderful biscuits will be on offer! Hope to see you all there as everyone is very welcome! Members free, Non-members £2 at the door


The Walters and Pope Trust Fund (Lydford-on-Fosse)

- ❖ **HELP!** Do you know anyone in Lydford who needs help and/or support?
- ❖ It may be help with buying books for university.
- ❖ It may be help with buying tools or equipment for a new job.
- ❖ It may be support for someone who is ill, or who is caring for someone.

The Walters and Pope Trust Fund has a small annual income – the Trustees would like to spend this money, fairly and discreetly, for the benefit of anyone who lives in Lydford.

If there is anyone who would like assistance, please contact the Trust in confidence: *Secretary, Caroline Seehra tel: 07926 488190 or The Treasurer, Ann Parkhouse tel: 01963 240268.*

Barton St David Friday Afternoon Table Tennis

 Sessions are in the village hall every Friday afternoon from 2:00pm until 4:00pm with a break for provided refreshments during that time.

It is not a club, so no annual fee but a charge of £2 per person per session is required. Even if you have never played before, come and try us out for an hour or so. We guarantee you will have some exercise, competition and lots of laughter! Please contact Elaine on (01458) 850465 or email at:

esbalcombe@googlemail.com if you are interested. 

8

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Barton Bids a Fond Farewell to the Pre-School

After forty six years of pre-school education in the Village Hall

How did it all start? With thanks to Janet Powell for her memories that take us back to the 1970's -

In 1973 when Juliet was nine months old, I started a Registered Playgroup at the Dove Centre in Butleigh. Initially this was to cater for the children of members of the Dove Community and students. I started the Playgroup with the support of a small number of local Mums who had young children of their own.

The original group outgrew the premises that the Dove Centre was able to provide so we obtained permission from the Village Hall Committee to move to Barton St David Village Hall. *This permission was only given after lively discussion.*

The Vicar, Reverend Thomas, was Chairman and he initially opposed the idea because he felt that it would be detrimental to the fabric of the hall. Richard Hicks and others spoke up vociferously in support of the Playgroup insisting that it would benefit the local children. It's important to remember that the Playgroup (*later Pre-school*) movement was in its infancy at the time.

The Pre-school started in the Village Hall on January 10th 1977 operating on five mornings a week. The hall had no facilities for Pre-school children. Space had to be made for the storage of a few pieces of equipment. Between us we carried quite a few items around in the boots of our cars! We used potties for small children and lifted others onto adult height loos. We certainly "*made do and mended*" a great deal of the time and barricaded dangerous areas. The floorboards had to be sanded and a play mat was provided because there were so many splinters. We raised funds by having coffee mornings and sales and applying for grants so that we could provide more equipment, material and toys.

As time went on, the original Playgroup workers moved on with their careers. The Pre-School movement became strong and views about early childhood education became more enlightened.

Janet Powell

February 2024 – *The Village Hall Committee know the Pre-school will continue to thrive and wish them success in their new accommodation at Keinton Mandeville Primary School.*

Barton St David History Club

Another well-attended meeting in February enjoyed a fascinating talk by David Odgers on the striking similarities and some differences of the experiences of Glastonbury Abbey and the Rock Churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia, which is (loosely) twinned with Glastonbury.

Over the years there have been several largely unsuccessful attempts to protect the Rock Churches but sadly at present Lalibela is inside a conflict zone and conservation efforts have had to stop.

Upcoming Events – all in Barton Village Hall

Thursday, 11th April at 7:30pm

Bernard Sellick & David Daggart "*Somerset Wanderings (with a camera)*".

Thursday 23rd May at 7:30pm

Martyn Sandell "*The Marine Aspects of Hinckley Point*".

All welcome!

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Lydford and District Gardening Club

Reading this you may well be in a state of shock. Reputedly upstanding and honourable members of the community might have recently been seen in a state of deshabille.

Destroying reputations which have been many years in the building, scantily clad citizens may well have been spotted going towards or returning from their wet and cold vegetable patches, muttering glumly to themselves about the vagaries of the modern climate and the fact that Good Friday cannot be relied upon as was once the case. There is probably a posh word for potato growers. Just as a viticulturist is someone who grows grapes, it surely ought to be the case that those who concentrate on the humble 'spud' should have their own complicated and archaic description.

On-line encyclopaedias are not much use in the quest for this term so in the spirit of Shakespeare, who invented many words to suit his purpose, '*Solanumists*' is offered for public consumption. It is relatively common knowledge that there are only two acceptable tests to determine when potatoes should be planted. The first is that they should be put into the ground on the Friday before Easter. As a irrefutable rule this has a major issue. Easter is the original movable feast and, according to one source, can occur at any time between March 22nd and April 25th. Thus Good Friday has a possible range between March 20th and April 23rd. Consequently, solanumists who follow this advice can be planting in the teeth of howling gales, harsh frosts and freezing deluges or they can wait until a few days before the beginning of May and miss out on a month of perfect growing weather.

Therefore we come to the other litmus test for putting King Edwards into the soil. It makes some sort of scientific sense that the ground should be warmish before seed potato '*babies*' are deposited 6 inches or thereabouts under the surface. A thermometer, as a means of gauging soil warmth, would be a very blunt instrument, especially when a much more sensitive piece of technology is readily available.

The only true and accurate way of telling whether it is actually the time to plant potatoes is to lower one's trousers and, if worn, undergarments and to sit upon the soil. If the experience provided by bare skin upon growing medium is comfortable then planting can go ahead. If things feel a little chilly then a few more days will have to be spent on a reserve occupation such as creating a model of St. Pancras station from Bryant and May's finest products. Therefore if a neighbour's behaviour appears somewhat shocking at this time of year, relax and appreciate that such an apparently unedifying state of undress is just an unavoidable feature of modern holistic husbandry.

As we career towards another growing season, the grim days of February would appear to be several aeons ago. However, it was on February 13th that Dr. Francis Burroughs came to the Parish Hall to talk to the Club about Historic Front Gardens. He spoke well with some dry humour and concentrated upon the vast expanses that provided the outlook from the front doors of the great stately homes. Structure, form and texture were more important than colour, even though most properties had a large labour force.

Dr. Burroughs offered the Stourhead landscape as a classic example and raised the interesting point that a lot of the effort in past times was not for immediate effect. We are now enjoying the results of earth moved and trees planted several centuries ago. Immediately post-creation, many of the National Trust vistas that we now enjoy would have appeared very raw and distinctly patchy.

Subsequently, on March 12th, Mike from the Gardens Group came to talk about the benefits, real and supposed of the technique known as '*Companion Planting*'. He spoke well, as he always has done, and fought back the urge to base his offering on how we could be persuaded to pass through the doors of Brimsmore Garden Centre and spend lots of money.

Calendula and tagetes were recommended for their ability to counter invasive weeds and deter equally annoying whitefly. Surprisingly he made no mention of soil warmth testing with a companion!



Continued next page

Lydford and District Gardening Club (Continued)



Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 9th is the date for the annual Club trip to Brimsmore in order to empty the shelves of that particular emporium with an impressive 25% discount. Members will be given a short welcoming talk at 18:00 hrs but might arrive a bit before that time. For those with a memory, last year was quite an event with horrendous weather and chaotic traffic due to a bridge strike on the A37. This year peace, warmth, ease of travel and immense retail satisfaction are guaranteed. Almost!

Moviola screening at Lydford Parish Hall

This will be on Friday, 5th April 2024

The doors open at 7:00pm

There is a bar available until 7:30pm when the film will be shown – a chance to chat to your friends.

The film to be shown is "One Life" a 2023 biographical drama film directed by James Hawes. It is based on the true story of British Humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton (Anthony Hopkins) as he looks back on his past efforts to help groups of children in German occupied Czechoslovakia to hide and flee in 1938-39 just before the beginning of World War 2. The young Sir Nicholas is played by Johnny Flynn and the film also stars Helena Bonham Carter.

To reserve tickets or for more information please contact -
Linda Foote on (01963) 240336

Lydford Ladies Third Tuesday Group

March Meeting – The Parish Hall was packed for Alan Cort's eclectic presentation about the history, people and period buildings of Wheathill. Alan began by explaining some of the pitfalls of becoming an amateur historian and how he had discovered that the real meaning of the name **Wheathill** is likely to be -

'hill surrounded by water' (not as commonly believed 'hill with wheat growing on it!')
His talk touched on the many interesting characters that have lived in or owned Wheathill over the centuries. During the fifteenth century, Wheathill belonged to Lady Elizabeth Say (née Cheney) who was great grandmother of Ann Boleyn, Jane Seymour and Catherine Howard - and great, great grandmother of Queen Elizabeth I and King Edward VI. In more recent times, Wheathill's famous residents included Owen Maclaren, designer of the Spitfire undercarriage and later the famous folding Maclaren *'Baby Buggy'*.

Many thanks to Alan for his entertaining and informative talk.

Next Event

**Outing to Avalon Marshes Centre
on Tuesday, April 16th at 2:00 pm**

A guided 1 and a 1/2 hour tour of the reconstructed Iron Age, Roman and Saxon buildings and Viking trading vessel. The price of the tour is £8.50 per person.

If you would like to come along, please put your £8.50 in an envelope, write your name on the front and post it through Lesley's door by Sunday, April 7th at the latest. Visitors are welcome to join us.

See the Avalon Centre website for directions and more information:
<https://swheritage.org.uk/avalon-archaeology/visiting-information/year>.

Women Visitors from Lydford and surrounding villages are welcome to all our events usually held at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall, West Lydford (unless otherwise stated).

If you would like more information please take a look at our website:

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Lydford on Fosse Parish Council

<https://lydfordonfosse.co.uk/parish-council/>

The Parish Council (PC) met on Wednesday, 13th March, at the Parish Hall. Topics covered included:

- **Somerset Councillors' Report** - A written report was received which explained how Somerset Council had reached a balanced budget for the coming year and confirmed that no decision has yet been made on the future of Dimmer Lane Recycling Centre. The full report can be read on the website.
- **Planning** - there were no new planning applications to consider.
- **Local Plan Update** - A consultation is now beginning on an update which will deliver 505 new dwellings in the Mendip area over the next 5 years. None will be close to our Parish.
- **Flooding** - A decision was taken not to reimburse local residents for sandbags used during recent flood events. Whilst the PC was very sympathetic, it was felt that the best use of available funding would be to invest in future flood prevention measures. This was a point that had been made by some of the affected residents themselves.
- **Local engagement** - a questionnaire is being developed to try to improve the PC's presence and support to the local community.
- **PC processes** - a useful discussion was held on how to improve the efficiency of future PC meetings.

Next PC meeting

This will be held on Wednesday, 10th April. It will be a short meeting, starting at 18:00hrs, which will cover the proposed PC Budget for the coming year and consider any new planning applications. It will finish in time for *the Annual Parish Meeting to start at 18:30hrs*. This is a meeting at which reports from the PC, its Working Groups and other Community Groups report are received.

All parishioners are encouraged to attend and have the opportunity to contribute throughout the meeting. Free refreshments will be provided.

Flood Risk Management Working Group

Following some serious recent flooding events in Lydford, and advice from the Environment Agency that flooding in our area is likely to become more frequent and less predictable, the Parish Council has established a '**Flood Risk Management Working Group**' to better understand our community's flood risk factors, to identify opportunities to reduce them and to determine how we can best reduce the impact of flooding when it does occur.



If you would like to volunteer to join the Flood Group, or just learn more about it, please contact Jeremy Spencer at miamiblu718@outlook.com



Lydford Neighbourhood Watch

lydfordnhw@gmail.com

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Street Contacts

A37 – Jeremy Spencer 07517 771852

Lydford on Fosse - Cary Road – Lali Seehra 07530 121515

East Lydford - Church Lane (A37 side) – Ian Poynter 01963 240424

Church Lane (Castle Cary side) Lynne Mitchell 07773 345092

West Lydford

South of the Brue – Anne Parkhouse 01963 240268/Mike Pauley 01963 240469

North of the Brue – Linda Foote 01963 240336

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King o' Mill – Maggi Hollands 07816 445597

Village Contact – Lynne Mitchell 07773 345092 lydfordnhw@gmail.com

Dog Walkers Responsibilities

As the weather improves and the ground dries up, hopefully, those of us who are dog walkers are going to spend more time out walking with our dogs, venture further afield and give them more opportunity to explore and sniff! A wonderful time for both owners and dogs! However, we must be responsible dog owners!

We must Remember to: –

- Keep dogs under control near livestock – keep dogs on a short lead around cows and especially sheep at the moment – they are likely to be pregnant or have lambs. The current maximum fine for sheep worrying is £1,000.
- Clean up after your dog wherever you are and take the poo bag home! The Dog Act (Fouling of Land) 1996 means you are legally obliged to clean up after your dog if it fouls any land which is open to the air, and to which public have access.



Wheathill Golf Club Notes

Wheathill Golf Club has remained optimistically open whenever possible throughout 4 months of rain and are now looking forward to Spring and Summer with an exciting menu of forthcoming events including:

- US Masters Gateway membership for new members, just £495 p.a. until April 2025
- 'Women on Par' lessons for beginners FREE on Sunday 28th April
- Junior Saturday morning classes 10.30 am
- Girls 'Golf Rocks' 6 week coaching course commences early summer

Meanwhile, whatever the weather, the shop and clubhouse remain open to all including non-members.

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April 2024 Services - At 10:30 am

Sunday, 7th April Holy Communion Rev Collin Moore

Sunday, 21st April Morning Worship Rev Collin Moore

Covenant Service

It was lovely to welcome so many of the Benefice church congregations to our service. Collin spoke about the meaning of 'covenant' in our relationships – a promise and relationship between two people...certainly food for thought!

Stop Press!! Saturday March 30th – We will be holding an Easter Coffee Morning, 10:30am – 12noon.

- Pots to decorate for planting or to make a bee drinking station (£2 per pot) all ages welcome to join in this activity!
- An easter raffle
- Hot cross buns and easter biscuits to enjoy!

We would love to see you there!

Tea@3

Our February 'tea@3' had a valentines theme. The children used heart shaped stickers to create beautiful pictures and some made secret cards too. Everyone also enjoyed some bubble blowing!

The March get together fell on 'World book Day'. Grown ups enjoyed chatting together and the children coloured pictures of their favourite book characters – A lovely time for us all!

The date for April's tea@3 has been changed.

It will now be on *Thursday April 11th* – same time, same place! Please come along! May's tea@3, *Thursday 9th May*, is in the process of being organised, May pole-ing is the plan!!!

February's Half-Term Treat

On a wet Tuesday afternoon, we showed a film at the Community Hall. Children brought along their cushions, blankets and even cuddly toys and settled in with drinks and popcorn to watch 'Super Mario Brothers'. The action packed film was much enjoyed by the children and grown ups had a chance to catch up over a cuppa! Many thanks to everyone involved in the afternoon.

Future Events – We are planning to hold a **Series of Evening Talks at the Hall**, beginning on Friday 19th April at 7:00pm – See Front Page for Details.




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200 years of the RNLI

During the early 1820s Sir William Hillary, a Yorkshire man born in 1771 moved to the Isle of Man where he witnessed several shipwrecks. He drew up plans for a lifeboat service crewed by trained people for all the British coast and appealed to the Navy and prominent citizens for the formation of *The National Institution for the Preservation of Lives and Property from Shipwreck*. This fell on deaf ears.

Sir William then rebranded his appeal which gathered momentum and gained the royal patronage of George IV. Thus on 4th March 1824, "Royal" was added to the already lengthy title. Thankfully on 5th October 1854 the name was changed to the *Royal National Lifeboat Institution*.

This year is our 200th anniversary; since it was founded lifeboat crews and lifeguards have SAVED over 144,000 lives and performed countless rescues, all by volunteers.

The Somerton & Langport Area branch strive to raise money for the RNLI and this year we are hoping to put on some extra events.

We would be most grateful if anyone had some spare time to help with our fundraising for this vital life-saving institution.

Mary Mullineux

Secretary to Somerton & Langport Area branch RNLI

**Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells**



New life for all the world



Sowing seeds, chitting potatoes, choosing varieties. Easter acts as starter's orders for the gardening year. Beds are cultivated, lawns mown, plans for all the growth and new life that spring and summer will bring made and then turned into action.

There's a much greater connection between gardening and Easter than it merely being the time to dust off forks and spades.

For in the Bible, a garden is the setting for Easter itself. In John's Gospel (*Jn 20:1-18*) Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus in a garden. Indeed, Jesus's appearance to Mary is so unexpected that at first she can't believe it's really him. So she mistakes the man she meets '*supposing him to be the gardener*' (*John 20:15*).

In John's account, all the new life contained in the first Easter chimes with a much earlier story set in a garden too. This is of the new life of another man and woman, the creation story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and contained in the book of Genesis (*Genesis 2:4- 3:24*). In that story, Adam is the gardener (*Gen 2:15*), only for things to go wrong. In John, Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam – come to bring new life that has no end.

What would happen if we were to think of our churches as gardens, primed to welcome the spring that is the new life of Jesus this Easter? What would happen if we imagined ourselves called to be gardeners – like our father Adam and the new Adam, Jesus? What would we expect to grow? What might need pruning or weeding? What new plans for the coming season would we make and turn into action? What would be the harvest that we'd sow for, tend and then reap?

For I reckon we should see Easter as the starting point of all that God wants to do among us and with us. Jesus's resurrection opens us to being part of God's new creation. Easter offers us a fresh start for life, relationships and the life of our churches: new life for all the world.

Happy gardening and a very Happy Easter to you all.

Bishop Michael

**Southern Sinfonia's April Celebration At The Minster,
St Mary Magdalene, Taunton TA1 1SA**



Saturday, 13th April at 7:30pm

St Paul's Suite by Gustav Holst

Finzi's Clarinet Concerto with Emma Johnson, international Clarinettist

Requiem by Matthew Coleridge, with Southern Sinfonia

Sarah Hughes (soprano), solo cello, organ and invited choir

To be performed by Soprano, orchestra, solo cello, organ and 'Southern Voices',--singers from some of Somerset and Devon's excellent Choral Societies;

Southern Sinfonia, the professional Chamber Orchestra of Southern England is now resident in Taunton - Come and join us for this exceptional evening of glorious music!

Doors open from 7:00pm (*recommended that you bring a cushion for the pews*).

Interval drinks from the Minster Cafe

Tickets: www.queenscollege.org.uk/new-events-events/events or 01823 340880

Prices: £23, £21, £16, £12 (children under 12).



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Plotgate Community Farm

Plotgate Community Farm got the year off to a good start with a lively Community Consultation meeting in January.

Over 50 people filled Barton Village Hall to hear about and consider the farm's future developments including access, community food hub and a new project to remove water pollution and alleviate flooding while regenerating a robust ecosystem on The Mead land to the north of the farm.

Many thanks to Sarah Dyke MP for attending and local residents in particular for the support, participation and useful insights discussed.

If you'd like to help with monitoring water quality, wildlife observation, or physical work such as managing hedgerows and rhynes or scything in the appropriate seasons, do get in touch.

Plotgate Community Farm is co-operatively run by its members. The growers and volunteers produce seasonal vegetables on a 16-acre site in Barton St David. Members can collect, or have delivered, a weekly or fortnightly share of the produce, each box containing at least 8 different types of vegetable. There are events, activities and opportunities as well as fresh food all through the year.

Find out more at the Barton Inn on Friday evenings, 4:00pm - 6.30pm when we're there with the veg boxes. If you would like a share of the harvest, we also deliver on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings. Call or text 07817608283, or email: info@plotgatecommunityfarm.org.

Our other collection points are in Glastonbury and Street on Mondays, Langport on Saturdays. More info at:

www.plotgatecommunityfarm.org and Facebook

Wild Roots Growing for Wellbeing Group

Mondays 10:30 am - 1:00pm at Catsham Nr Baltonsborough.

The Wild Roots Growing for Wellbeing Project welcomes people who are keen to get outdoors, learn new skills, share their skills or just have the opportunity to spend some time in a peaceful environment. Our main emphasis is on horticulture and rural craft activities which take place in our large vegetable, fruit and flower growing area. Maybe you need an excuse to get out of the house or you just want to dip your toe into being around other people again.

Whatever it is you're looking for we can always find gardening related activities to suit your mood and energy levels on the day. We are a Covid secure site and we will be working outdoors in a socially distanced way. With two covered open sided sheltered areas and a large poly-tunnel we can cater for whatever the British weather throws at us! If you want to find out more please contact Ursula Casey at: ursula@wilderwoods.org.

Booking is essential and spaces will be limited to keep the group small.

Central Somerset Outdoor Learning Partnership

Registered Charity Number 1151284

<https://www.facebook.com/wilderwoods.org>

www.wilderwoods.org or landline and press option 4, then option

Our Parish Magazine is Produced by the Wheathill Benefice Parochial Church Council and printed by Snell Print

The Parish Magazine continues in its printed form but will also be available on the Benefice Website: wheathill.org plus linked via kingweston.net and via lydfordonfosse.co.uk as well as on the village website bartonstdavid.org.uk also copies are emailed to contacts on Facebook.

We are continuing to deliver a free copy to every house in the villages of Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford on Fosse and Wheathill by our much valued volunteers.

Please tell any business you may use from adverts shown on pages 2 - 16 that you saw their advert in the Wheathill Benefice Parish Magazine