

Corton Denham News



from John Godley

APRIL - MAY 2019

ISSUE 233

The Editor's Desk

On Corton Hill, whilst still dark on Sunday morning 10th February, 5 pregnant ewes were chased by a dog and mauled – 3 of them killed, their throats torn out, and 2 dying later from their injuries, along with their unborn lambs. The remainder of the flock were stressed, muddled and some injured and bleeding.

The police arrived quickly with rifles and tasers and if they had spotted the dog, they would not have hesitated to shoot it dead. It was a dark coloured dog and it would have returned home covered in blood. Yet nobody has come forward. If a similar incident happens again, all the local dogs will be DNA tested and the offending owner will be discovered and be in even worse trouble. So if you are reading this, do the decent thing and own up now.

Two weeks later, in a field beside Corton Road on the way to Sherborne, a black and tan Staffordshire Bull Terrier with a harness was seen chasing sheep, but unfortunately not apprehended. If anybody knows of such a dog, they should contact the farmer, James Tabor, or the police.

We would do well to remember that our dogs, no matter how well trained, cute or cuddly, are animals first and pets second. Their natural instinct is to chase, snap, bite and kill. It is very important to always keep dogs on leads where there are sheep and to not walk in fields where there are no public footpaths. And there's one more thing almost as deadly to sheep – your dog's poo, so pick it up and *take it home!*

Deadlines for the submission of articles for future issues are as follows:

**June /July - 21 May 2019
August/September - 19 July 2019
October/November - 23 September 2019**

These are the final submission dates. It would help the editorial team if you could provide your articles before the final submission dates.

Sudoku Corner

This month's teaser and the last edition's solution.

Fill in the grid with the numbers 1 to 9 so that each row and each 3x3 block contains all the numbers 1 to 9.

8	7	3	5	4	1	2	6	9
5	9	2	6	3	7	4	8	1
1	4	6	9	2	8	7	5	3
9	8	4	3	6	2	5	1	7
6	3	7	4	1	5	9	2	8
2	1	5	7	8	9	3	4	6
3	6	8	2	7	4	1	9	5
7	2	9	1	5	6	8	3	4
4	5	1	8	9	3	6	7	2

		8				6		
	5			4			8	
7	9		6		8		4	5
4				5				6
			2		1			
2				7				3
9	1		5		7		3	8
	3			6			2	
		4				7		

Parish Letter

from Rosemary Rymer

Dear friends

"They are US"

The New Zealand prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, made the instant response "They are US" after the terrible massacre thus emphasising that the immigrants were 'US', that they warranted all the love and support that could, and should, be offered to anyone who lived in that country. A statement and an indication of the healing and the love that she intended to offer to the Moslem people, and which she expected everyone else to offer. The outpouring of that healing and that love is evident in all the pictures and reports in the media. Last Sunday we attended worship for the first time in our daughter's church near Redditch, a congregation that knew of Stephen's cancer, and through Ann telling them of it, had been praying for him, we had become 'US'. The welcome that was given to 'US' was full of love and their touch on our lives has helped to bring about healing. Immediately after that worship we had to drive back to Gloucestershire for lunch with Stephen's sister, who was celebrating her 70th birthday. She suffered brain damage at birth and has a mental age of about an 8 year old. But for her lunch, she was surrounded by family and friends who have loved her over many years for who she is. Again a wonderfully caring environment, which has enabled her to work all her life in the same special school that she attended, and now in retirement she is able to travel, enjoy art classes, attend a 'special' club, and really live life to her full capability. Another example of love providing a healing and loving atmosphere, of a community where despite her handicap Margie is 'US'.

There are many examples of love in a community being one of the main factors involved in Jesus' healing in the Bible - remember the four friends who broke through a roof to bring their friend to Jesus for healing, There was the centurion who asked Jesus to heal his servant, probably a slave, and who could have been abandoned but for love. Jesus loved his mother, Mary, and even on the cross entrusted her to the care of John, so that she would not be alone after his death. Maybe you can think of some other stories too! Many factors - wealth, poverty, immigration, religion and Brexit are threatening community cohesion at present. Jacinda Ardern's assertion that "They are US" is a challenge to us all.

Parish Council

from Richard Thatcher

Drainage work between Ridge Lane and Poor House Lane was due to be completed, probably in January 2020 that being the least bad time of year for total closure of the main road, and lasting 5 days. Highways have recently announced that it will now start on Tuesday 23rd April to last for 21 days. The Parish Council have taken issue with Highways over both the timing and the length of the closure, and will report back to the village through TWA if and when this timing is changed and/or finalised.

Local elections will take place on Thursday 2nd May, and will include the election of 5 councillors to serve on the Parish Council for the next 4 years. They will take office at the annual Parish Council meeting which will be held on Tuesday 14th May. Notice of Election was posted on the village notice board on Monday 18th March, with a deadline of Wednesday 3rd April for the submission of nominations to the SSDC.

Brief encounter

from Simon de Trey - White

One morning in February I had an amazing wildlife encounter. I was driving on South Street in Castle Cary having entered from the Galhampton direction. It was 04:20 and I was about 120 yards beyond the Bay Tree pub when I noticed an animal that I first took for a badger running in the centre of the road in front of me. I often see badgers in this vicinity but not usually until I have turned into the much smaller South Cary Lane a little further on, which is less built up. But as I drew closer something about it was not badger-like. It was ambling, not really running, straight away from me without turning its head so I only had a rear view and the tail was too long and thick, the body too slender. A cat with a fluffy tail then I thought and yet no, its gait was heavier than that and not feline, more serpentine. With utter astonishment I realised that it was an otter, yes an OTTER on a main street in Castle Cary! Obliging the beastie turned left into South Cary Lane which was my route too so I could continue my scrutiny. But still I didn't have a lateral view. Finally, after a further almost leisurely 60 yards it nosed its way left through a garden hedge gifting me the side-on view that removed any lingering doubt and confirmed my identification.

Wow! I'd finally seen an otter 'in the wild' but in the most unlikely place. I'd thought the only chance would have been on Dartmoor or in some other remote area. I drove on in a euphoric and excited state of shock, trying to fathom why it was there. Was it an escaped exotic pet, was it elderly or sick? Its leisurely progress in front of the car suggested this or that it was it from a local wild population habituated to traffic.

I've since done a little internet research and read that happily otter numbers have recovered significantly since the fifties and sixties when they were extinct across most of England and are now present in every county of England. So perhaps I shouldn't have been so surprised. Further enquiry shows that the River Cary rises in the town so perhaps it came from there? Though this too is surprising since from the little I've seen it appears scarcely more than a stream. Either way it was a magical experience that I treasure and still wonder at. The accompanying image is from a photo story on the Otter Fisherman of Bangladesh which I undertook in 2005. This documents the fascinating collaboration between fishermen and otters which drive fish into their nets, but that's another story!



From Simon de Trey - White

Allan Peters part two!

from Lynda Goldsmith

At the end of January the village hall invited Allan Peters to return to talk to us again about his fascinating work as a security officer for the Royal Family. He spoke extensively about his duties and the work of the Royal Protection Unit generally. The audience were still enthusiastically asking questions as we brought the evening to a close.

Many thanks to those who supported this event. Money from the ticket sales has gone towards the cost of the village defibrillator.

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// Fresh Thoughts Counselling // No 5 - sleep //
// Just Breathe Yoga // Pilates with Emily

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WELLNESS LIFESTYLE SLEEP

C
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Signs

from John Godley

You may have noticed that the directional road signs on the approaches to the village have become very dilapidated, their lack of maintenance being one of a series of council spending cuts. Ben Woolley has instigated a village project to renovate them (using his charm and persuasive powers to involve other members of the village who are not fast enough to hide!) It has started with the wooden finger signpost at the top of Wheatsheaf Hill (all the others are metal) which has involved removing the signs and digging up the post, in doing so we think the post was knocked over sometime in the past and broken at the base hence its shortness compared with the others and the top lost.



....as was

From John Godley

New signs have been made using the lettering from the old rotten ones, the post repainted and re-erected in its original position. (photo of the new sign is on the front cover). The plan is to give all the other signs a good scrub and new coats of paint over the summer. Lastly, a big thank you must be made to the fine carpenters of F. Cuff and Sons of Alweston who kindly plained down the wooden signs at no cost.

Spring Quiz at The Queens

from Derek Cole

The evening of March 21st saw a jolly bunch of villagers and guests turn up at the Queens Arms for the spring charity Quiz. Five teams wracked their brains to the fiendish questions set by expert quiz master Nigel Young. His questions on gardens seemed to flummox even the hardiest gardener, with the resultant scores being the lowest since records started (last week). The interval round of drawing freehand the outline of the United Kingdom caused a lot of hilarity with the results varying from something that closely resembled a snowman to the spitting image of Slimer from ghost busters. The prize of a Castle Gardens Voucher for the most accurate as judged by Derek Cole the scorer and marker went to the CD ROM's team. The overall quiz winners The Fact Hunters walked away (or staggered) with a crate of beer kindly donated by our generous hosts Jeannette and Gordon. The event raised £25 for the village hall and £26 for the church.

Gardening Society

from Stephen Sparrow

The latest meeting of the Society was held at the Village Hall on the 20th March. Christine Brain talked about 'Wall Shrubs and Climbers'. Christine has spent forty years working at Barrington Court after completing her horticultural qualification; her talk was illustrated with slides of a wide variety of plants and she explained the ideal conditions for the different types and cultivars. There were the obvious examples of Clematis, roses and Wisteria but also some of the more unusual and attractive plants. Many of us left the meeting with some great ideas of how we might improve our gardens.

The final meeting of the winter season is the Discount Evening at Castle Gardens on the 17th April 2019.

Can I Improve My Memory?

from Valerie Singleton

It was shown at 8pm on Channel 4 on the 22nd March and is now available on catch up TV, if you missed it.

In *Can I Improve My Memory?*, a one-off 60 minute special, Michael Buerk presents a unique memory challenge, in which three celebrities have just two weeks to become experts in unlikely topics they know nothing about. The aim of the competition is to encourage each celebrity to learn new memory techniques, which are taught to them by world memory Grandmaster Mark Channon. Fashion presenter Gok Wan will be quizzed about the periodic table, veteran broadcaster **Valerie Singleton** is tested on UK grime artists, and reality star Joey Essex must learn all about William the Conqueror. They also face a classic memory challenge, where they have to memorise random objects under pressure.

Message from the PCC Churchwardens

from Chris Bunker

The response to our recent appeal to support St Andrew's church and the cemetery has been most heart-warming and reflects the great generosity of spirit that the village enjoys. The PCC is extremely grateful to those new and existing donors who have contributed to date, including many who are not active church-goers. With this improved financial support and its small, but diminishing, band of volunteers, the PCC will endeavour to maintain the church and cemetery in the appropriate condition to provide their essential focus for our community and Parish life.

Once again, many, many thanks to all those who have responded positively to our appeal.

Marion Chapman and Peter Prager

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Queen Camel Tuesday Group

from Marion Chapman

In February, we welcomed Bonnie Sartin. He was a member of the Yetties folk group for 50 years. His talk concerned the early days of the group, including their first booking for the BBC via the Yetminster telephone box! He gave a wonderful insight of the group's tours across Europe, the Far East and Africa. Although faced with strange and sometimes unsettling food, unreliable flights, guns and other strange happenings, they kept on singing.

Bonnie also slotted unaccompanied songs in with his talk. Many of the songs the Yetties sang were written by the group. Bonnie proved to be a versatile and amusing speaker.

March saw a totally different speaker. Allan Peters. A Security Protection Officer for various members of the Royal Family. He was enlisted after the failed attempt to kidnap Princess Anne in 1975. He told us how he and fellow officers have to use their ingenuity to protect those under their charge from intrusive attempts by the media, and from those who might seek to harm them. And he quashed any ideas of conspiracy plots regarding the death of Princess Diana.

Again an interesting and thought provoking talk.

Our next meeting will be held at the Memorial Hall in Queen Camel on Tuesday, April 2nd at 10am. Please contact Maureen McDermott 01458 224503, or Marion Chapman 01963 220741 for further details.

Farming News

from Brian Green

The weather has been very much on our side this winter. The sheep wintered well and came into lamb in good condition, producing plenty of lambs and went out onto plenty of grass. The mild conditions have greatly reduced normal early lamb losses. A good start with plenty of milk will reduce the time taken to finish them. I just hope that the export market stays open otherwise we'll be in trouble.

Spring barley yields have been poor the past two years. Last summer was too dry and the year before we had a very wet harvest. This year we drilled the crops in February, seven weeks earlier than last year's late sowing, so we are hoping for better yields. Unfortunately, a lot of our malting barley goes to Europe. The buyers are sitting on their hands and it's virtually impossible to sell forward.

The warm weather in February not only brought toads out of hibernation early but also woke up the global warmers with their usual predictions of doom and gloom. Were told that food production has to increase dramatically to feed the ever-increasing world population. This increase will need large amounts of extra carbon dioxide. I am not sure how this squares with the increasing use of electric vehicles and carbon free energy, anyway I doubt we'll be producing enough electricity. If I ever buy an electric car, I'll also buy a petrol generator to put in the boot, just in case.

Someone once said that politicians seldom do much good but when they get things wrong, they do a lot of harm. The one positive about this nonsense is that it's keeping them occupied. It's noticeable that we haven't seen too many new laws and regulations, we haven't been to war and seem to be living within our means. Long may it last!

Buzz News

from Jeremy Lee - local bee keeper

As I write, after the storms of the last few weeks (and a false start in February) spring seems to be in the air and indeed we have reached the equinox today. The girls have survived the mild winter and all three hives, on first impressions, appear to be in good health. I say girls as the men are brutally starved and physically ejected from the hive by the women once their biological use has come to an end in late summer. Yes, it appears that the bees worked out #metoo millions of years ago. Still the boys have a lovely few months generally lazing around, eschewing any housework or child care duties, demanding to be fed and waiting for the chance to procreate with a beautiful virgin queen - the latter of which is by no means guaranteed. The hard work for them starts now as they need to build up the numbers from the 5,000 or so who looked after the queen during the winter to ten times that size by late June in order to make maximum use of the summer flowering period. It is thought that one worker bee will produce half a teaspoon of honey in it's short life and it takes a lot of half teaspoons to make a few jars of honey.

The queen will be busy laying eggs which need to be tended until they finally hatch into worker bees which in turn take on nursery duties before graduating to cleaning and then finally flying off to forage the countryside. The bees you might see in your gardens on the warmer days will be looking for early flowering plants to collect nectar to make honey and also pollen (which you often see on their legs) which is a rich source of protein that is fed to the growing larvae. Next month, the real bonanza starts in the form of Hawthorn and other flowering trees. The Green's oil seed rape at Whitcombe Farm,

which this year is very handily positioned 400 meters from the hives, will start to show it's bright yellow flowers and no doubt the bees will gorge themselves on it, completely ignoring all the beautiful apple, pear, apricot and cherry blossom in our garden. If all goes to plan I should be spinning off the first honey by mid May, although I still have plenty from last year's beautiful summer.

On the down side, there is an interloper lurking across the channel who, unlike our politicians, is paying no attention to the Brexit debacle and is intent on invading our shores. The Asian Hornet arrived in France in 2004 (supposedly in a cargo shipment) and has now populated the whole of the nation and gained footholds in all of the adjoining countries. It arrived in the Channel Islands two years ago and there have been a few sitings in this country but luckily all the nests so far have been found and destroyed. It feeds on honey bees amongst other things and can wipe out whole apiaries very quickly. In some parts of France beekeepers have just given up. Any queens that may have arrived unnoticed and managed to overwinter will now be looking for nest sites and if anyone sees a dodgy looking large black and dark orange wasp to report it to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk. Our native species are under such environmental pressure these days that we could seriously do without this latest curve ball coming from Europe. All in all, the rich circle of life is starting once again with the birds singing loudly, the lambs bouncing around the fields . A small word of advice to my fellow men folk of the parish - before popping down the pub or retiring to the comfy chair, might be worth checking if the Hoover needs running around or the washing up needs attention as I haven't seen many virgin queens in the West Country of recent!!

A Dog's View from the Sofa

from Rudi



If anyone's even remotely interested, it was my birthday this month and I've reached the grand old age of 6. 'So, three quarters of the way through then!' were the only

birthday greetings I received from the OM, said with just a touch too much enthusiasm. As per normal, the event was celebrated with zero fanfare, no present and certainly no party. Nothing changes.

The lack of celebrations may have something to do with the massive bill the OM's just received for raising the garden fence by yet another couple of feet. My predilection for the opposite sex has led me to jumping out every which way and hurtling off to court the lady in question. Could this be some sort of mid-life crisis? Or have I passed that point and this is what we blokes get up to in retirement? Although I have to say I haven't noticed the OM getting up to anything like this. Pilates, tennis and swimming seem to be his only vices. While fractions have never been my strong point, I can't help thinking that as he's coming up to 70 I'm not the only one three quarters of the way through.

At least Wales won the Six Nations and the OM is a particularly happy bunny at the moment. He's even happier that England only managed a draw against Scotland. Eager to capitalise on this turn of events, the OG was able to wave the fencing bill under his nose and he paid it without so much as a whimper. A shame about poor old Italy, but we can't have everything.

Village Hall Notes

from John Godley

The Allan Peters talk part two raised £300 towards the Defibrillator, which will be installed in the phone box by Old School Cottage of which I have seen Stephen Sparrow tidying up in preparation (thank you Stephen and thank you to the Goggs family for allowing a power cable to be run from their house to the phone box).

There are still plans in the air for future events but at the moment the confirmed bookings are the ever popular Brunch on the 6th June, Scruffs towards the end of September (subject to Chris and Jac L-P letting us use their field, I haven't actually asked them yet... oops) and a Silent Auction on the 15th November. If we have anything else to add to this list we will advertise them on Susanna's ever efficient TWA e-mails and posters around the village.

Spring has sprung

from Gerada Solomon



Church Calendar

Sunday, 7th April 2019 – 5th Sunday of Lent

9.30 am Village Service at Corton Denham

Wednesday, 10th April 2019

7.00 pm Sacred Space at Sparkford

Sunday, 14th April 2019 – Palm Sunday

10.00 am Together at 10 at Weston Bampfylde, preceded by procession from the Village Hall with donkeys

Monday, 15th April 2019

7.00 pm Evening Service for Holy Week at Queen Camel

Tuesday, 16th April 2019

7.00 pm Evening Service for Holy Week at Sutton Montis

Wednesday, 17th April 2019

7.00 pm Evening Service for Holy Week at Weston Bampfylde

Thursday, 18th April 2019 – Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm Holy Communion and Symbolic Washing of Feet at West Camel

Friday, 19th April 2019 – Good Friday

Pilgrimage walk with a short act of worship at each church, everyone is welcome to join in for as little or as much as you wish:

9.30 am Start: St Andrew's, Corton Denham

11.15 am thence to Holy Trinity, Sutton Montis

12.15 am and Holy Cross, Weston Bampfylde
(Where we will have lunch)

1.30 pm and St Mary Magdalene, Sparkford

2.30 pm and St Barnabas, Queen Camel,

3.30 pm and All Saints, West Camel for a final act of worship

Sunday, 21st April 2019 – Easter Sunday

6.30 am Dawn Service on Corton Denham Beacon

9.30 am Holy Communion at Sutton Montis with Corton Denham

Sunday, 28th April 2019 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

4.30 pm Tea, Prayer & APCM at Corton Denham

Saturday, 4th May 2019

2.30 pm Wedding of Jonathan Scrancher and Jennifer Harris at Corton Denham

Sunday, 5th May 2019 - 3rd Sunday of Easter (White)

9.30 am Village Service with a Rogation theme at Corton Denham

Wednesday, 8th May 2019

7.00 pm Sacred Space at Corton Denham

Sunday, 12th May 2019 – 4th Sunday of Easter

6.30 pm BCP Evening Prayer at Corton Denham

Sunday, 19th May 2019 – 5th Sunday of Easter

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion at Corton Denham

Sunday, 26th May 2019 – 6th Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Together at 10 at QUEEN CAMEL

Thursday, 30th May 2018 – Ascension Day

7.00 pm Ascension Day Service at Queen Camel

Thank you from the Lord's Larder

With your support during February we have been able to help 246 adults and 131 children in need of emergency food parcels in South Somerset. Thanks to everyone who responded to last month's appeal for food items. It is very much appreciated by everyone who receives a Lord's Larder food parcel.

Easter

With Easter in the middle of April this year, I have already been asked if we will take Easter Eggs, and Easter Biscuits to go out in food parcels. If you would like to give either Easter Eggs or Easter Biscuits, that would be great.

If you would like to know what other items we are currently running short of in the Lord's Larder, we would appreciate donations of the following: -



**Cuppa Soup
Jars of Meat Paste
Tinned Mince
Tins of Carrots
Tinned Potato
Tinned Custard
Jars of Pasta Sauce
Sugar
Cereals
Biscuits
Long Life Milk
Toilet Roll
Tins of Dog Food.**

Without your help we would not be able to assist so many people in need.
Many thanks for all your continued support.

Clergy Details

Associate Priest: The Revd Preb. Rose Hoskins
01935 440026 revroseanne@gmail.com (days off: Sats)
Benefice Administrator: Rosemary Rymer
01963 441595 admincamvale@gmail.com

VILLAGE WEBSITE: WWW.CORTONDENHAM.ORG.UK

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