

Corton Denham News



OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2019

ISSUE 236

The Editor's Desk

Preparing this edition of the magazine has been a bit of a rush.

As many of you know, our daughter presented us with our first granddaughter a couple of weeks ago, six weeks earlier than expected, with the resulting melee of hospital runs, food parcels for the son-in-law and operating a laundry service for Babygros and tiny mittens.

Whilst it has been a bit chaotic it has reminded me of how lucky we are to have a health service full of very skilled and caring people. Whilst the service itself is under strain, the people working in it are to be admired for their dedication.

As we come into the winter period, slips, trips, the flu and winter bugs will mean we'll need the NHS more than ever. And as you see your pharmacist, nurse, GP or health worker please let them know how appreciated and valued they are.



Our lovely Pitchen Path Garden. Which is lovingly cared for by Joan and Stephen Sparrow.

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

December/January - 21 November 2019

February/March - 23 January 2020

April/May - 24 March 2020

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.

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

		3					4	
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Parish Letter

from Rosemary Rymer

The autumn equinox has very recently passed on. The season of harvest festival services has begun where we thank God for the plentiful harvests of fruit and veg. The clocks go back an hour in October - all signs that winter is coming again!

A time when many of us relish a warm cosy fire, maybe a open fire, maybe a wood-burner, or maybe a gas fire - and we can sit around and enjoy the warmth radiating from it, having eaten a good meal. But this is not the case for everyone. There are many people of all ages, who will sit huddled in a chair with all their warmest clothes on and a blanket over the knees and gloves on their hands trying to cherish every vestige of heat that they have, and their stomach rumbling because their meagre meal is barely satisfying. Why? Because many, in our society today, can't afford to eat, and keep their homes warm.

The Lord's Larder in Yeovil are receiving more requests for help. If you read their website ycstyeovil.org.uk you will see that this August they had a 57% increase over the same month last year from families, struggling to feed them during the school holidays. Overall they helped 270 adults and 220 children during the month. On average the demand for their food parcels is up by 16%. Many of these people will be on benefits, the value of which has not been keeping up with the cost of living. Many will be working, but on low-end wages which are also not keeping up with the cost of living despite the press telling us that all wages are rising. The number of zero hour contracts is still rising. For those people, income therefore is very flexible, so that budgeting is nigh on impossible!

Can you help? Each of our churches has a box for items that the Lord's Larder needs and someone delivers the contents to the centre on a regular basis. Almost anything is received with thanks, provided that it is well within its best before date. Not fresh goods obviously, but tinned and dry foods, which will store for a period. Each month the website is updated with the food stuffs that they are most in need of. This month's list comprises jars of pasta sauce, tins of soup, tins of macaroni cheese, tins of hot dogs, tins of meatballs, tins of mackerel, tins of fruit, UHT milk, sugar, toothbrushes, shower gel, shampoo, ladies' and men's deodorant and nappies size 4,5 & 6. Please pop into the church and deposit one item (or more, if possible) after you have done your shopping, perhaps once a month? You will be helping the Lord's Larder to continue the sterling work that they are currently doing, and know that you are helping people who are really struggling.

Farewell to Audrey

We are very sorry to say farewell to Audrey Robson who will shortly be moving to Sherborne.

Audrey and her husband Ian came to the village 24 years ago. Both were keen golfers and after she was widowed she continued to play until she recently took up bowling. She was involved with the church, was a member of the PCC for some years and was on the church flower rota. Audrey enjoyed the village art classes and playing bridge. She often hosted the weekly coffee mornings and joined in village events and activities, always smiling, cheerful and helpful. We will miss her but she will not be far away and we hope she will visit us frequently. We wish her well and much happiness in her new home.

All thing bright and beautiful

from Liz Ellis

Once again it is that time of the year when we will be decorating our church on Saturday October 19th for Harvest Festival. We invite you to pop in to give a helping hand for a short time and consider joining our flower rota team. We pride ourselves on keeping our beautiful church open for visitors made bright and welcoming by our flowers.

We urgently need some more volunteers to add to our rota especially now Audrey is moving to the excitement of Sherborne and has been a stalwart of the team for many years. Thank you Audrey you can come and lend a hand whenever you wish.

You do not have to be a talented flower arranger or a committed church goer. Just someone who enjoys the reward of helping to keep our church bright and beautiful.

Either pop in on Saturday October 19th. 10.00-11.30 or ring Liz Ellis on 220 227.

Donations of flowers, foliage, fruit and veg, gratefully received and of course not to forget lots and lots of items for the Yeovil food bank.



from Simon de Trey White

Gardening Society

from Stephen Sparrow

The CD Gardening Society held the judging of the summer container competition on Saturday 24th August.

We were lucky to have a beautiful sunny morning and a good crowd enjoyed tea/coffee and cakes on the lawn at Thorpe Vista. There were not as many entries as we had hoped because the challenging growing conditions of the dry summer had left a number of people with containers they were not prepared to share publicly! The entries that did come in were of a reasonable standard, but one that appealed to all was that of Lizzie Ellis whose inspired choice of a cream fuchsia to go with the other supplied plants took the first prize. Linda Goldsmith took second prize with some lovely plants in a 'very heavy' trough. A special commendation went to Christine Hewett whose tender care produced a creditable pot of flowers.

Thanks to all who helped to provide a memorable morning.

The first meeting of the new season is on Wednesday 16th October at 7.30 on the subject of fuchsias.



Bell Tower

from John Godley

A few weeks ago one of the bell ropes broke during a practice session which caused some consternation. On inspection the rest of the ropes looked in poor condition too. Our church immediately stepped in and paid for 5 new ropes which our Bell Captain, Duncan, ordered from Mendip Ropemakers in Taunton. Not having ever hung ropes in the Bell Tower and seeing that the existing ropes had been tied in different ways, the effectiveness of Google stepped in, and armed with a printed description and guides we soon replaced the existing 20 year old ropes. The problem is that the new ropes have quite a bit of 'give' in them and need to be stretched by regular use, this resulted in quite a disharmonious practice on the following Thursday as the ropes bounced the bells around. Please have patience over the next few practices as we let the ropes settle in!

If anyone wishes to see the bells in action please do come to the tower any Thursday evening around 7.30pm and you will be made very welcome although it might be worth phoning one of the bell ringers in advance to make sure we are there on the day you wish to visit. On climbing the bell tower you will come to a door to the room we ring the bells from, please knock and wait for someone to let you in.

We are keeping the ropes we have just replaced as reserves but the ropes used before that will be put up for auction in the Village Hall Silent Auction in November, apparently the rope 'sallys' make very good draught excluders!



Welcome to The Giles Family

from Liz and Tim

We have moved from Northamptonshire where we have been for the last 30 years.

Tim works predominantly from home and we wanted a change. We have 3 children, Hatty 27, Henry 26 and Roddy 23 and a springer spaniel Bonnie.

Anyone passing Drakes do come and say hello just knock on the door and come in for a coffee.

Liz enjoys a light hearted game of tennis and Tim is obsessed with skiing.

Scruffs

from John Godley

The sun shone kindly on Scruffs this year, ensuring an excellent turn out of people and dogs to enjoy a wonderful village event. The day brought in £400 to the Village Hall.

Thanks to Chris and Jac L-P for the loan of their field and for their amazing fairground tent to house the tea and cake stand. Thanks also to Joan Sparrow and her dedicated team for organising the teas and cakes and all those who donated the food.

The tombola, put together by Pene Dene, was a success, although David Morgan has asked for those who won items that they subsequently find to have absolutely no reason to use not to donate them to the Silent Auction in November!

A certain regular contributor to this magazine. (see page 10) managed to find himself on the wrong side of the judges and I understand has now lodged a formal protest, which will be given all of the attention it deserves :-)



ST ANDREW'S ANGELS

I have taken over from Peter Prager as Churchwarden at St Andrew's Church and am revising our long list of "Angels", the kind souls in the village willing to help to maintain and run our church, independently of belief, faith or religious "belonging".



We already have a terrific team cleaning the church every month and a smaller but very energetic team clearing the churchyard and the cemetery. We have amazing teams of Church Openers and Flower Arrangers, but we need a few more Angels for "inside church" duties such as music and coffee providers at services. Anyone happy to join the "Angels" please give me a call on 220735) for a chat.

Many thanks!

Susanna Thatcher



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Are you new to Yoga and want to build strength and confidence?

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Farming News

from Brian Green

The weather this Summer has been very favourable for the mixed livestock and arable farming in the south of the country. Although dry we had just enough rain to keep the crops and grass growin. As I write this we have had three wet days which should provide us with plenty of autumn grass for the sheep. Actually, rain is now known as “a weather event” and more than two inches “a biblical weather event”, as you can see, I’m catching up on global warming speak.

We finished the harvest in mid-August, the rape and malting barley was dry, but we had to dry the wheat. The rape was fairly poor, but the barley was good and the wheat very good with high bushell weights and very bold grain, however the protein levels were low and unless the millers reduce their standards it will go as feed.

We have only got seventy lambs left out of over a thousand and these will soon be gone. From a farming point of view things have gone well, however, with the exception of pork and rape seed, prices of most food commodities have dropped sharply. Beef farmers are losing at least £200.00 per animal and are destocking.

Apparently eating meat is a very good way of reducing carbon emissions. Livestock enrich the soil with their manure and increase the growth of the plants and grass they feed on. The more growth the more carbon dioxide is absorbed and more oxygen released. The by-product is high protein meat that is full of vitamins and minerals that we all need. Vegetarians obviously don’t contribute to this process and are apparently responsible for an increase in

emissions, not only for the reasons above but also because most vegetables tend to be grown a long way from where they are consumed. Beans from Africa, Asparagus from Peru. In fact 80% of our vegetables are imported, carried by diesel lorries, planes and ships all emitting fumes. Unsurprisingly it’s the organic veggies that do the most damage because organic vegetables only yield half the crop by volume and so need twice as much land. This means that one acre of organic vegetables will only absorb half of the carbon dioxide than an acre of non-organic.

The shooting season is upon us and there’s plentiful supply of partridges being sold cheaply. One of the best ways of cooking them is in a casserole. First brown the birds in butter and set aside. Next add some streaky bacon and fry. At this point add vegetables, onions, celery, chopped carrots and garlic. Soften then add flour cook for a minute and then add stock and red wine. Boil stirring until thickened. Season and add button mushrooms and a few sprigs of thyme. Replace partridge cover and cook at 140* for three hours plus, remove partridge and add a couple of handfuls of peas. Serve with crusty bread or mashed potatoes.



Visitors to the garden part 2

from Robin Odgers

This continues from the last editions article.

Hedgehogs: Badgers are known also to predate hedgehogs especially the young but in the last two years, we have begun to see hedgehogs again in the garden. They leave characteristic droppings on the lawn: black or dark brown, a couple of inches long and tapered. Good to know that they are back. I think the population is down from 30 million in the 1950s to about one million now, with the numbers plummeting by half since 2000. The loss of hedgerows and invertebrates have contributed. At last this decline seems to be reversing.

Foxes: We periodically see a very smart dog fox with a lovely black tip to his tail walk sedately across the lawn. There are reputedly 240,000 foxes in the UK with, of course, these days a large urban population, which probably cause more problems than their rural counterparts.

Jays: This may seem a rather random bird to include but we see them often and although they, along with magpies and crows, have a reputation for serious predation of songbird eggs and young, they have a great and important redeeming feature. Over a season, a jay may hide in the ground some ten thousand acorns, but it will only go back to find half of them, so that they are a potent source of natural oak tree regeneration!

Sparrow hawks: We more often see the evidence of their feeding in the form of wood pigeon carcasses but sometimes surprise the bird itself, more usually the grey/blue plumaged male which is half the size of the brownish female. We haven't found their nest but

think it's here in the garden. Their distinctive call is either a repetitive kek-kek-kek or a rather squealing peee-ee.

And finally, Cats: We used to have a splendid pair of proper Orlando marmalade cats which came from a rescue centre and were almost feral. Gradually they settled and became very affectionate. However, and of course this is the big problem, they would appear with all sorts of offerings, often not properly killed. The current statistics are that the 10.3 million domestic cats in the UK are responsible for taking 275 million prey items a year of which three quarters are small mammals and a quarter birds.

Keep your eyes peeled for the wildlife in your garden.

Village Hall Notes

from David Morgan

Silent Auction 15th November 2019

Just a reminder of the forthcoming Silent Auction to be held in aid of Village Hall funds on Friday 15th November 2019 at 7 pm.

Lots that have already been kindly offered include a week in a Holiday Cottage in the Scottish Highlands, a week in a Holiday Cottage in Brittany, a Georgian style Dolls House, a John Baker print and original picture, and a large bag of well rotted steaming horse manure (which will not be on display on the night).

But we are still looking for more lots – any unwanted Xmas Gifts or other items you could donate or any services you could offer will be gratefully received. Please contact Pene Dene (220460) or Caroline MacGregor (220250) who are coordinating the lots.

A Dog's View from the Sofa

from Rudi



'Reputation is all' so they say and mine has taken a bit of a battering in recent times, owing to certain misdemeanours around the village. So when Scruffs came along, it was too good an opportunity to pass up - win a few races, parade around a bit – what could be easier?

So there I was, in the very first and my very favourite race, the Sausage Race. The whistle went and I hurtled off towards the sausages, making mincemeat of the 50 yard dash. Leaving the OG flailing in my wake, I somehow got diverted, snaffled half the other contestants' sausages, plus my own, and still got back to the finishing line first. But suddenly there was an almighty shout from the Judge – 'DISQUALIFIED!'. Not a quiet word in my ear, oh no! But so loud that the entire crowd could hear. The shame of it! How would I ever live this down?

Then there was the Potato and Spoon Race but before this even started, Tico, being a Labrador and partial to the odd snack, managed to down three of the potatoes. And what happened to him? Nothing.

Finally it was the 12 Legged Race, from which I wisely abstained this year, only for a child to end up actually carrying his dog across the line. And what happened to him? Nothing of course –

being a child always helps as they can never seem to put a foot wrong. Mind you I was pleased to see that the Judge and his partner were sent sprawling by Florence, the new Spinone on the block – a happy sight indeed.

So if the Judge is reading this, I demand a Steward's Enquiry, and await the plop of the 'First' rosette on the doormat any day now.

Queen Camel Tuesday Group

from Marion Chapman

Our August meeting saw 41 of our members enjoying a 'Ladies-wot-lunch' at The Walnut Tree in West Camel. Food, service and company were excellent.

Our September Meeting saw Steve Darby back with us. He talked of his experiences working in the National Provincial Bank, and equated them with the television programme, 'Dad's Army'. We were all reminded of how we always had a local Bank Manager we could talk to, and how things have changed with most branches closing down. While there were a lot of amusing anecdotes there was the underlying feeling that Banks have not changed for the better.

On October 1st, The Tuesday Group will meet as usual in the Memorial Hall at 10am. Our speaker will be Miranda Pender and the title of her talk is 'Lifting the Lid!'

For further information please contact Marion Chapman. Tel 01963 220741.

Church Calendar

Sunday, 6th October 2019 – 16th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am Village Service at Corton Denham

11.00 am Harvest Festival at Queen Camel, followed by lunch in the Hall

4.00 pm Sunday @ Four at West Camel

6.30 pm Holy Communion at Weston Bampfylde

Wednesday, 9th October 2019

7.00 pm Sacred Space at Sparkford

Sunday, 13th October 2019 – 17th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am Informal Service at Sparkford

11.00 am Harvest Festival at West Camel, followed by lunch in the church

6.30 pm BCP Evening Prayer at Weston Bampfylde

6.30 pm Harvest Festival at Sutton Montis, followed by supper at Langworthy

Sunday, 20th October 2019 – 18th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion at Queen Camel

9.30 am Matins at Sparkford

11.15 am Informal Service at Sutton Montis

11.30 am Harvest Festival at Corton Denham, followed by lunch in the Village Hall

Sunday, 27th October 2019 – 19th Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Together at 10 at Queen Camel

Sunday, 3rd November 2019 – 4th Sunday before Advent/All Saints' Day

9.30 am Village Service at Corton Denham

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion at Sparkford

9.30 am All Age Service at Queen Camel

4.00 pm Sunday @ Four at West Camel

6.30 pm All Souls' Service at Queen Camel

Saturday, 9th November 2019

1.00 pm Wedding of George Guilford and Cheryl Gardiner at Sparkford

Sunday 10th November 2019 – Remembrance Sunday

10.55 am Remembrance Service at Queen Camel

10.55 am Remembrance Service at Sparkford

10.55 am Remembrance Service at Corton Denham

10.55 am Remembrance Service at Sutton Montis

10.55 am Remembrance Service at West Camel

5.30 pm Remembrance Service at Weston Bampfylde

Wednesday, 13th November 2019

7.00 pm Sacred Space at Corton Denham

Sunday, 17th November 2019 – 2nd Sunday before Advent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion at Corton Denham

11.00 am BCP Holy Communion at West Camel

11.00 am Family Service at Weston Bampfylde

11.15 am Informal Morning Service at Sutton Montis

Sunday, 24th November 2019 – Christ the King

10.00 am Together at 10 at Corton Denham

Farewell to Peter & Sue Prager

On Wednesday 28 August a very large portion of the village gathered at Chris and Marion Chapman's home to say farewell to Peter and Sue Prager and to wish them all happiness in their new home.

They lived in Corton Denham since 1992, sometimes on their own, often with their family of mothers, children and granddaughters Annabelle and Evelyn, with the four generations sharing their lovely and lively home.

Before retirement, Peter, an ex Royal Navy man, worked at Leonardo's and Sue as a high level teaching assistant. Committed and active Christians, they were very involved with our village, also with the Rotary Club and enthusiastic participants of classic car - and Corton Denham Players' shows!

They leave a very large hole behind: we shall remember them for their smiles, for their voices, for their response to our needs and their love.



On the sad occasion of Peter's last service in Corton Denham as "a resident" (for we hope he will come back and pass on to us his clear and unique Christian message!), Derek Wheeler presented him with a metal Pirate (what else would you give a former Royal Navy man and his wife?) on behalf of his "faithful and loving congregation".



Clergy Details

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