

Corton Denham News



DECEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

ISSUE 237

The Editor's Desk

I'm getting bored with all the bickering and back-biting I'm seeing in the press from our politicians right now. I've even closed some of my social media accounts because of the negativity, trolling and bullying I saw there. I used to love logging on and reading people's stories of happiness and fun. It got to the stage where I would come away from reading feeling sad and deflated.

All I really want is for people to be decent human beings and be nice to each other.

I'm so grateful that I live in a community where I see that every day. From Scruffs to coffee morning's, from the Harvest Festival to Remembrance, from the Silent Auction to the Poppy Collection, I see the very best of kindness, caring and generosity from my fellow villagers.

We still have the famous Gardening Society Christmas Party to come, which is a great community event to end another year.

Please keep doing what you are doing, keep being nice to each other, keep looking out for each other and especially over the festive season. Wherever you are this Christmas and whoever you are with, have a wonderful time and I wish you all the very best for 2020. I know I am around over the Christmas period, so if you want a cuppa, I can come to you or you can come to me, just call 01963 220495. Merry Christmas one and all.

Welcome to Jed and Julie who have moved into Westlea, Middle Ridge Lane. We will hear from them for the next edition.

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

Feburary/March - 23 January 2020
April/May - 24 March 2020
June/July - 22 May 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.

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

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

Parish Letter

from Revd Rose



When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost.
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among people
To make music in the heart.

From the Mood of Christmas and other Celebrations
by Howard Thurman ©1985 Friends United Press.

These words written by a remarkable man. Howard Thurman was born in 1899 in Daytona Beach, Florida and died in 1981. The grandson of former slaves Thurman, who was a Baptist preacher, became the 1st African/American Dean of Chapel at the traditionally white Boston University and the founder of the 1st interracial and interfaith congregation in the United States. A poet, mystic, philosopher and theologian, he once wrote 'there must always be remaining in everyone's life some place for the singing of angels. Where the commonplace is shot through now with new glory. In it the angels sing'.

Sometimes amid all the build up to Christmas it can be hard to find space to hear the singing of the angels. Those little gaps in the wall to wall commercialisation where glimpses of the love and mystery of God can shine through. And yet, amid the frenetic present buying, partying, (and dare I even mention it, on top of it all an election) somehow Thurman's words seem even more appropriate this year. His poem reminds us that Christmas isn't just a one-day wonder. In the words of a car sticker I saw a while ago 'God is for life not just for Christmas.' When the song of the angels is stilled, the star in the sky is gone, the kings and princes are home and the shepherds are back with their flocks, it is then that the work of Christmas begins.

The old traditional carol reminds us there are 12 days to the Christmas season and that's only the beginning.

To help us to reflect on this in our Churches we will be featuring a little booklet called 'Follow the Star'. Beginning on December 25th and running through to Jan 5th when the kings/wise/men/princes do indeed make their way home, Follow the Star takes us on a journey of discovery with a reading, reflection and a prayer for each day inviting us to see life afresh through the light of the Christmas star, a sign of God's hope and promises. In each of our churches there will be sample copies of the booklet along with leaflets about how you can obtain one. Follow the Star is also available as a free app for phones and tablets, you can find out more by accessing the Follow the Star Website.

The booklet opens with the following prayer which is my prayer for all of us as we prepare to celebrate the wonder of a Saviour's birth.

God of wonder, as we follow the star,
open our minds to search for you,
open our eyes to see you
and open our hearts to receive your love
this Christmas and always. Amen

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2020.

Remembrance Service

from Susanna Thatcher

"n Sunday 10th November over 50 villagers, including children, attended a meaningful Remembrance Service taken by the Reverend Frank Wright.

The Church was beautifully dressed for the occasion and well over a dozen members of the congregation contributed to ensure we remember properly what is still of great importance in our lives and to honour those who died for us.



Silent Auction

from Charles Sime

More than 60 people attended a very successful Silent Auction in the Village Hall on Friday 15th November. Caroline and Penny did a brilliant job in encouraging villagers and friends to donate more than 90 lots for the auction as well as setting up the hall and cataloguing the lots to attract maximum interest.

A big thank you is due to all the donors who were extremely generous and there was a wide range of opportunities to tempt bidders to part with their cash. The lots included a range of holiday accommodation, centre court tickets for the tennis at Queens, a day at the races, dinners at the House of Commons and The Queen's Arms and unusually, a ride in a tank! In addition there were some nice wines and spirits,

paintings and ornaments on offer and much much more, including three bell ringing ropes from the Church which I thought was a nice bit of village history although I was seen off on this lot by a much more determined bidder.

We all had a couple of hours to make our bids and it was good to see that there was some very healthy competition for a good number of the lots. During this time we were able to take advantage of an absolutely terrific buffet supper laid on by Lynda, Joan and Edith – it was billed as finger food I think, but it was rather more than that and we all ate very well indeed. As usual David and John served with distinction as our barmen for the evening.

So many thanks again to all those who generously donated lots and to those who came and bid for them. After expenses the evening produced a profit of some £2800 which is a marvellous result and a great boost to Village Hall funds. It was a very enjoyable occasion and the whole Village Hall Committee deserve our congratulations for putting on such a splendid event.



Eloping in New York

from Claude and Sarah Kaplan

Sarah and I have known each other for over 10 years, and have lived together for three years. For the last two years we have enjoyed living in The Clock House, in Corton Denham. We have visited America several times together, including New York, and when we decided in 2018 that we wanted to 'tie the knot' eloping to the 'Big Apple' seemed the perfect choice.

We landed in New York late on the evening of 1st October. We then had a couple of days to recover from the jetlag and visit City Hall to get our marriage licence.

Two days later on the sunlit morning of 4th October at 9.30am, we stood on the beautiful marble steps of the New York Public Library and were married by our Officiant, Chelsea, whilst our Spanish photographer/witness, Marta was busy taking photos. After the rather emotional ceremony we walked through New York to the stunning Grand Central Terminal station to enjoy celebratory cocktails and a wedding breakfast (to soak up the rather early-in-the-day cocktails). We had a few more days in New York visiting some of our favourite places as well as making some new discoveries. We then took a train to Boston, and hired a car to explore a very stormy Cape Cod. We ended our honeymoon with three days in glorious Vermont enjoying some 'leaf peeping' as the Fall was at its peak. A fabulous time was had by both of us, lots of very happy and fun memories created (takeaway pizza makes a perfect wedding day supper) and our future life together to look forward to.

Gardening Society

from Stephen Sparrow

The AGM was held on Wednesday 20th November at 7.00pm in the Village Hall and was well attended. After apologies for absence and accepting the minutes from the previous AGM, the Chairman presented his report for the year and Jenny Jackson presented the year's accounts, which were accepted. A number of changes were made to the Committee; Charles Sime resigned from the Committee and was thanked by the Chairman for all the work he has put in over the years; Jenny Parfitt also resigned from the committee, due to time pressures at home, but hopes to take a more active part in the future; Stephen Sparrow stepped down as Chairman and Richard Goldsmith was elected in his place. There were still a couple of committee vacancies and the Chairman said that any volunteers would be welcome and could be co-opted onto the committee.

There was some discussion about arrangements for the Christmas Party to be held on 11th December.

The AGM was followed by a very informative talk by Greg Morter of Castle Cary on 'The Evolution of Plants'. A lively discussion was followed by coffee and biscuits.



Our Harvest Festival

from Carole Carter

On 20th October, 48 souls made their way to our Village Church in beautiful weather, called by the ringing bells, to celebrate the Harvest Festival. St Andrew's looked spectacular, decked as it was in a breath-taking collection of floral arrangements organised by Lizzy Ellis and a team of nine flower arrangers. There was garden produce as well as bought groceries all heading for the Yeovil Foodbank, along with any money raised at the later raffle.

The service was simple and uplifting with a strong central theme of conserving food miles and using local produce wherever possible. It was accompanied by Ann Alderman on the organ and John Griffin's father, Vincent on the violin. Vincent's friend Gerry had come with him from Ireland and played the button accordion. Their music was touching and beautiful, lending a very special feeling to the service. It felt uplifting and spiritual.

Then 45 people went to the Village Hall to partake of a veritable 'Harvest Feast,' kindly supplied by 18 people from the village. The Hall had been prepared on the Saturday by 5 more villagers and the food laid out on the Sunday by 3 more! Nigel Young sold raffle tickets for the fruit and vegetables supplied by two more villagers and auctioned off honey supplied by yet another one. Afterwards there were gangs of people helping to wash up and clear away in the Hall.

The point of all this, is to say that it was a real Village affair, enjoyed by so many people and a proper community event. It raised £187 for the Foodbank and gave us all a great sense of unity and togetherness.

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in OUR Harvest Festival.

{And by Golly, if you missed it, it was your loss!!!}



Den's 90th Birthday Celebrations

from Julia Freestone

Den Cooper the wonderful gentleman of Corton Denham. The list of things that he has been involved in the 90 years is endless and at all of them he has excelled. As a very small boy he came to the village and went to school here, ran the village shop and post office, delivered newspapers and was in charge of bell ringing, to name but a few.

Even though he has now moved to Sherborne he is still part of the village and we all look forward to seeing him on a Tuesday morning collecting his pension and enjoying coffee and chat in the Village Hall and sharing his cake with him.

Many Happy Returns Den



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Farming News

from Brian Green

It's an absolute bugger this global warming!

After a nice, warm, dry summer it's been raining ever since. What next? Snow I shouldn't wonder.

Back in the dark ages, if the weather was bad people would assume they'd offended the gods. The solution was to sacrifice a few goats and the odd maiden. Obviously, in this day and age, maidens are best left alone. We could, however, give the goats a try!

Adverse weather affects the farming industry more than most. Most of our wheat and all of our rape is planted in the autumn and this persistent rain has delayed our planting. A lot of the rape has been lost, due to pests and a lack of vigour, and most of the wheat has yet to be planted. Some that has been planted has been flooded and the seed will likely rot in the ground.

Due to the kind weather, last year was one of the biggest wheat crops the country has grown. Next year could see one of the smallest crops grown for many years. However, it's an ill wind that doesn't blow some good and the millers and the grain traders are panicking and the prices for next harvest are rising. In this part of the country we've not had quite so much rain as they've had further north and those of us with light soil have managed to finish drilling in good time.

There's been severe flooding in the north of the country and as usual it's caught the Environment Agency off guard. When interviewed, a spokesman blamed climate change for the problem. A local farmer was asked for his opinion and replied that he had

seen plenty of wet weather before but what had changed was "the EA's policy of not dredging and widening rivers, drains and field ditches". He added "they couldn't do much anyway, because they have sold off all of the dredging equipment and most of the pumps".

And, let's not forget it was the same EA that flooded the Somerset Levels. The reason given for not dredging then, was they didn't want to disturb the water voles! As I understand it, Somerset now has a drainage board made up of people with experience and, as a result, the flooding has stopped.

The answer, of course, is to put waterway maintenance into the hands of local, properly funded, water boards and employ local farmers and engineers who understand that water, given a chance, tends to run downhill. I suspect those who live on the lower, waterlogged ground are wondering where all the foxes have gone. Well, I can tell them they're headed for the hills and most of them have ended up here and are chasing our partridge around!

As I said before, this global warming is a real bugger!

Poppy Appeal Collection

from Lynda Goldsmith

Thank you to all who donated to this year's Royal British Legion house to house collections, and of course a BIG thanks to the collectors. It seemed a particularly cold, wet and windy period for the collections this year!

Altogether, from the village, church, pub and outlying houses we collected a total of £809.

Queen Camel Tuesday Group

from Marion Chapman

Our November Meeting was our Annual General Meeting. Our Committee members work happily together and our members enjoy their monthly meetings. Due to pressure being put on our treasurer from high street banks we are now using internet banking.

Our speaker was Ben Woolley who gave us a very informative and interesting talk on Mercy Ships. The Mercy Ship charity began in 1978 when a boat was converted into a hospital ship and taken to Sierra Leone to help those needing operations and other medical care. Trips to Africa have continued to provide help to those who otherwise may never receive the care needed. Organising one trip can take up to 12 months. Surgeons, doctors and nurses besides the ship's crew are needed. Building equipment and tools are essential plus those skilled to use them.

Permission has to be obtained from the President of the country to ensure the ship isn't impounded. There has to be agreement from the authorities about what the ship's teams wish to do.

A football field, or similar is hired and those wanting help soon begin to arrive. Assessments are made and dates are given to patients to attend the ship for treatment. Buildings are needed for the aftercare too, and they need to be furnished accordingly.

Those who arrive with disabilities are often treated as outcasts, so the treatment they receive can change their lives in so many ways.

Obviously the costs involved are enormous. Medical staff and many others freely give their time and skills, some being away from home for 7 months.

Another ship is now being refurbished with state of the art equipment. It will have 78 beds and 5 operating theatres. Money is always needed. A very worthy charity that we could all consider helping.

Our December Meeting will be in the Queen Camel Memorial Hall. We are to be shown how to make table decorations for Christmas.

For further information please contact Marion Chapman. 01963 220741.

Village Hall Notes

from David Morgan

A big thank you to everyone, whether contributing, helping, or attending a very enjoyable and successful Silent Auction Evening of which a separate report appears elsewhere.

Christmas is coming, and the Gardening Society will be holding their very popular Christmas Party in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th December. Get your tickets early! A quick turnaround and the Village Hall becomes our Polling Station next morning for our eagerly awaited General Election.

The next Village Hall event will be our ever popular Quiz Evening scheduled for Saturday 7th March 2020. John and Lindsay Griffin are proposing to organise an afternoon themed tea on VE Day on Friday 8th May 2020.

Finally, it is still proposed to hold an Open Gardens Day/Weekend in Corton Denham probably in late June 2020. We have a lot of lovely and not always appreciated gardens in the village and anyone willing to show their garden for this event should please contact one of our committee or myself.

A Dog's View from the Sofa

from Rudi



I thought my disqualification from the Sausage Race was bad (see last issue), but the OG has gone one better: she has recently found herself banned from any further dog shows with the Dorset Canine Society! 'Why?' I hear you ask, why indeed? It was apparently all decided at their committee meeting a few weeks after the show in July that we could not compete again, and according to Kennel Club regulations and rule 7.1, section ii, point 8.5, sub-para 6, divided by 4, they don't have to tell us why.

Much correspondence has passed between us, but DCS are still refusing to say what crime we committed that could be so bad to justify an outright ban. Was it because the OG raised her head above the parapet and chose to complain to the Secretary, rather too loudly in my view, about the 4 spelling errors in my kennel name listed in their programme, which incidentally had cost her £7? One mistake she was prepared to let go, but 4 seemed a bit over the top given that this was a dog show and the name was all important, so how about a refund? It's not that hard to proof read such things after all, as we know from this illustrious magazine. If the words 'It's not rocket science' hadn't left her lips, things might have blown over. Or was it when, (not one for confrontation, and suddenly coming over all peculiar) I did a massive mess right in front of the Secretary's desk? We are still none the wiser.

But it turns out that there is some legal jargon called the rules of Natural Justice (explained to me by the OM's

Barrister friend), which means you cannot ban someone from a public competition without giving them a chance to put their side. The Secretary has yet to reply – maybe we have put the cat among the pigeons, or whatever the dog equivalent is, but if there's no reply soon, our next stop is a formal complaint to the mighty Kennel Club itself. No doubt they will bring to bear some other regulation – Para 9.6, sub para $5 \times 8 + 3 = 9$ divided by 6.

However, this little episode has finally put the lid on the OG's aspirations for me in show terms. It was our second show outing and it was two too many. Never again! But of course we were not going to tell DCS that. All I will say is – thank goodness for dear Scruffs!

Victory in Europe Day

from Lindsay and John Griffin

We are planning a 1940's themed Afternoon Tea Party, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe, which allowed us the freedoms we all enjoy today,



Please save the date:

**Friday 8th May 2020, 14.55-17.00
and join us at
the Village Hall Corton Denham**

Any money raised will go to the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes charities.

More details in the next edition of the Corton Denham News. If you would like to support us in setting this up, help with the food or just simply come along, please let John and Lindsay know on 01963 220815 – all welcome.

Church Calendar

Sunday, 1st December 2019 – 1st Sunday of Advent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion at Sparkford, including dedication of the new doorway.

9.30 am All Age Christingle Service at Queen Camel

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion at Sutton Montis

4.00 pm Sunday @ Four at West Camel

Sunday, 8th December 2019 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30 am Informal Service at Sparkford

10.00 am All Age Christingle Service at West Camel

5.30 pm Holy Communion at Weston Bampfylde

6.30 pm Evening Service at Sutton Montis

Wednesday, 11th December 2019

7.00 pm Sacred Space at West Camel

Sunday, 15th December 2019 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion at Corton Denham

3.30 pm Carol Service at West Camel

6.30 pm Carol Service at Sutton Montis

6.30 pm Carol Service at Queen Camel

Tuesday, 17th December 2019

6.30 pm Carol Service at Sparkford

Wednesday, 18th December 2019

6.00 pm Carol Singing around Queen Camel, meet at the church, mulled wine and pies!

Thursday, 19th December 2019

7.00 pm Carol Service at Weston Bampfylde

7.00 pm Carols on the Green at West Camel

Sunday, 22nd December 2019 – 4th Sunday of Advent

9.30 am Holy Communion at Queen Camel

4.30 pm Carol Service at Corton Denham

Tuesday, 24th December 2019 – Christmas Eve

6.00 pm Crib Service at Queen Camel

11.30 pm Midnight Communion at Weston Bampfylde

11.30 pm Midnight Communion at West Camel

11.30 pm Midnight Communion at Sutton Montis

Wednesday, 25th December 2019 – Christmas Day

9.30 am Family Communion at Queen Camel

10.00 am Holy Communion by extension at Sparkford

10.00 am Family Communion by extension at Corton Denham

Sunday, 29th December 2019 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

10.00 am Together at 10 at Weston Bampfylde

6.00 pm United Service at West Camel Methodist

Sunday, 5th January 2020 - Epiphany

9.30 am CW Holy Communion at Sparkford

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion at Sutton Montis

9.30 am All Age Service at Queen Camel

3.00 pm All Age Service to celebrate Christmas and New Year at West Camel

Wednesday, 8th January 2020

7.00 pm Sacred Space at Queen Camel

Sunday, 12th January 2020 – Baptism of Christ

9.30 am Holy Communion at Queen Camel

4.30 pm BCP Evening Prayer at Corton Denham

5.30 pm Holy Communion at Weston Bampfylde

6.30 pm Evening Service at Sutton Montis

Sunday, 19th January 2020 – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion at Corton Denham

9.30 am Matins at Sparkford

11.00 am Christingle Service at Weston Bampfylde

11.15 am Informal Worship at Sutton Montis

Sunday, 26th January 2020 – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 am Together at 10 at West Camel

The preacher will be Rob Walrond, the Diocesan Rural Life Adviser

Recycling over Christmas and New Year

from South Somerset Waste Partnership

Usual day

Fri 27 Dec

Fri 3 Jan

Revised day

Sun 29 Dec

Sat 4 Jan

As usual, there will be no garden waste collections from 24 December to 3 January; they resume from 6 January.

Individual recycling site opening days vary – check details on the website – but the network is open every day of the year except Christmas, Boxing and New Year days. All sites will be open 9 am to 4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays on 21-22 and 28-29 December, and 4-5 January.

Your recycling options for a real Christmas tree include: home composting, take it to a recycling site or council drop-off point by the Village Hall, or book a charity collection. Garden waste subscribers only can add their undecorated tree under 6ft to their garden waste collection from 7 January.

If everyone in a street is missed, there is no need to report this as we will know and be returning – often from 7 am the next day, and usually within two working days – to make the collection. For a single missed home, missed materials or other small-scale issues, contact District Council Customer Services.

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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