



The East Knoyle Newsletter

Vol: 46 Issue No 1

www.east-knoyle.co.uk

January/February 2020

Happy 90th Birthday
Diana



New Years Resolutions

- Help with the village litter pick (page 5)
- Volunteer at Wren's Shop (page 3)
- Buy the items you need for 1 meal each week at Wren's Shop
- Support the village hall by subscribing to the 200 Club (page 8)
- See at least 1 film at Moviola (page 6)
- Write an article for this newsletter
- Attend the talk by Liz Earle (page 6)
- Get your tickets for the music quiz (page 16)



Knogle's Knature Notes by The Yaffle. THANK YOU!

Over the years we have been treated to some wonderful nature facts, information and amazing illustrations from "The Yaffle" and the time has come to say goodbye and thank you.



Editors: Tracie, Deb and Emma
eastknoylenewsletter@gmail.com

A happy New Year to everyone from the Chairman and members of the East Knoyle Parish Council. January is the time of year when we request our Precept payment from Wilts CC. This money helps us finance the business of the Council each year and is itemised on your Council Tax bill.

At the PC meeting in December the Council voted to increase the precept for the forthcoming year to £10,225 and this will represent a change to band D Council taxpayers of £ 28.77 for the year, an increase of roughly 2.5%.

At an extraordinary general meeting held in December, the PC appointed Burfitt and Garrett to undertake the dismantling and rebuilding of the dangerous section of Knoyle House Ground Wall. Work will start and be completed while the road is closed during the Wessex Water mains replacement currently underway. Many thanks to Ian Tait and his team for their work on pulling this project together in very quick time.

The KHG wall repair project will be the Parish Council's single most expensive item of cost ever and will place a huge burden on PC finances. We are in the process of applying for funding for the project and will be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to make a contribution to the restoration of this significant and historic part of the village.

The annual litter pick is planned to take place on Sat 29th Feb and will start at 10am at Wren's Shop.

Please let the Clerk know if you plan to volunteer as this really helps with planning and organisation and means the correct amount of equipment and refuse bags can be arranged.

The Wessex Water mains replacement continues ahead of schedule and it is hoped to have Richard Mullins, the project manager, attend our 11th Feb meeting to address any concerns residents may have.

The PC still has one vacancy and interested parties should contact the Clerk to find out more about what is involved.



Round and About

Very many congratulations to Diana Makgill who has just celebrated her 90th birthday. Despite a career which often meant living in other places, Diana has been associated with the village since she was a small child, and remembers going to church at the age of about 4, under the very watchful eye of Lady Pembroke of Knoyle House. Her family are spread far and wide, though came to celebrate with her on her birthday. Both the Royal British Legion and St Mary's were delighted to be able to mark the occasion appropriately.

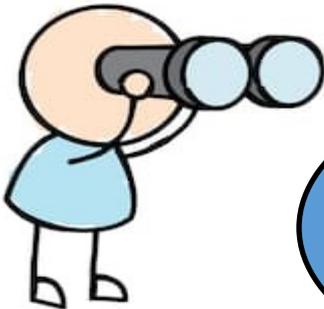
Lizzie Wilsey is moving away from the village and takes with her the good wishes of her many friends here.

Sadly, we record the death of Michael Bryer Ash, who spent many years living in Upton, firstly at Upton Farm and then at Upton Courtyard. Michael was Master of the Fuellers Company in the City of London, a governor of Godolphin School in Salisbury and a generous supporter of St Mary's and other village organisations. Latterly Michael had lived in Newtown and then south of Salisbury. His funeral in St Mary's was very well attended.

Long-established residents will remember the days when the telephone exchange next door to the old school really was the hub of village communications - long before the two green boxes were positioned at the crossroads. It took some skill to keep all the plugs in the right places so we could all talk to each other and people outside the village. The last engineer who was able to manage that exchange was Gordon Neale who lived in Gillingham, and who was not allowed to retire while it still needed attention! Gordon died in the autumn, and Gillingham church was full for his funeral.

Working together to safeguard our village and neighbours

(information courtesy of our Community Police Officer)



In the light of the recent theft of 4 working dogs in the Village it would be wise to ensure that you are keeping a close watch on your dogs, and for anyone acting suspiciously.

A vehicle to look out for that may have a connection with dog thefts is a silver VW estate 54 plate, it has a deep scrape on rear offside near the petrol cap.

If you see anything that worries you call 111
If you see a crime in progress call 999

There have been reports of shed and car break-ins in Tisbury, Mere and surrounding villages



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Tel: 01747 830735

Email: wrensshop@btconnect.com
[facebook.com/wrenscommunityshop](https://www.facebook.com/wrenscommunityshop)



Wrens Shop Notes

The shop celebrated the end of 2019 with a very busy Xmas Launch and the annual Volunteers Dinner. We introduced the idea of Shop Festive Bags as Christmas presents and a number of villagers took the opportunity to buy the bags including on-line via PayPal. We plan to refine this idea and improve on it for next time.

Shop turnover is on a downward trajectory as are most retail outlets across the country and the Management Committee has been grappling with how to improve our turnover. We worked out that if everyone in East Knoyle purchased the ingredients for one evening meal each week our turnover trajectory should begin to flatten out and possibly start to climb up a bit. So here's the challenge: **can each East Knoyle household try to buy an evening meal from the shop every week?** and we'll report back after the summer to see if our turnover improves.

I'd like to say thank you yet again to all our wonderful volunteers, without whom the shop could not operate. We would always like to have more volunteers, particularly to do the end of day ordering for meat, fruit and veg. If you can spare 40 minutes please call Ian Tait on 830647.



The annual Volunteers Dinner (top) is our way of saying thank you to everyone who helps to keep the shop running. Here's (bottom) some of the team preparing for the Xmas Launch



East Knoyle Post Office

Wren's Shop, Church Road
East Knoyle SP3 6AE
Tel: (01747) 830 928

Email: wrensshop@btconnect.com

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

0920 – 1300 & 1400 – 1700
(Closed for lunch 1300-1400)

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**Note: Closed Monday, Friday, Weekends
& Bank Holidays**

Taking a trip down memory lane



A view of Milton pre-1936 taken from the orchard, Milton Farm, with Cyril Hyde's cattle in the foreground.

Photo supplied by Sue Lucas

Shakespeare's Children



A Talk by Clare Asquith, Countess of Oxford & Asquith

In aid of **Save The Children**

At Motcombe Village Hall, SP3 9PE

On March 12th at 6.00 for 6.30pm

Tickets £15.00

Paying Bar

Tickets available in advance from:

**Wren's Shop, East Knoyle, SP3 6AE or
Katie Page (katiepage@btconnect.com)**



ST MARY'S CHURCH

SILENT AUCTION

FINALE EVENING - FRIDAY 15 MAY 2020

EAST KNOYLE VILLAGE HALL FROM 6.30PM

St Mary's Church

As usual, a large congregation assembled in the church in good time for the annual carol service, held this year on Sunday December 15th. The Community Choir delighted all present with the carols they sang as concert pieces and with the way they led the rest of us in the traditional favourites. Congratulations, too, to the readers for their clear re-telling of the Christmas story. Afterwards, there was opportunity to wish friends from other parts of the village 'Happy Christmas' over mulled wine and mince pies.

Other Christmas services were held as well, and were well attended and much appreciated. On January 5th, the Pilgrim Service was led, as we have come to expect, by Rev Mary Ridgewell from Shaftesbury, who presented Diana Makgill with some flowers from the members of the church in the village, in small token of thanks for all Diana has done for St Mary's during the many years she has been part of the congregation. She has been a school governor, a member of the PCC and East Knoyle's representative on the diocesan synod, among her roles.

Mention was made last time of the Under 5s Group which meets in church, but there is an update! This has proved popular, and now runs in alternate weeks. The next dates are (all Thursdays) **January 16th, 30th, February 13th**, all at 10am. Toys, other children to play with, tea, coffee, juice, biscuits and friendship are all available in St Mary's on those mornings, so do bring along the youngest members of your family. (The play area is carpeted and the heating is on!) Also, the next two dates for **Messy Church** in Semley Village Hall are Saturday 25th January and Saturday 22nd February, both from 10-1pm.

The PCC, Churchwardens and congregation of St Mary's wish you all a very happy and healthy 2020.



Alan Knight—shop volunteer

Q 1 How long have you lived in the village

Jan and I moved to the village 20 years ago and were original volunteers when the shop opened 13 years ago. We really started to feel part of the village once we became shop volunteers.

Q2 How did you find the training

I really picked it up as I went along. We were all in the same situation 13 years ago and helped each other out. That still happens now but there is a lot more structure to the training these days.

Q3 Did you have any previous retail experience.

No, none at all, but then again, I don't think anyone did.

Q4 Do you do a regular shift.

Yes, 3 hours on Wed morning, I have done this for 6 years. Also, I help out with weekend opening and annual stocktaking.

Q5 What do you enjoy about working in the shop.

I enjoy meeting people and helping customers. I had always lived in a City before moving to the village and it's great to be part of the community.

Q6 Have you got to know people because of your volunteering.

Now that you ask the question, we only really started to know people, other than our neighbours, once the shop got going. We now have friends in all of the Hamlets around East Knoyle itself.

Q7 What is the best thing about the shop.

It's a great way of keeping in touch with village life. It's also great that youngsters in the village can work alongside older villagers. That helps bridge the generation gap.

Leap into 2020 and volunteer at the East Knoyle Litter Pick

10am on Saturday 29th February

Please meet at the Village Shop.



If you have a hi viz jacket please wear it, litter bags and equipment will be provided.

PLEASE CONTACT KEVIN STOW 830431 FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION.

kandbstow@hotmail.com

A message from Alan and Jan Knight

Are you confused? Suffering the après Christmas blues? Not sure what day it is? Let the East Knoyle Village Diary on our website www.east-knoyle.co.uk be your guide for dustbin collection days, mobile library visits, and so much more. Almost everything you need to know about East Knoyle happenings is there, from regular meetings to special one off events that you wouldn't want to miss.

Web: www.wiltshire.gov.uk



East Knoyle Village Hall

Did someone mention the menopause? By popular demand!

A talk by Ms Liz Earle MBE Author of the No. 1 bestseller *The Good Menopause Guide*

Friday 6th March 2020 at East Knoyle Village Hall

Following Liz's sell-out talk in Shaftesbury last year, we are delighted our local author has agreed to give two further talks on how to make the most of mid-life and beyond.

Liz will be dispelling many menopause myths and discussing the merits of HRT and more, with the aim of making the second half of life better than ever. She shares essential, evidence-based information for all women aged 40+. Healthcare professionals, including GPs and Practise Nurses are very welcome to attend (and so are men!).

Bring your girlfriends, mothers, aunts, sisters and colleagues for this fascinating talk, which will be followed by refreshments and book signing.

Time: 4.30pm (doors open at 4pm) or 7.30 pm (doors open at 7pm). Ticket price: £15

Raising money for LiveTwice, the Village Hall and the East Knoyle Village Newsletter.

Contact: Deb (07713321530) or buy tickets at Wren's Shop, East Knoyle



MOVIOLA Sara Southerden

It may not be James Bond, but it is **Daniel Craig**! He stars in **KNIVES OUT** (12A) our first Moviola offering for 2020 on **Wednesday 29th January**. In this stylish and very funny modern-day murder mystery, the inquisitive, debonair Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) is mysteriously enlisted to investigate the untimely death of a renowned crime novelist (Christopher Plummer) at his 85th birthday party. As a brilliantly constructed whodunit, which keeps the audience off-balance right to the end, with a stellar cast including Jamie Lee Curtis and Toni Collette, this film has received excellent reviews for its razor-sharp script and witty ensemble playing. Some fantastic fun for the dark days of January.

On **Wednesday 26th February** we have **JUDY (12A)** in which Renée Zellweger is outstanding in this captivating account of Judy Garland's last London concert run in the winter of 1968, 30 years after shooting to stardom as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. Judy prepares for the show, battles with management and charms her friends and fans. Her wit and warmth shine through, despite her underlying demons which, as we know, will lead to her death at only 47 years old. Featuring some of her best-known songs, all sung by Zellweger, the film celebrates the sheer pizzazz of 'the world's greatest entertainer'.

Tickets remain at £5 and can be bought in Wren's Shop or on the door. We will be serving baked potatoes before the show as usual. If you would like to order one, please write it on your ticket stub. There will also be a bar with wine, soft drinks, snacks and ices.

We start serving at about 6.50 and the film starts at 7.30.

We are looking forward to seeing you in the Village Hall for this cracking start to a new year of Moviola – your local cinema!



For Village Hall Bookings & Availability

Please contact Nicki Sturrock: eastknoylevh@btinternet.com
or telephone 01747 830143

The Village Hall has had plenty of use and we look forward to it being used as much during the forthcoming New Year.

The Quiz Night was a sell-out and Martin Brown produced an excellent programme of questions for the contesting tables to test their knowledge. Jill Caudle kept the scores ticking along on the screen which helped to increase the tension in the closing rounds. The catering team of Lizzie & Nicki provided the splendid lasagne and accommodated the various dietary requests.

The evening raised over £1000 for the development fund and we hope the Musical Quiz Night on February 22nd will be just as successful under the quizmaster Kevin Stow. At the time of writing only two tables remain, so if you wish to have a table contact Paul Naish very soon.

The funds that have been raised to undertake improvements need to be linked to grants that are available for facilities like the Village Hall. Thanks to Maria and Roger's regular approaches over time they were successful in being awarded a grant for improving the facilities. A huge amount of work has been undertaken by Paul Eggington in making grant applications for these improvements and has been successful in receiving a National Lottery Community Grant which will be used to upgrade the electrical board and replace the boiler. Plans for upgrading the toilets have been drawn up and are out to tender with the inclusion of a disabled facility to bring the Village Hall into line with modern requirements.

With Moviola being such a regular user of the hall the chairs are an ever present discussion point to the extent that some possible customers do not go to Moviola. There is a search for a suitable system of chairs that will not be so testing for the user and then put the existing chairs up for sale. The second aspect for Moviola is the acoustics which do not make listening very easy in some parts of the hall, so we are going to look into how they can be improved.

Happy New Year.

David Jenkins

8 CHEAP STREET,
SHERBORNE,
DORSET DT9 3PX
01938 816128

Winstone's
love books, love reading

10 CHEAP STREET,
FROME,
SOMERSET BA11 1BN
01373 473111

***American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins (Corsair Press 2020) £14.99** Reviewed by **Jonathan Stones**



'A *Grapes of Wrath* for our times' froths the back cover. No, it isn't. But it is a truly remarkable work of fiction; totally enthralling and viscerally exciting. It challenges conventional perspectives in concerning itself with the fate of the Central and South American migrant (the 'American Dirt' of the title), principally through the characters of a young Mexican woman, Lydia, and her eight year old son Luca, escaping from a notoriously violent narcotics cartel which has murdered sixteen members of their family in their home in Acapulco, following a newspaper expose of the gang by Lydia's journalist husband. We are spared the full horrors of the actual murder spree because our concentration is immediately centred on Lydia and Luca as they hide desperately behind a half-concealing shower wall in the house while the rest of the family is being gunned down in the yard outside.

We are then frantically on the run with mother and son as the unintended survivors flee the cartel. Lydia's plan is to find relatives living in Colorado, more than a thousand miles away. At first she makes progress by local buses, but soon realises that the *narcos* have road blocks everywhere. She and Luca are smuggled by private minibus to the airport in Mexico City where she tries to buy tickets for herself and Luca but is refused when she is unable to produce his birth certificate. At this point, Lydia and Luca have no alternative if they are to escape; they have to become 'illegals': 'All her life she's pitied these poor people. She's wondered with the sort of detached fascination of the comfortable elite... that they would leave their homes, their cultures, their families, their languages, and venture into tremendous peril, risking their very lives, all for the chance to get to the dream of some faraway country that doesn't even want them'. Now she has no choice; she and Luca will have to flee on top of the nightmarish '*La Bestia*': the freight trains the migrants ride across the length of the country.

The journey is a mission of terror, and tragedy awaits. Violence and kidnappings are endemic along the tracks and apart from the criminal dangers, migrants are maimed and killed every day when they fall from the tops of the trains; only the poorest and most desperate of people attempt to travel this way. Lydia must also make contact with a *coyote*, one of the migrant traffickers, who for extortionate sums undertake to smuggle migrants across the border, where in turn they are met by border patrols, and worse, vigilantes who treat the rounding up and murder of migrants as a blood-sport.

Whether both Lydia and Luca (an increasingly remarkable character in his own right) succeed against all odds in finding safety must be left for readers to discover for themselves; what is almost certain is that by the end of the compelling narrative, few will remain unaffected by this vivid and challenging work.

Christmas Dinner & Auction



Save the Children

The Shaftesbury Branch of Save the Children held its annual Christmas Dinner and Auction on the 28th November at the Fox and Hounds, The Green, East Knoyle. The event was attended by 64 supporters from East Knoyle and beyond, making for a delightful and lively evening that was enjoyed by all.

The excellent meal and the auction that followed helped to raise over £4,400 for our charity, which continues to be well supported throughout the year by so many kind people, who give generously in both their valuable time and funds raised through numerous events and ad hoc donations.

Our gratitude is extended to all of you who attended our Christmas Dinner, both for dining and auction bidding, as well as those who helped organise the event or gave donations, whether attending the dinner or not. Murray and his team at the Fox and Hounds deserve our thanks for their expert catering and superb cuisine, especially for so many people. We also wish to extend our thanks to everybody who so kindly donated the auction items and also to our "auctioneer" for the evening, Martin Brown, who managed to keep the bids coming in.

The Shaftesbury Branch has seen a busy and very successful year during 2019, with a record sum of £15,000 having been raised in East Knoyle and beyond, thanks to the kindness and generosity of so many people who support our events – all helping to fund a very good and worthwhile cause.

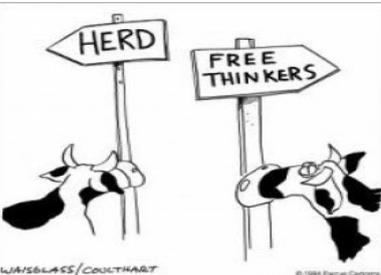
Katie Page, Chairman –on behalf of the Shaftesbury Branch Committee

EAST KNOYLE VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

The new decade has got off to a flying start for one lucky winner in the Village Hall 200 Club. Nights are getting shorter and days are getting lighter: the first draw of the year and the decade has been held and the winner is

Sue Connolly £50

Thanks to all subscribers. New supporters are cordially welcome to join at any time for only £12 a year; the fee goes to help maintaining and improving the Village Hall. Just ring Sara and Neil Southerden on 830594 or leave a message in the Shop.



The East Knoyle Free Thinkers Group

East Knoyle Free Thinkers Group meet at the end of January where we will discuss the topic "Is God necessary for Morality?" This should be a lively discussion in which we will look at civilisations with no traditional religious adherence as we would know it and assess how they get by. We will also look at the work of Evolutionary Behavioural Psychologists who suggest that the success of our species is based on the cooperation innate to our nature. It is hoped a representative from the Clergy will be present to add to this interesting discussion.

In March Mike Fletcher will lead a discussion on "The Rise of Populism". Where has it come from? Is this a passing political phase or here to stay?

I regret that the group is still at capacity but if you have an interest in joining future discussions please let me know. Kevin Stow at kandbstow@hotmail.com

East Knoyle Rainfall Robin Egerton

November 108.50mm (4.27")

December 143.50mm (5.65")



November's rainfall was over an inch lower than October and stopped the rising trend established by the last two months. In November, I recorded rain on 19 different days, and there was only one 4 day spell without rain just after the middle of the month, no rain was recorded on the last two days and there were 5 single days without rain interspersed through the first half of the month. The November average rainfall for the last 25 years is 110.92mm (4.37"), so this November is just below the average.

December picked up the September and October increasing trend and became the wettest month of the year. In December, I recorded rain again on 19 different days. The twelve days without rain were the first 5 days and the last 3 days of the month, the remaining 4 single days were spread through the middle part of the month.

The December average rainfall is 96.78mm (3.81"), so this December's rainfall is well above the average. This seems a lot, but it was only the 13th wettest December over the last 25 years. Thus this last year 2019, had a total rainfall of 925.75mm 36.44".

Indeed over the last 25 years there were 14 wetter years and therefore 11 drier years. These figures give me another Years Records, so that for 2020 I can now draw on 26 years records for average rainfall. Not nearly enough to establish any real 'TRENDS OR PATTERNS.'



Hindon Surgery News

Helping us to help you –

Tel: 01747 820 222
Email: hindon.surgery@nhs.net
High Street, Hindon, SP3 6DJ
www.hindonsurgery.co.uk/

Keeping out of hospitals (keep warm, get jabbed)

Regular readers of my articles will recognise the theme where I ask you to help us look after you better. This phrase has been taken by the whole NHS to headline a series of health campaigns that started a few weeks ago starting with antibiotics (don't expect them for acute

viral illness – they don't work, cause side effects and increase drug resistance making them less effective for you and others when they really are needed). This month I am extending the scope to ask for your help to avoid having to go to hospital.

We are fortunate in having a local hospital in Salisbury where our patients regularly report back excellent care, but also how busy it is. This is an alarming pattern across the NHS where hospitals report winter levels of activity in the summer and trolleys lining up in corridors never previously used. The BMA reports that the whole system is at breaking point and are predicting a very cold winter and the 'flu outbreak in Australia, which we mirror, was the worst for many years.

Turning off the demand for the hospital care is rarely mentioned but you can help with this. We get told we need 10,000 more beds and thousands more staff and brand new hospitals. This is despite a ten-fold increase in consultant numbers in the past 40 years from 5,500 to 55,000. GP numbers have been static at 34,000 (and falling) with their share of NHS funding going from 12% in 2005 to 8%. This systematic disinvestment in general practice by successive governments is why many parts of England have to wait weeks to see almost non-existent GPs and contributes to hospitals being overwhelmed. Patients who can't be looked after in general practice have less effective preventative care (get ill more often) and when unwell have to go elsewhere - often the hospital. This doesn't happen in our part of Wiltshire because all the local practices will see you quickly and provide good planned care.

You can minimise your risk of a winter emergency by staying warm and have a 'flu jab (the two most effective preventative interventions). Despite vaccinating a thousand patients we still have some at increased risk of 'flu not yet jabbed and we still have the jabs in stock. If you haven't had a jab or now decide you want one – please get in touch and reduce your risk of getting 'flu advice.

Look out for your neighbours. Each year we have one or two admissions of elderly patients who have fallen and become hypothermic. This part of Wiltshire sees no seasonal increase in care sensitive conditions that suggests everyone is doing all of the above already. Many thanks for this and we wish everyone all the very best over the festive season and for next year.

Managing Insomnia

Once again we are asking our patients to help us. This time it is to improve our management of insomnia (poor sleep). In the last three months we issued over 250 prescriptions to over 90 patients for sleeping tablets and we are the highest prescribers in Wiltshire despite being low prescribers for all medicines.

NICE has guidance about the management of insomnia and the safe use of sleeping tablets. They do have a role, but should only be used for a maximum of a single prescription for two weeks when other measures have failed. In future when someone sees us about problems with sleeping we will recommend sleep hygiene, referral to IAPT (clinical psychology service that you can self-refer to by calling 01722 820267) for CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) and mindfulness. All of these are more effective measures, especially long-term. It is common to sleep poorly after a distressing event or bereavement but this is a normal process that it is usually better to work through without medication.

There is an excellent book called "Overcoming Insomnia" by Colin Espie, a clinical psychologist who runs a sleep service in Glasgow. Buying this, reading it and acting on his advice may be your best investment in 2020. He writes about **Sleep Hygiene** which aims to make people more aware of behavioural, environmental, and temporal factors that may be detrimental or beneficial to sleep by:

- Establish fixed times for going to bed and waking up (and avoid sleeping in after a poor night's sleep).
- Try to relax before going to bed.
- Maintain a comfortable sleeping environment: not too hot, cold, noisy, or bright.
- Avoid napping during the day.
- Avoid caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol within 6 hours of going to bed.
- Consider complete elimination of caffeine from the diet.
- Avoid exercise within 4 hours of bedtime (although exercise earlier in the day is beneficial).
- Avoid eating a heavy meal late at night.
- Avoid watching or checking the clock throughout the night.
- Only use the bedroom for sleep and sexual activity.

There is a lot of information on the web on CBT and mindfulness.

In 2020 we will be having more training on ways we can help patients on regular sleeping tablets (and opiates) to reduce their use.

And finally, thank you for all your kind cards and gifts over the festive season. I'd like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2020. Dr Patrick Craig-McFeely



RBL Branch News January 2020

Since our last report in November two events brought to an end another successful year for our Branch. The first, our AGM which took place at the Fox and Hounds, was preceded by a convivial lunch at which we were pleased to welcome as our guests the Chairman and County Standard Bearer of Seend Branch who were joint winners with ourselves of the Stilwell Cup awarded to the most efficient small Branch in Wiltshire. Our Chairman, Mike Waterhouse is pictured passing on the cup to the Chairman of Seend, Robin Heatley.

At the ensuing AGM, Mike was once again elected Chairman. All outgoing Branch Officers and Committee members were also re-elected to their posts.

Our annual 'Poppy Appeal Thank You Evening' took place in the Medieval Room of EK Village Hall on the 29th November. This event provides us with the opportunity to say thank you to our volunteer Poppy Appeal collectors, our sponsors and other supporters. Once again, our guest speaker was RBL Wiltshire County President, General, Sir Jack Deverell. Representatives of Shaftesbury RBL were also present as our guests. Following a short speech of thanks by Poppy Appeal Organiser, Ian Gurney - who confirmed the total banked for the 2018/19 appeal as £15,007 - Sir Jack presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Roy Halsall in recognition of his personal fund-raising efforts on behalf of the appeal which have been regularly reported in these pages and this year raised £2,947.

At the time of writing the 2019/20 appeal, launched at the end of October, has reached £8.690.24.

FUTURE EVENTS

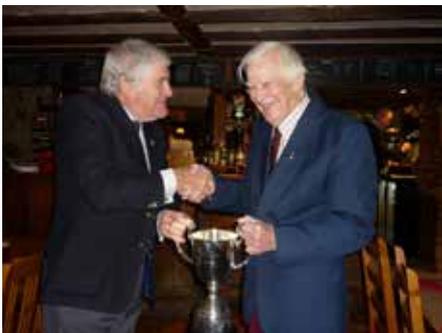
Our Chairman and Branch Secretary will be attending the RBL Wiltshire County Conference in Warminster on the 8th February.

The Branch has approached John Inman, who last year presented an entertaining and well researched talk on the raid on St Nazaire, to give another talk from his portfolio entitled 'Stealing the German Radar - The Bruneval Raid' which once again will be preceded by lunch at the Fox and Hounds. Dates and other details to be confirmed.

Other guest speakers will also be approached and hopefully result in a series of enjoyable and informative talks over the coming months.

It is noted that Friday 8th May will be a Bank Holiday in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Next Branch Meeting will be at 7.30pm on the 3rd February. Venue, the Fox and Hounds.

Ron Clark, Branch Secretary (830354)



Mike Waterhouse handing over the Stilwell Cup to Robin Heatley

Gen. Sir Jack Deverell presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Roy Halsall.



The Women's Section held a pre-Christmas tea party at the home of Venetia Wright on 9th December. The refreshments were supplied by all members attending, including a birthday cake for Diana Makgill in anticipation of her ninetieth birthday on 4th January. She very

kindly shared the cutting of the cake with Monica Snell whose birthday was the following day. It was a very pleasant afternoon enlivened by the "not easy" quiz supplied by Sonia Egerton. Grateful thanks go to all who came and had a very enjoyable afternoon.



The CRISIS coffee and mince pie morning at Erin's, the home of Ruth Gregg, was once more a very successful fundraising event for this worthy charity. It was well attended by many villagers who contributed to the happy atmosphere and their money as well! The raffle, guess the weight of the fruit, name the soft toy and the sales table and generous donations raised the magnificent sum of £900. Many thanks to Ruth for her hospitality and organisational skills and all those who helped in any way.

An outing is proposed for late Spring to Fussells Fine Foods at Rode. The tour will include visiting a rape field, the production area, a cooking demonstration, a bowl of food and the shop. The overall cost is £20 with a deposit of £5 payable on booking a place. The dates will be available shortly which you can find out when telephoning me, Monica Snell, Secretary 830415.



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Wiltshire Council

Free Employer Breakfast

Thursday 6th February 2020

Melksham Town Hall

National Apprenticeship Week is fast approaching and in addition to our online activities, the Employment & Skills Team will be hosting an [Employer Breakfast](#) on Thursday 6th February at Melksham Town Hall, kindly supported by Fiona Parsons, Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (AAN).

This free to attend event is an opportunity for business across Wiltshire to better understand the range of reforms introduced over recent years through a number of carefully selected speakers; covering topics such as higher level apprenticeships, funding and employer incentives, off the job training, Levy transfer and promotion of the AAN which requires more employers and apprentices across Swindon and Wiltshire!

The event is open to all, however we are encouraging small and medium businesses to attend and those Levy payers who are yet to maximise their funding, in addition to employers who are struggling to maintain a programme or retain apprentices.

Karen Linaker—Community Engagement Manager
karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk

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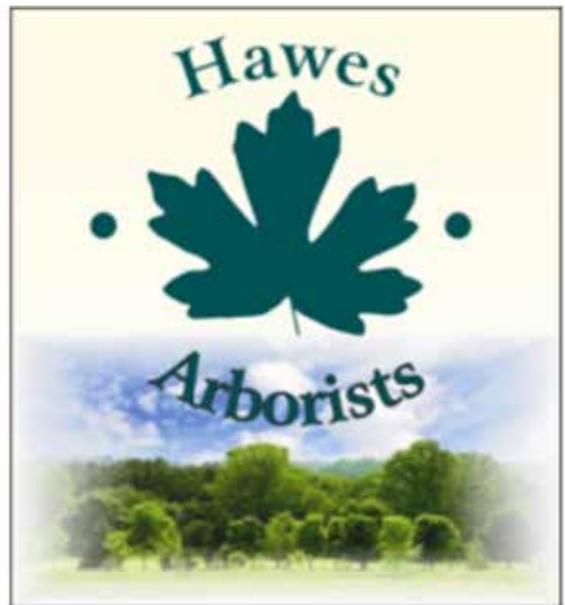
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What's On? Forthcoming Events in and around East Knoyle

Check out the Village Diary on the website

<http://east-knoyle.co.uk/news-and-events/village-diary/>



T@3

Held every second Thursday of each month in the, Village Hall 3-4pm.
Delicious savouries and cakes with tea and coffee, plus a raffle.
Donations if you wish. Taxi service available, kindly funded by the

Parish Council. Call Sandra 830471, or Jennie 830460 for further information. See you there!

Future dates: 13th February, 12th March



Coffee in the Church Cafe, St. Mary's, 10.30am -12.00pm

Freshly brewed coffee and tea with biscuits in our lovely church
A warm welcome awaits you!

Future dates: January 28th, February 25th

St. Mary's Games Evening

7.30 to 9.30 pm

Billiard Room, Village Hall

Bring your own refreshments, no admission fee, but a box for donations is available if you wish.
We have a pool table, darts, chess, cards etc.

Everyone welcome! For more information, call Alan on 830471

Future dates: No games evening January, next date February 25th

New distributor needed

Many thanks to Jo Green for distributing the newsletter in the Turnpike area. Jo has stepped down and we are looking for someone who is willing to pick up this round. Please contact us: eastknoylenewsletter@gmail.com

East Knoyle Village

Music Quiz 2020

Saturday 22nd Feb

7pm

In the Village Hall

If you don't know your Frankie Vaughan from your Frankie goes to Hollywood it doesn't matter! This quiz will be for everyone and will cover a wide range of musical styles. There will be hundreds of memorable tunes and the only thing guaranteed is that you will have fun.

Teams of 6 please, £10 per person to enter, this will include food (All proceeds to the Village Hall)

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Contact Paul Naish on 832335 to pay for and reserve your table.

Contact Kevin Stow on 830431 for more details.

Meadowsweet Flowers is open for business as usual, throughout the Wessex Water Works on The Street in East Knoyle. Access to the Old Forge should be fine. However if, for whatever reason, you can't get to the shop then

call 07956 102 178 or

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**DEADLINE FOR
March/April 2020
Newsletter
Friday 6th March**

(Newsletters are normally distributed around 10 days after the copy deadline)