

The Shroton Lines

The Shroton Lines is a community newspaper which celebrates the life of the village and its inhabitants. It is compiled by local volunteers and provides information and news. Those of us who are involved with the creation of the Lines are hugely arateful for everyone who contributes and particularly to Emma who is responsible for printing it. Contact: shrotonlines@gmail.com. Editor: Helen Christmas, Quince Cottage, The Corner. Please do submit stories, recipes and letters!

Issue 272

May 2024

Dates

Rubbish & Recycling

Main Village/Bessels

May

6 Rubbish 13 Recycling Rubbish 20 27 Recycling

June

Rubbish

The Corner/Courtney Close

May

1 Rubbish 8 Recycling 15 Rubbish 22 Recycling 29 Rubbish

June

5 Recycling

Whole village

May 1, 15, 29 Garden waste

Wednesdays: Coffee and Chat in the Village Hall from 10—12

Thursdays: Singing group in the village hall at 5.45 pm

Thursdays: Craft group at Littleport at 7:00 pm

Events:

May 4: Band and BBQ May 11: Plant sale May 24: ShrOdeon

EASTER CELEBRATIONS IN

SHROTON by Rev John Simmons

MAUNDY THURSDAY: The Passover Supper was held in Shroton Village Hall and was attended by thirty people. We started with the traditional Seder fare of beetroot dip, apple and almond dip, hard boiled eggs, Matsos and parsley. This was followed by chicken casserole and baked potatoes, then pavlovas or lemon tarts. Throughout the meal an explanation is given as to how Jesus might have celebrated the Jewish Passover meal on the night before he was crucified.



GOOD FRIDAY: The 'Witness at the Cross' was impossible this year due to a torrent of water



running down the street and a lake which had formed around the village cross. We gathered in church for an informal but profound and moving reflection on the story of Jesus' crucifixion. At the end the Rev John Simmons lifted a large wooden cross and carried it out followed by the congregation. The cross was then carried by different people, stopping in stages for a read reflection and prayer.

The weather held out and we were

able to place the cross with the other two on the side of the hill visible from the village. Among

the followers were two gentlemen who had walked past the crosses in previous years and had been intrigued enough to find out about our service plans for this year.



EASTER SUNDAY: A full church of all ages, beautiful decorations, the candles all lit and the stage was set for a wonderful joyful celebration of Our Lord's resurrection. We then had coffee, Easter biscuits and chocolate mini eggs to send

Shroton D-Day Landings

We are going to commemorate the DDay landings and intend to have an evening of poems, readings, a quiz and music on 7 June in the Village Hall. On 8 June the Hall will be open to view our displays.

We would very much like to hear about your family memoirs of WW2 and display any artefacts that you are happy to share.

Please let us know if you would like to help with readings and poems and to decorate the hall

Please contact Judith Hewitt judithhhewitt@icloud.com or Caroline Barrett

carolinebarrett59@gmail.com.

Thank you

On behalf of the Village hall and all the readers and subscribers of The Shroton Lines, I would like to thank Louise McTighe and her company, DOMVS for printing the May edition of The Lines.

Printing of the monthly Lines is paid for by the Village Hall committee and actioned by Emma who works in the Church benefice office. We are all extremely grateful to her for doing this rather onerous task every month in time for Ena and her dedicated delivery team to pop them through your letterbox. However, owing to leave of absence, Emma was unable to print this month's edition, so Louise and DOMVS stepped into the breach.

Thank you, Louise, we are **VERY** grateful for your help!

Helen and Emma H.

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Shroton defibrillator

(located outside the village hall)

The defibrillator is funded by the residents of this village It is checked regularly so that it is ready to operate at all times.

If the defibrillator is used, please inform Judith Hewitt or Jonathan Maguire ASAP as the pads will need to be purchased and replaced. Any donations to the defibrillator fund are greatly appreciated. The fund is held by the Parish Council.



Emily Burridge "Bach & At the turning of the World"

Tickets: £12.00 & £10.00 concs. Children under 15: free
Tickets available from: Eventbrite &
DRMS e mail: drmsblandford@gmail.com / mob:07966513381

Refreshments available during the interval Dorset Rural www.emilyburridge.com Music School www.dorsetruralmusicschool.co.uk

Wanted: help to produce the July edition of The Lines.

I am unable to write the July edition of the Lines owing to work commitments. I would be extremely grateful if someone could take over for one month only. I can produce templates and provide support. This would be for 3rd week in June. Any offer gratefully received, Helen shrotonlines@gmail.com

PLANT SALE - Saturday 11th May 10—1pm

Popular bedding & basket plants, inc Cosmos Perennials Vegetable plants. Produce stall



will

The majority of summer bedding & basket plants be coming from my contacts in the wholesale nursery business.

BUT

sadly I have only had 3 people from the village who have offered a few plants for the sale. I know that the weather has not been conducive for growing, but PLEASE let me know ASAP if you have any perennials that I can divide & pot OR will have any excessive summer bedding or vegetable plants you can spare.

Home-made produce, cakes, jam, chutney etc. gratefully received.

Thank you to the Village Hall committee for offering to provide refreshments.

Please contact Susan Maguire

Tel: 01258 860132



The Dorset Oven

Baking Bread, Pastries and Buns in Shroton every Thursday

Traditionally made, slow-fermented bread, pastries, and buns

Yeasted and sourdough bread Croissants, Pain au Choc, Apple Danish Chelsea, Cinnamon, Fruited buns

Indian Cuisine (coming soon/please enquire)

> Call or Email Martino the Baker DorsetOven@gmail.com

Shroton Oil Scheme

There's never been a better time to benefit from group savings and save money.

Same litre rate for any domestic order between 500 and 2300 litres.

And we place an order every month.

Also, water softener salt (tablet and block)

shrotonoilscheme@gmail.com

Kenneth John Meaden

24th March 1929 - 27th March 2024



On Wednesday 17th April Ken's family, work colleagues and many others from Shroton said farewell to Ken in a packed Church.

Two of Ken's sons spoke movingly about his early years and James Gibson Fleming gave us a description of his life at Ranston. James has given permission for the following extracts from his talk.

In early 1977 James' father, Major Lem Gibson Fleming, advertised for a woodman and odd job man for the estate.

In February 1977 a certain Kenneth John Meaden applied for the vacancy. James told us "On Ken's file in my father's immaculate handwritten foolscap notes of the interview he noted - 25 years at Sparkford Sawmills. Born, bred and schooled in Sparkford. Three years of National Service with the RAF as an orderly. Current role for 8 years with Hants County Council as a tree surgeon living in Micheldever. Married in 1954 to Joan with 2 daughters and 3 sons. Under 'Interests and `hobbies' was written CHAINSAW. Under "Long term aim and ambition' there was a blank."

James went on to tell us "I can remember my father and mother being most concerned as to whether they were making a terrible mistake having interviewed this bucolic countryman with a strong West Country accent and often unintelligible sentences. Despite these impressions my parents were charmed with Ken. Probably one of the most important estate letters that my father ever wrote was on 27th February 1977 to say 'Dear Mr Meaden. I will engage you as Woodman and Odd Job Man at Ranston from Monday 18th April 1977'. A beautifully written letter of acceptance in excellent English, clearly written by Mrs Meaden, was signed by Ken. Its last sentence read 'We are also looking forward to our return to the West Country and I am sure we will be most content. Yours truly K J Meaden.'

The legend that was Ken had started his career at Ranston which was to last another 47 years. He was just 48 years old at the time.

In no time he was understandably loved by all and his passion, care, hard working principles, commitment, knowledge and love of life and humour soon became apparent to all and sundry. Ken inherited me as his boss on the death of my father in 1981. I realized that I had a fiercely loyal woodman/oddjob man who was not only, despite his rambling vocabulary, bright and on the ball. In 43 years I cannot remember ever having to ask him twice or remind him of anything. He had the memory of an elephant. He would attend to trees and plantations according to the seasons without any direction. I have never met anyone who cared more than Ken did about everything and everyone.

His passion was trees. Planting them, tending them and chopping them down, which he always called 'sticks' however huge. Ken was enormously strong and wiry and was always working. When not on the estate he was helping old ladies in the village with their gardens, delivering firewood and tending his own garden. Or making garden furniture – with a chainsaw.

Retirement came quite quickly – 1994 when he was 65. He was determined to retire and we arranged a great do for him with a leaving present of a sculpture in wood of Ken and his motor saw standing next to a 'stick' (huge log). He and Mrs Meaden moved out of North Lodge into an expanded and modernised Ranston Bothy which allowed Ken an area of walled garden which he made immaculate. Sadly, Mrs Meaden died in 1999 after a period of ill health, but our initial worries about Ken coping on his own were soon proved invalid.

But Ken never really retired. After his party in 1994 he declared that he would return to work for 32 hours a week. Variously over the years he would reduce his hours and look for another retirement party! So about 20 years ago I announced to him that he was never going to retire. Hence on 27th March 2024 we lost our longest standing and oldest employee at the age of 95. The chickens were upset too.

We all know Ken loved a party and his little dancing jig that he did every time a party was mentioned became legendary and stayed with him right until the end. Even when he talked about his forthcoming 95th birthday party he swayed from side to side, bouncing on the balls of his feet, elbows bent, jigging about in anticipation of the celebrations to come! This demonstration he also gave when describing how he entertained his fellow guests when he used to go on holiday on cruise ships. He was indeed the life and soul of any party!

In summary – not a bad bone in his body. Loved by all. True, straightforward, honest and full of fun. In a nutshell he was an absolute legend."

Spring into Spring: news from Emma and the Village Hall committee

ROLL UP ROLL UP for the Village Hall AGM on THURSDAY 23 MAY 7.15pm.

Come and see what the exciting plans are for the future of **YOUR** village hall. Come and see the plans drawn up by our very own architect in residence, Barry Coupe (AKA Eugenie, or was he Beatrice? Can't remember but he pulled it off!).

Interested in joining the committee? Got ideas for what you'd like to see on offer in the hall? Come along and let us know. We'd like to hear what events/entertainment etc ALL ages would like. We need your feedback – both positive and negative. There might even be a glass of wine on offer – you can't say fairer than that!

A big thank you to the Lunch & Chat group for the huge donation they made to the village hall. What a great team you are.

Events for your diary

By the time this goes to print another successful ShrOdeon evening will have entertained the troops. If you haven't experienced the luxury of the village hall chairs, then give your backside a treat and watch in comfort. Next film is **The Holdovers on 24 May**

Saturday 4 May – get your dancing shoes on for BBQ, BAND (Pressgang) & BAR at the Village Hall Doors open 6pm Band 7pm

Tickets: Adult: £7.50, 16s and under: £3.50 Family ticket (2 adults 2 children under 16): £20

Tickets on sale at Wednesday coffee mornings in the village hall and...

John Hedger - johnhedgeruk@gmail.com

Joe Holmes 07538 335142

Wendy Gredley - Littleport, Main Street, 07495 010396

Leila White - leila.white58@gmail.com

There's a wonderful cello concert in the church on Sat 27 April 7pm. Children under 15 free. Tickets £12 concessions £10

Village Hall PLANT SALE **Sat 11 May**: 10 - 11. Tea, coffee and bacon rolls on sale too!

D Day Event Fri 7 June followed by an exhibition on Sat 8 June.

Shroton Fete Sat 13 July – OFFERS OF HELP GRATEFULLY RECEIVED emmahouse1@outlook.com.

Shroton Show Sat 14 Sep





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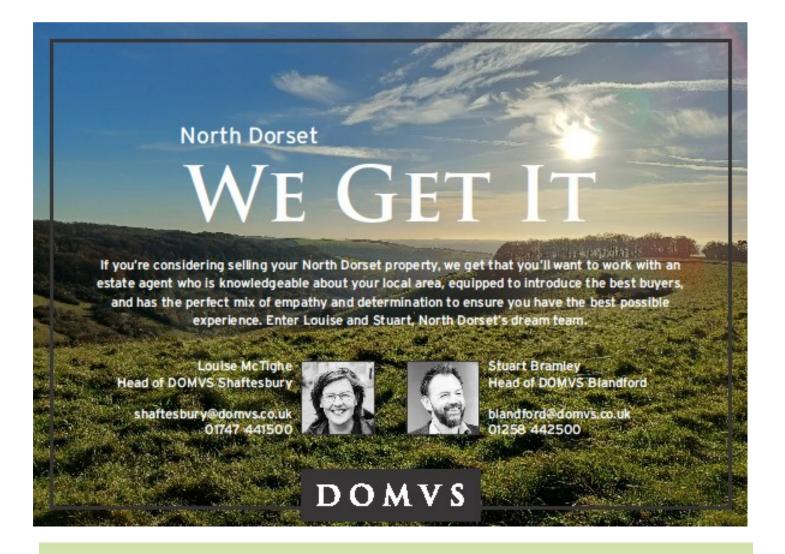
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Saturday 2 March	Wonder	Family film	10:30
Saturday 2 March	The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	Silver Screen	14:00
Thursday 7 March	Titanic The Musical	Musica	19:30
Thursday 21 March	The Motive and the Cue	National Theatre	19:00
Tuesday 26 March	Madama Butterfly	Royal Opera House	19:15
Saturday 30 March	Peter Rabbit	Family film	10:30
Saturday 30 March	The Iron Lady	Silver Screen	14:00
Tuesday 9 April	Macmillan Triple	Royal Ballet	19:15
Sunday 21 April	An American in Paris	Musica	14:00
Tuesday 23 April	Nye	National Theatre	19:00
Wednesday 24 April	Swan Lake	Royal Ballet	19:15
Wednesday 1 May	Carmen	Royal Opera House	18:45
Saturday 4 May	Wonka	Family Film	10:30
Saturday 4 May	One Life	Silver Screen	14:00
Sunday 19 May	42nd Street	Musica	14:00
Wednesday 22 May	The Winter's Tale	Royal Ballet	19:15
Thursday 30 May	Message in a Bottle	Sadler's Wells Dance	19:20
Saturday 1 June	Wish	Family Film	10:30
Saturday 1 June	Oppenheimer	Silver Screen	14:00
Saturday 22 June	Mary Poppins Returns	Family Film	10:30
Saturday 22 June	Miracle Club	Silver Screen	14:00

Programme correct at the time of printing, please keep checking the website for up-to-date information and additional events.

For more information and to book tickets go to tickets.bryanston.co.uk 01258 484669 (Office hours)

Coade Hall, Bryanston School, Blandford, DT11 OPX









Shroton Cricket Club

The Club wishes to thank local vice presidents for their kind and generous donations - Thank you! Anyone interested in supporting the Club by becoming a vice president should contact Christine Ball on 01258 860104.

In the forthcoming season we have 4 junior teams entered into the Dorset junior cricketing leagues at U15, U13, U11 and U9 level. For adults we have a team entered into the Ranston Evening League, played on Wednesday, and an adult team playing into the Dorset Saturday League, entering in at Division 6, due to the Club not participating in this tournament for some years. There are also a few friendly adult fixtures as well. All are most welcome to come and enjoy cricket at The Fairfield, relax with a drink from the bar, or a cuppa, during any home fixture or on a Friday evening during junior training.

Adult players

The Club would welcome any new players, those who wish to be involved at a friendly level or those who are interested in participating in Wednesday and Saturday fixtures. Please contact the Club secretary Christine Ball on 01258 860104 or pop up to the cricket field one evening!

Junior Training Times and Dates

We are again aiming to offer junior cricket training on a Friday evening. There will be two sessions:

- a) Year 6 (11 yrs) and younger 5.45 6.45pm
- b) Year 7 (12 yrs) and older 7 8pm

We are aiming to start training on Friday 19th April. Training will then continue until 24th May, with a half term break and then commence again 7th June until 19th July.

As ever we are keen to ensure children are supported with their cricket experience, so will aim to adapt training as needed for specific needs.

Kit is available to borrow such as bats, helmets, pads, gloves etc, however <u>all children need to have their own protective pelvic cricket box</u> in the interests of health and hygiene!

Cost

The cost of this year's training will be the same a last year, standing at £50, covering membership fee, training and any match fees.

Any queries regarding junior training can be emailed to Ailsa at: abhirst@googlemail.com or calling 07917 743175. The Club is keen for all who wish to participate in the game of cricket to do so, therefore should you require financial support with the junior training fees please contact Ailsa in confidence.

	U15 Monday Fixtures	
April	te etatum etatum eta	
22nd	Shroton v Shaftesbury	
May		
13th	Shroton v Stalbridge	
27 th	Shroton v Blandford	
June		
3rd	Stalbridge v Shroton	
10th	Shaftesbury v Shroton	
17th	Marnhull v Shroton	
July		
1st	Blandford v Shroton	
8th	Shroton v Marnhull	
	U13 Tuesday Fixtures	
April		
23rd	Shroton v Marnhull	
30th	Stalbridge v Shroton	
May		
14th	Shaftesbury v Shroton	
June		
4th	Shroton v Stalbridge	
11th	Marnhull v Shroton	
25th	Shroton v Shaftesbury	

Sati	urday Adult League Division 6
May	
4 th	Shroton v Charlton Down 2nds
11 th	Marnhull 3rds v Shroton
18th	Shroton v Symene Sports
25th	Shroton v Compton House 2nds
June	
1st	Buckhorn Western v Shroton
15th	Shroton v Stur & Hinton 2nds
22nd	Dorchester 3rds v Shroton
July	
6th	Symene Sports v Shroton
13th	Shroton v Marnhull 3rds
20th	Milborne St Andrew v Shroton
27th	Compton House 2nds y
	Shroton
Augus	t 1000 1000 1000 1000 100 1000 100
3rd	Charlton Down 2nds v Shroton
10th	Shroton v Dorchester 3rds
17th	Stur & Hinton 2nds v Shroton
24th	Shroton v Milborne St Andrew
31st	Shroton v Buckhorn Western

95000 110		No. Section 1999	
Wed	nesday 🧸	anston Evening League	
May			
1st	Stalbrid	ge v Shroton	
8th		v Donhead	
15th	Umar Gulls v Shroton		
22nd	Shroton v Marnhull		
29th	Umar G	ulls v Shroton (cg)	
June			
5 th	Stinton Raptors v Shroton		
12 th	Donhead v Shroton		
19 th	Shroton v Stalbridge		
26 th	cg semi final		
July			
3rd	Shroton v Stinton Raptors		
10 th	Marnhull v Shroton		
17 th	Shroton v Umar Gulls		
24th	cg final		
cg = cı	ıp game		
	Friend	dly Adult Games	
tbc		President's Game	
28th July		Shroton v Westfield	
11th or 18th Aug		Shroton v Wool	
1st Sept		Shroton v Horningsham	
15th Sept		Pitch hired	

Two North Dorset businesses triumph in regional awards

Two businesses located less than three miles from each other in North Dorset have won their categories for the South West region of the 2024 Countryside Alliance Awards.

The Child Okeford Village Shop & Post Office was selected as the Best Village Shop in the region, while nearby Wessex Internet, based in Shroton, won the Rural Enterprise category.

The Countryside Alliance Awards, which are now in their 17th year, recognise businesses that go the extra mile within their communities, by supporting the local economy and championing local goods and services.



Both Wessex Internet and the Child Okeford Village Shop were initially nominated anonymously by their customers. Then, from hundreds of nominees in the region, the two businesses topped a public vote.

Hector Gibson Fleming, CEO at Wessex Internet, said:

"It's a wonderful testament to the innovation and community spirit of the local area that two very different businesses, located only a few miles from one another, topped their categories in an awards region that covers a huge geographical area stretching from Wiltshire to Cornwall.

"For Wessex Internet, this follows recent recognition as Best Rural Internet Provider at the 2023 ISPA Awards and as Overall Fibre Provider of the Year at the 2023 UK Fibre Awards. To now be acknowledged more widely as a leading Rural Enterprise, as well as leaders in our sector, is particularly special, as these countryside-focused awards recognise values that are very important to us.

"We have always sought to be champions and enablers of the rural economy – through providing ultrafast broadband to areas overlooked by other companies, as an employer of choice for hundreds of local people, and by working in consultation with rural communities and landowners in how we build our network.

"I am also delighted for our neighbours at the Child Okeford Village Shop and know first-hand how popular the shop is with our teams. With many villages unfortunately seeing the closure of local amenities, we are lucky to have a nearby shop that provides many locally sourced products – including delicious deli lunches - and an essential Post Office service. By providing ultrafast broadband to Child Okeford and other villages like it, Wessex Internet will also continue doing our part to help rural communities thrive."

Proprietor of the Child Okeford Village Shop & Post Office, Andrew Stevenson-Hamilton, said:

"We are thrilled to have been voted the best village shop and post office in the South West of England and that our neighbours, Wessex Internet, have been winners in their category as well. We are indebted to our loyal customers who came out in force to vote for us, in both the qualifying rounds and in the finals.

"The competition was very strong and we have huge respect for our fellow finalists. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to the runner-up in our category: The Hawtree & Sons Riverside Garage, which is based in West Stour. It says a great deal about the quality of the village shops in the north of Dorset that two village shops, within eight miles of one another, came first and second in the whole of the South West.

"However, most of all I would like to thank the fabulous team who work at the shop, the bakery and the post office, whose dedication, good cheer and hard work brought us to this point.

"We now look forward to the national awards in June, when we shall learn which shop from the eight regional winners will be crowned the best village shop in the United Kingdom."

As regional winners of their categories, representatives from Wessex Internet and the Child Okeford Village Shop have been invited to an awards ceremony at the House of Lords in June, where national winners will be announced from the regional finalists.

Nick Cloke PR and Sponsorship Manager, Wessex Internet

Congratulations to both local companies. Photograph at the top of the article shows **Hector Gibson Fleming, CEO at Wessex**Internet and Proprietor of the Child Okeford Village Shop & Post Office, Andrew Stevenson-Hamilton.

Who says crime never pays? Shroton Crimewatch by Judith Hewitt

Hants Advertiser 5 May 1832

Burglary. In the night of Saturday last, some thieves broke into the shop, by taking out the bricks under the shop window, of Mr Down, shopkeeper of Shroton near Blandford, and stole and carried away linen drapery and other goods to the value of upwards of 100 guineas. There is no clue which is likely to lead to detection.

Dorset County Chronicle 1769 September

Eloped from his master, Robert Still, about 18, by trade a Taylor, about 5'7"wore his own straight black hair and has lost one of his toes. He absconded, in a light grey coat, light coloured waistcoat, dark brown britches. This is therefore to caution all persons not to harbour or employ said apprentice, if they do, they will be prosecuted as the law directs by me. George Wigglesworth Shroton Dorset.

London Evening Post September 16, 1749

On Thursday last, in the evening, as Mr Harvey of Wimborne, cheesemonger, was returning home with his wife from Shroton Fair, they were robbed of what money they had by a tall, thin young man, mounted on a brown horse or mare, about 12 hands and a half high. He wore a dark coloured great coat and presented a pistol to Mr Harvey's breast.

A short story for anyone who is awake at 6 am

It had been a long time since the ground had yielded up its flood waters to the sunshine and although the rays of the sun were themselves watery and exploratory, there was enough warmth at midday to allow a miasma of vapours to rise, almost magically, from the sodden earth. But the departure of these vapours hardly made any difference to the sodden level of the ground. Or was it more accurate to call this the sodding level of the ground muttered dog walkers and hikers as they plished and plashed through the meadows.

However, it had been a short time since the joyful, exuberant shrilling of the birds began to wake those who struggle to sleep from their troubled slumbers. For most of these poor sleepers: the elderly, those with things on their mind and babies, the sound of the dawn chorus brought some sense of hope. The trilling, shrilling, singing, ringing of the birds can't be anything but joyful they thought, or certainly the elderly and those with things on their mind. The babies were, we think, oblivious, but simply reacting to the basics of life: food and warmth. But maybe there is something so visceral and fundamental about the sounds of Nature, that even the newly born respond to it, Who knows?

But the young, the elderly and those with things on their mind are perhaps all being misled by these Spring trillings and shrilling. The birds, far from sounding their joy as the sun rises are instead screaming about boundaries, territory, primacy and sex. Mostly, sex!

We are so self-centred as a race, that we hear sounds and interpret them as being in place for our own enjoyment. But no. That Robin's song, fluting and beautiful is not emitted for our pleasure because of its musicality, but is in fact an aggressive, potentially violent shout, 'Come any nearer to my patch and you'll lose more than just your dignity!'.

So, if the first sound that we hear in Spring is the dawn chorus as we blearily, or thankfully see the start of the day, perhaps rather than assuming in our warm beds that this is happening for our benefit and that this is a wonderful and affirmative start to the day, we should think again. And perhaps, unlike Doctor Dolittle, it is just as well that we cannot talk to the animals (and birds), otherwise, rather than lying in bed enjoying the trilling, we would be shutting the window against the violent, swearing that is emanating from a small brown bird that is either defending its territory with blue words/notes or a small brown bird who is shouting about his sexual prowess. Neither of which we need at that time in the morning!

If you have enjoyed this then do read 'Birds all singing' by Norman MacCaig. You'll never listen to birdsong in the same way again!



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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor

I would like to say how much I have loved David Holliday's notelets/cards that

he has produced & sold in aid of Village Hall funds. How wonderful when someone uses their own passion of walking, photography & observing our beautiful surrounding countryside then turns that into worthwhile sales to raise much needed funds.

It is always nice to send a card to family & friends from our locality it seems more personal & of course supports a good cause.

I've heard that they have been on sale at the Cricketers and have sold very well.

Well done and I look forward to the next collection being on sale.

Susan Smallwood

I would like to echo this. If you have not seen either the cards or David's daily posts on Facebook, then do take a look.
Thank you David.

I'm contacting you to advertise an upcoming road show that the Blandford Surgery is going to hold at 6pm on the 16th of May in Child Okeford Village Hall. The purpose it to let patients meeting those who work at the surgery and find out more about how they work. It is open to all patients of the surgery and it is hoped that as many patients as possible will come. This road show is coving all the villages around Child Okeford. Unfortunately, we can't hold these road shows in every village so we are using Child Okeford as a hub for the villages north of Blandford. I would be most grateful if you could advertise this in your respective villages.

Thanking you in advance

Jim Bird (Co-chair Blandford PPG)