

The Wednesday Group

On 8th June, we considered: "Has the Collective Conscience gone forever? If so, does this rule out the "Big Society"?" We began with the definition of the "Collective Conscience" put forward by Emile Durkheim, which is "shared beliefs and moral attitudes which operate as a unifying force within society".

Perhaps because of the average age of the group, we viewed this nostalgically, and recalled times in the middle of the last century where there seemed to be a collective set of standards by which the majority of people lived. This was based on our shared history, culture, and traditions. It was also strengthened in adverse circumstances, be these wars or natural disasters, where people pulled together with a common purpose.

We recalled that society was more static then (possibly stultified), perhaps more inward looking, and certainly less well informed by the media than today's society with its instant access 24 hour news coverage and multi-media communication routes. We discussed the changes which occurred in the 1950s-1970s, which whilst exciting, dynamic, and even radical, tended to fragment rather than unite society. The emphasis on the rights of the individual seemed to be prevalent, with less regard for human responsibilities and consideration for others. There was also increased immigration and travel. Additionally, church attendances decreased, and the role of the church diminished. Consequently, we felt that society became more fragmented, both nationally and internationally. We went on to consider the future for the global society, which certainly is a "big society".

This concept was too vast for us, so we concentrated on our national society (whatever that is, which produced another tangential debate). The Prime Minister's view is that our society is broken, and his vision of "The Big Society" is one which aims to "create a climate that

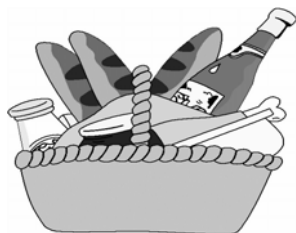
empowers local people and communities, building a big society that will take power away from politicians and give it to the people". There was some discussion about just how much power people wanted, for with power comes responsibility, and how much of this responsibility do we want? We returned to Durkheim's definition, and wondered what "unifying force" could produce, in Britain, the "shared beliefs and moral attitudes" essential for the Collective Conscience needed to weld a nation. It would be nice to report that we came up with a solution, but unfortunately inspiration deserted us. We searched around, considering the possibility of a strong leader (even a benevolent dictator), the Church, the monarchy, even the Olympic Games. So, having run out of steam, this group of somewhat grumpy old men and women left the question open. Perhaps out there, in Poulshot or beyond, someone could ride to our rescue with the answer. If so, you will be most welcome to join us next time.

Even if you do not have this answer, you are most welcome to join us at the next meeting on 13 July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when the topic will be "What is a Christian?"

Joyce Arnold

Poulshot Ladies club

On Tuesday 19th July the Ladies club will have a rounders match and picnic on the Green from 6pm. Please bring spare children and a picnic.

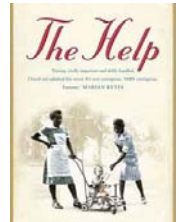


Poulshot Ladies' Reading Group



The next meeting will be at 7.30p.m. on July 26th in the Hall. The book is "The Little Stranger" by Sarah Waters, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker prize in 2009. The book was featured in the BBC book club in 2010 and is a complete change from her previous work being very readable as well as grippingly spooky. If you would like a copy, please contact me on 827046, or come along and just enjoy the evening's discussion.

On April 26th, the group met to discuss "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. The discussion was lively with agreement that the book, although shocking and disturbing in many ways, was still humorous. The book dealt with the themes of segregation, motherhood and power as reflected in the lives of the women of the Southern States of America in the 1960s. However, the major discussion was about the mix of characters and the way they all had a "voice" At the end, all present agreed it was worth reading and would recommend it to others.



Jackie Pohnert

Poulshot Ladies Club visit to Mottisfont Gardens.

Well it seemed a good idea - a balmy evening in June when the air would be filled with the scent of roses. The ladies of Poulshot would arrive in comfort for a leisurely stroll around the beautiful gardens, followed by a visit to a country pub to enjoy a glass of something in the last of the evening sun, before they went in for a delicious meal. The meal bit was right! We did have a good time and a laugh. I had a wrestling match with a minibus. (not sure who won). The torrential downpour that arrived with us did slow to a drizzle. But we did enjoy some wonderful roses in all their glory, and our meal at The Star Inn East Tytherley once we'd found it. Hence the Ladies and a few select gentlemen returned to Poulshot satiated but soggy.

Jean Perrett

POULSHOT PONDS PROJECT

After a year of planning, consultations, getting quotes, applying for sponsorship, last minute hitches (and mild panic), frayed tempers and terrible weather, two out of three ponds were officially opened on June 3rd. We were fortunate in having such a perfect summer morning for the ceremony. About 40 people, including four children, a reporter and photographer from the Gazette & Herald and villagers met at the village hall then walked over to Green Lane Pond. Green crepe paper, our eco- friendly substitute for ribbon was stretched between two trees and danced in the breeze among nodding heads of hogweed and grasses. Nicky Hunloke gave an introduction and thanked all those involved, handing over to Perry Chadwyck-Healey chairman of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Perry said "In the last 50 years we have lost 75 % of the ponds in this country. What you have done is to create a little village for wildlife.....You have created a home for amphibians and water plants, a nursery for insects which in turn will produce a larder for bats and water bath for birds. You have laid up a treasure here on earth for the whole village." He cut the ribbon to complete the ceremony. Perry made a point of saying that innovative projects such as this were vital at small community level as a contribution to "the big society". Back at the hall, Joyce and Brian Arnold and Mandy Housby served their delicious home baked cakes with tea and coffee while ecologist Jan Freeborn gave a talk on the Great Crested Newt illustrated with newts from Poulshot's Middle Green Pond. This pond will be restored after the newts have left the pond for hibernation in late Autumn

Dankay and Pam



Calling all knitters!



Please knit some little hats for Age UK's Big Knit. They send the hats to the innocent drinks company, who put them on the top of their innocent smoothie bottles in November. For each be-hatted smoothie sold, Age UK receives 25p. Last year Age UK Wiltshire collected in over 21,000 hats and raised over £6000 to help make winter warmer for older people in Wiltshire. The hats are very simple to knit, using double knit wool and 4mm needles cast on 28 stitches, knit 14 rows then knit 2 together for the next 2 rows and cast off. Sew up the sides to make a hat. Add a bobble if you wish. You can post or drop off the hats at Age UK Wiltshire's Devizes office at 13 Market Place, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1HT or at one of the 6 Age UK charity shops in Wiltshire or Swindon. The final deadline for hats is **7th October 2011**. If you have any questions please ring Emily on 01380 710411 or refer to www.ageukwiltshire.org.uk



CHURCH SERVICES - July 2011 POULSHOT, SEEND & BULKINGTON

Sunday 3rd July

9.30am	All Age Worship	Bulkington
11.15am	All Age Worship	Seend
6.00pm	Evensong	Poulshot

Sunday 10th July

9.30am	Matins	Poulshot
11.15am	Parish Communion	Seend
6.00 pm	Evensong	Bulkington

Sunday 17th July

9.30am	Parish Communion	Bulkington
11.15am	Parish Communion	Seend
6.00pm	Parish Communion	Poulshot

Sunday 24th July

9.30am	Family Communion	Poulshot
11.15am	Family Communion	Seend
6.00pm	Parish Communion	Bulkington

Sunday 31st July

10.00am	Benefice Service	Wesley Chapel, Seend
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Church Flower Rota

3rd & 10th July

Mrs Christabel Francis

17th & 24th July

Mrs Hazel Coleman

31st July & 7th August

Mrs Shirley Taplin

SEEND AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

There are no activities to report on this month, so just a reminder of the trip to Sudely and Batsford. This takes place on Saturday 18th June, leaving from The Bell at 9.30am and returning by approximately 6.00pm. If you have any queries please contact Carole or Jackie whose numbers are on the information sheet and there is still time for anyone else to add their name to the list.

At the time of writing the Mapperton trip in July is low on numbers but those who are on the list will be contacted if there is any change. Plants etc will be needed for the stall at the fete in August so if you are managing to keep your garden alive and healthy despite the lack of rain please remember to keep your surplus plants and crops for us to sell.

Sue.

Pastoral preponderances ...

Yesterday, we did something a little different in church. Mindful of how little we truly know each other in our congregations, I invited everyone to take a little time out to share with someone sitting nearby something of their concerns and their joys. After all, how can we love and pray for each other, if we don't even know them? And I asked them how much they knew about me. And I admitted how little I knew about them as individuals, let alone the people living in our parishes, for whom I have pastoral responsibility (something I really am working on!) Although everyone was rather taken aback at first - after all, they're not normally given the freedom to talk to one another during a service - they soon got into it and there was a healthy buzz of conversation and even some good feedback as people left church

afterwards, especially from those who are relative newcomers to our villages. That put me in mind of a story I heard from a member of a Round Table group. It was his branch's practice that at each meeting a member would give a brief description of their job. He was a minister and, when it came to his turn he said: "I'm with a global organisation. We have branches in every country in the world and we have representatives in almost every government and boardroom on earth. We're heavily into motivation and change of behaviour patterns. We run hospitals, schools and after-school clubs, soup runs and homes for the homeless, refuges, publishing firms and nursing homes. We look after our clients from birth to death. We're into life, health and fire insurance. We perform spiritual heart transplants. Our original President owns all the real estate on earth, as well as an assortment of galaxies and constellations. He knows everything and lives everywhere. Our product is free for the asking. No-one could afford to buy it. Our Chief Executive Officer was born in a run-of-the-mill town, worked as a carpenter, didn't own a home, was misunderstood by his family, hated by enemies, walked on water, was condemned to death without a trial, and arose from the dead. I speak with him every day."

The church is the most amazing organisation in the world and I find it so hard to understand why everyone isn't a member. Want to know more about Christianity, and what it can offer you? Give me a call. (827285).

Renée

The missing note ...

Well, the invitation to return my CD player to the church vestry from where it was removed wasn't taken up. A great pity. However, I have received two offers of a replacement, for which I really am most grateful. On behalf of Seend Church, many thanks, and bless you for your kindness. I won't embarrass you by naming you here - but you know who you are! All Church property has now been treated with a process that enables it to be traced and identified. It's a great sadness to us all that such action should prove to be necessary. R.

Hello

I am putting this month's PVN together after a very full week which began with OfStEd and ended rather more delightfully with dancing on the village green. Best to pass over the joys of OfStEd and move swiftly on to the festivities on the green on the evening following the village fete. Tables and picnic blankets set around the green were laden with home-made feasts and, of a course, a goodly selection of refreshing and relaxing beverages. Entertainment was again provided by Chris Cross, who also made a determined pitch to offer us a pantomime at Christmas. There was talking, feasting, drinking and dancing and a jolly good time was had by all. How lovely, and how lucky we are to be part of a community that can come together *as* a community like this. Naturally, the evening ended with the traditional Dambusters' fly past re-enactment by assorted ladies, chaps and children of the village. As someone said "It's not so much that you do it as that you behave as if it's normal". Indeed. But still - such fun!

And speaking of community ... This issue of the PVN will run to about 32 pages of which 24 are adverts and just 8 news and views. The adverts just about pay for the paper and printing, so great to have them, but still, it would be good to have more news. However, I can't print it if I don't get it. If there's something going on, or something you think people should know about it - send it in! All contributions gratefully received, not just by me but by the village. Come on! A community that's free enough to fly around to The Dambusters has surely got plenty to say for itself! Enjoy the summer.

Nina

**5th and 6th August - come along to The Raven
to welcome the Wadworth Shire Horses
to their Poulshot Summer Holidays**



Friday 5th - mini beer festival - clowns for children - barbecue - a marquee in the garden - "Log Off" playing in the evening.
Saturday 6th - join us at a Caribbean evening
More details in the pub!