

Poutshot Village News

Wishing you a



Joyful Christmas

issue 147: December 2008

Poulshot Village News

is put together by Nina Jeffries and anyone else who would like to help, and distributed to all houses in the village by a lovely team of helpers. Help, contributions, reports, opinions and articles are very much welcomed - it is much easier if they can be e-mailed so they can be edited and inserted to fit, but do post hand-written or typed contributions if that is easier. While we will always aim to include all shades of opinion and interest, we reserve the right to select and edit where appropriate. We also aim to provide a network and record of what's going on in the village, as fully as possible, so please let us know if there is information or forthcoming events or meetings that you would like publicised in advance or reported on afterwards. The intention will be for the magazine to float through your doors by the first of each month, so contributions need to be with us the week before that. We look forward to hearing from you.

Contact us -

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phone - 01380 828883

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Contributions for next issue in by

20th January



ST PETER'S CHURCH, POULSHOT

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Poulshot Village Hall

Wednesday 10 December
6 pm

STALLS: White Reindeer, Books,
Cakes, Tombola,
Cosmetics and Gifts,

RAFFLE

FATHER
CHRISTMAS



Come along and enjoy a glass of mulled wine
and a mince pie with friends and get into
the Festive Spirit

Church Services in Poulshot, Seend and Bulkington

30th NOVEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY

10.00 am. BENEFICE SERVICE POULSHOT
Celebrant - June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury)
6.00 pm Benefice Advent Carols SEEND

7th DECEMBER

8.00 am. BCP Holy Communion SEEND
9.30 am. Family Eucharist BULKINGTON
11.15am. Parish Eucharist SEEND
4.00 pm Christmas Lights Gift Service
SEEND
6.00 pm Evensong POULSHOT

14th DECEMBER

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion SEEND
9.30 am Matins POULSHOT
11.15am Parish Eucharist SEEND
6.00 pm. Parish Eucharist BULKINGTON

21st DECEMBER

8.00 am. BCP Holy Communion SEEND
9.30 am Family Eucharist POULSHOT
11.15am. Family Eucharist SEEND
6.00 pm Evensong BULKINGTON

18th DECEMBER

7.00 pm Carol Service BULKINGTON

21st DECEMBER

8.00 am. BCP Holy Communion SEEND
9.30 am. Parish Eucharist BULKINGTON
11.15 am Parish Eucharist SEEND
6.00 pm. Holy Communion BCP POULSHOT

22nd DECEMBER

7.30 pm Carol Service SEEND

24th DECEMBER

6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight POULSHOT
11.30pm Midnight Mass SEEND

28 DECEMBER

10.00 am BENEFICE SERVICE BULKINGTON

4th JANUARY

8.15am BCP Holy Communion SEEND
9.30 am Family Eucharist BULKINGTON
11.15 am Parish Eucharist SEEND
6.00 pm Evensong POULSHOT

11th JANUARY

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion SEEND
9.30 am Matins POULSHOT
11.15 am Parish Eucharist SEEND
6.00 pm Evensong BULKINGTON

18th JANUARY

8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion	SEEND
9.30 am	Parish Eucharist	BULKINGTON
11.15 am	Parish Eucharist	SEEND
6.00 pm	Parish Eucharist	POULSHOT

25th JANUARY

8.00 am.	BCP Holy Communion	SEEND
9.30 am.	Family Eucharist	POULSHOT
11.15 am.	Family Eucharist	SEEND
6.00 pm	Evensong	BULKINGTON

WEEKDAY SERVICE

9.00 am (Tuesday)	Matins	POULSHOT
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CHURCH ROSTERS

Sidesman / Reader

Nov 30th T.B.A.

Dec 7 th	Mrs P Bremner-Milne	/ Lt Col R Janes
Dec 14 th	Mr N Hunloke /	Mrs P Bremner-Milne
Dec 21 st	Mr C Saunders	/ Mrs K Amery
Dec 24 th	T.B.A.	/ T.B.A.

Jan 4 th	Mr M Hues /	Mr M Hues
Jan 11 th	Mrs K Amery /	Mrs J James
Jan 18 th	Mr F Wood /	Lady K Hunloke
Jan 25 th	Mrs J James /	The Rector.

CHURCH NOTES

DECEMBER 1st, 8th, 15th - ADVENT MEDITATION

As we start our journey to Christmas we begin with our Advent Meditation groups. These will be three short services (lasting about 30 mins) when we can focus our thoughts on the coming celebrations of Christ's birth. They will be held in St Peter's Poulshot (1st), Christ Church Bulkington (8th) and Holy Cross Seend (15th).

DECEMBER 10TH - XMAS BAZAAR at the former Chapel-at-Ease (next to the Village Hall)



Come to the Christmas Bazaar on Friday 5th December and find that extra gift you wanted to complete your Christmas shopping. All the usual stalls will be there and I have it on good authority that Father Christmas will be there to see the children.

DECEMBER 17TH - CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE.



This is a wonderful evening when a hearty band of volunteers gather together to process around the village singing all your favourite carols for Christmas. (and we like to gather a few pennies for charity on the way). If you would like to join us, there is no audition, all you need is enthusiasm - you will be very welcome. Meet at the Raven Car Park, 6.00pm

DECEMBER 24TH- CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT- 6.00pm

On a personal note, this for me is the start of Christmas - our service of Carols by Candlelight. We gather together to listen to the Christmas readings and sing traditional carols in a wonderful setting - St Peter's Church lit entirely by candlelight. It really brings home to everyone the true meaning of Christmas and helps us to celebrate this special event in the most moving way. Sherry and mince pies are served after the service.



And some advance notice...

I know some of you will say, 'but that is miles away!', when you read the following, but as the next magazine will not be until September, please put in your diary now the date of the Harvest Supper. We will be having a Bran Dance on the evening of September 29th, with the group Five Bar Gate providing the music, and a ploughman's supper will be available in the school during what will be a well deserved interval (that is if you are dancing as much as you should be). Watch out for details of ticket sales for they will be in great demand. The Harvest Festival Service will take place on Sunday 30th September. This will be an Evensong Service beginning at 6.00 pm.

Janet James



WISHING YOU A HAPPY CHRISTMAS.....

P	U	D	D	I	N	G	T	Y	S	P	L	K	M	A	C	S	W
E	A	S	N	A	H	S	R	E	T	V	B	T	U	R	K	E	Y
N	D	J	O	S	E	P	H	T	A	N	U	Y	A	T	R	L	E
A	M	T	F	O	K	I	A	U	R	M	V	C	B	C	X	F	Z
H	G	I	E	L	S	Y	O	H	S	L	K	H	E	F	E	D	H
L	E	R	S	J	I	R	E	C	P	E	O	D	A	L	D	F	G
T	O	A	T	F	L	A	T	N	R	F	T	E	R	F	E	S	F
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	P	A	I	A	H	L	S	C	D
I	K	S	V	U	H	P	K	U	E	Y	N	P	E	O	A	H	S
E	A	V	A	H	N	E	M	N	R	S	J	B	N	D	W	I	A
S	O	P	L	Y	L	S	J	E	S	U	S	P	E	U	A	M	C
P	E	M	S	E	X	T	P	O	S	L	T	R	H	R	C	N	M
R	T	A	O	D	S	S	I	E	O	A	I	E	S	O	R	E	E
E	Z	N	C	F	T	N	H	N	P	N	W	H	N	T	B	Y	H
S	A	G	L	E	A	S	I	R	A	S	T	E	R	E	U	H	E
E	D	E	T	C	B	D	R	T	N	H	U	S	F	Y	V	M	L
N	T	R	O	U	L	T	N	X	K	S	L	O	R	A	C	Y	H
T	L	A	H	T	E	A	J	L	A	N	Y	O	N	M	N	O	T
I	N	S	R	A	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	I	T	N	L	E
H	O	L	L	Y	P	L	E	O	S	E	I	R	E	O	A	P	B

CHRISTMAS	JESUS	CRACKERS	CRANBERRY	TURKEY
NOEL	SANTA	STOCKING	GOOSE	PUDDING
PRESENT	CHIMNEY	HOLLY	CAROLS	MARY
BETHLEHEM	TINSEL	ELF	JOSEPH	RUDOLF
MANGER	STABLE	FESTIVAL	STAR	SLEIGH

....AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

U	R	T	L	E	D	O	V	E	S	E	A	I	L	P	N	A	L
H	R	D	N	U	H	Y	S	A	O	S	R	E	M	M	U	R	D
G	E	E	S	E	B	K	Y	P	L	R	H	N	S	I	O	B	P
F	Z	X	S	P	R	N	J	I	D	S	A	O	F	D	X	I	W
Y	E	A	F	O	G	I	E	P	H	D	U	S	G	N	I	R	A
D	L	G	W	D	L	K	R	E	U	R	L	B	Y	I	L	A	S
Y	B	E	A	E	B	U	I	R	O	F	D	J	E	G	N	C	S
B	R	F	G	R	Q	P	T	S	F	S	L	K	P	H	O	H	A
I	J	R	P	H	A	G	G	I	S	X	A	R	D	T	J	A	I
G	D	E	D	U	D	I	H	F	O	Y	N	J	E	L	F	M	L
B	O	N	I	E	Z	O	O	9	A	N	G	L	M	N	A	P	V
E	A	C	A	N	H	U	E	R	E	H	S	U	S	D	I	A	M
N	L	H	P	S	C	R	K	W	S	I	Y	F	Q	A	P	G	E
B	E	H	D	I	E	B	Y	G	B	R	N	A	S	W	A	N	S
I	A	E	F	L	N	E	T	I	O	D	E	Y	R	L	O	E	B
O	P	N	H	S	A	Q	R	A	U	N	Y	D	O	U	N	I	P
S	A	S	E	R	X	C	A	L	L	I	N	G	B	I	R	D	S
G	D	I	R	T	R	A	P	I	A	R	U	J	S	U	C	R	F
B	E	H	N	A	F	O	S	F	H	O	G	M	A	N	A	Y	P

NEW YEAR	BIG BEN	RESOLUTIONS	MIDNIGHT
PARTRIDGE	TURTLE DOVES	FRENCH HENS	CALLING BIRDS
RINGS	GEESE	SWANS	MAIDS
LADIES	LORDS	PIPERS	DRUMMERS
HOGMANAY	HAGGIS	PARTY	CHAMPAGNE
FIREWORKS	WASSAIL	AULD LANG SYNE	2009

MICE

A long time ago two white mice were given to a ten year old girl as a birthday present from her parents. The mice lived in a specially made house in a room inside the home. They were fed twice a day and their home was cleaned out regularly every Saturday morning. The names of these mice were Marmaduke and Marmalade. Naturally they produced some baby mice. When these little treasures were big enough they were taken to a pet shop and sold for 6d, that is six old pence, each. This money helped their young breeder to save up for a second hand bicycle!

Many years later, here in Poulshot, lots of brown field mice live. Have you seen any?

If you ventured into the Chapel of Rest on Thursday evenings, during a Yoga Class in recent weeks, you would be very aware of their presence! A bit like Beatrix Potter's mice they live behind the wainscot.

Here are the Yoga Class members words used to describe the presence of these inhabitants - they express feelings, names given to yoga postures and words associated with mice: - Anxious. The Cat. Whiskers. Scrabbling. Scampering Cheese - The Dog. Ho ho ho Serene.

How would you react to a little mouse appearing in your home and how would you describe it?

From where I stand ...

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany & Candlemas!

From the very beginning of December through to the start of February is a journey of discovery! As we watch & wait through *Advent* we are like those who were looking out for & sharing the arrival of Jesus over 2000 years ago. On *Advent Sunday* the beautiful 'darkness into light' Advent Carol Service helps us begin this season of waiting & then each Monday evening just for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in one of our churches are the *Advent Meditations* (1st Dec Bulkington, 8th Dec Poulshot, 15th Dec Seend all at 19.30) which means time of stillness, quiet reflection & prayer as well as some discussion on the Bible passages related to 'The Christmas Child'.

This includes not only Jesus Himself but also the children of the Nativity like stories of the birth of John the Baptist, who would foretell the adult Jesus & His ministry, & stories of Herod's killing of the innocent children born at the same time as Jesus in the endeavour to remove Him. So we reflect on discovering our own sense of the child within us, the people we become, growing & changing, as well as the times we try to cling to the past or try to destroy what we cannot understand or accept... Come & discover seasonal material for our thoughts & reflections.

(Please help yourself, at any time the church is open, to a free copy of our Advent Meditations booklet available in any of our 3 churches from early December.)

Early in December is the '*Christmas Lights' Children's Gift Service* where we think of all the kinds of Christmas lights we experience but also of Jesus & the way in which we too can be Christmas Lights by offering a gift for a child less fortunate than ourselves. Any new or newly new gift, wrapped or unwrapped, for any age child will be welcome at this service & then will be gratefully received by West Wilts Social Services to be distributed to some of the families they serve.

We come to *Christmas* to celebrate the Best Gift of all, Jesus, who came to share our lives in our times of joy & of need as well as to transform & fulfil our lives with His presence & His love. As we think of God born to us in a manger can we stoop low enough to see Him...?

At *Epiphany* we celebrate Jesus being revealed to the world, God available to everyone, shepherds & kings! By *Candlemas* we know that Lent & Easter are not far away & we hear the story of old Simeon who has waited all his life to see the Messiah, to see Jesus, & now he holds the holy baby in his arms. Indeed this is exactly how close God is to all us! Come & join us on the magical journey & see what *you* can discover!

Revd Sacha Pearce, Rector



Why Worry

There are two things to worry about:
Either you are well or you are sick.
If you are well, then there is nothing to worry about;
But if you are sick,
there are two things to worry about:
Either you get well or die.
If you get well there is nothing to worry about;
If you die, there are two things to worry about:
Either you go to heaven or to hell.
If you go to heaven, there is nothing to worry about;
But if you go to hell,
you'll be so damn busy shaking hands with friends,
You won't have time to worry.

Mary Bell

An appeal from Seend Gardening Club

There is an aeonium available for the lady who was asking about them at the stall at the fete, but we don't know who she is! Could she please contact Joyce Brand!

Yvonne and Joe Baber
would like to thank everybody who helped and supported
the Coffee Morning held at Dukes Farm on November 7th.
The Coffee Morning raised the grand total of £523.36
in aid of Save the Children.
Thank you.

A warm Poulshot welcome and a jolly evening out

Brian and Joyce Arnold and their younger son Matthew moved into The Old Farmhouse in Mill Lane in Early September in order to be close to their older son and family (especially the four grandchildren) who live in Edington. Having always lived in Lancashire, this was a big move and their thoughts and impressions are set out below.

What a lovely friendly village. From day one we have been made to feel welcome by everyone we have met - people have called to see if we are settled or need anything, people we meet as we walk the dog and, especially, people we have met through church. We have been invited to village activities including a fun skittles evening organized by the Ladies Club, the Discussion Group and best of all, the wonderful Harvest Supper and Barn Dance held at the Chapel-at-Ease.

Of the Barn Dance, Matthew writes - What better way of spending a wet Saturday night than having a Barn Dance? Being to dancing what a fish is to cycling, and having two left feet, I took them both along accompanying my parents, and so we prepared to trip the light fantastic. However, I need not have worried because many others turned left instead of right and dosided in the wrong place, so I was in good company. Everyone seemed determined to have a good time, and I certainly did.

And Joyce says - For me it was firstly an occasion for meeting new villagers and secondly for renewing my association with folk

dancing. It had been a long time since I danced in such a way. The "Five Banned Gate" started my feet tapping as soon as we entered the building and they continued tapping and moving until we exited at 11 o'clock. It was a wonderful evening, but the high point was meeting people and being made to feel welcome. Thank you to all who organized the evening and the supper.

And thank you Poulshot for making us feel so welcome and accepting us into village life. We look forward to living in such a warm and friendly community.

the Arnold Family

Rubbish Collection and Christmas Tree disposal ...
information from Kennet District Council

Collections on Wednesday 24th and Wednesday 31st December as usual. Crews are working Boxing Day. Collections following Christmas Day and New Years Day will be one day later than usual. Normal collections will resume week beginning 5th January 2009.

The Council will again supply Hessian sacks and posters to anyone welcome to collect Christmas cards for recycling, and the Council will again come and collect the cards in the week beginning 26th January 2009. Please contact Sam Bartle on 01380 734784 if you would like to take part.

Christmas trees can be recycled at the recycling centres and will shredded and turned into compost. Residents with green bins can put the tress in their green bins for recycling.



The Badgers - -Worton & Cheverell F.C.

<http://www.wortonandcheverellfc.co.uk/>

Comments to Spooky on '606' on the way back from the U17'B' team Cup win at Bemerton Heath, showed the depth of improvement in the team who had previously always been outplayed by this Salisbury side. However, in a match well fought, both teams went into Extra Time after drawing 5-5 : 'end to end action'. Even on penalties it was tight with the need to go to 'Sudden Death', with a save being made by Jamie to allow The Badgers to win with the follow up goal. However, football is a 'funny old game' and the following week saw this side comfortably take the lead in a League match against Westbury in the first half, only for Westbury to turn the game around in the heavy rain to win.

At the younger end of the Club the Under 6s now have between 11 and 18 turning up for training, and it is a true joy to watch the development of these youngsters. The Under 7s are now in a 5-a-side league, having played 2 matches winning both 6-0 against Chippenham, and 8-1 against Castle Combe Colts, and with a regular 14-15 at training on Saturday mornings at West Lavington Village Hall.

The Club do need help in training and matches at some age groups, and parental volunteers are most welcome, even if putting up goals or flags or locking changing rooms on match days...in addition at Under 12 we also need match officials from the community to volunteer to help referee or be linesman on matchdays - Keith needs assistance (just like England managers in the past...) - if you

are interested and can spare some time to ref/line please contact him on 721291.

Normal Christmas break for the Club, with training to resume in early January - if you are interested in joining please view the 'contacts' page on the website address listed - all are most welcome.

Many thanks **Steve Dagnall** 01380-727976

Contact details

Under 7: Steve Walker and Steve Vickery 01380-818006/739141 (2 teams)

Under 8: Kevin Stone 01380-818034

Under 9: Stuart Swan and Andy Duckett 01380-813984 / 831038 (2 teams)

Under 10: Patrick Abbott 01380-813292

Under 11: Kevin Stone 01380-818034 (full)

Under 12: Keith Wain 01380-721291

Under 13: Andy Vick 01380-870098

Under 14: Martin Tanner 01380-721174 (full)

Under 17: Paul Sperring 01380-727242



Burns Night Supper

**Saturday 24th
January 2009**

**7:00 pm for 7:30 pm
Seend Community
Centre, Rusty Lane**



**Sumptuous Scottish Bill o' Fare
Licensed Bar**

Dress: A Touch of Tartan

Entertainment: Scottish Theme

Tickets (in advance):

£15.00 (includes a nip of whiskey)

please call: 828527, 828485, 827139



**Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!
Aboon them a' yet tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy o'a grace
As lang's my arm.**

In Aid of Church Funds

Poulshot Parish Council

The most recent meeting on 4th November opened with a public session to discuss the potential development of land in the centre of the village: Kennet Council require that at least 50% of any housing development must be affordable housing, for rental through a housing association and not for purchasing on a part ownership option. The meeting heard that as the land is in a conservation area the planners would insist that the existing buildings on site should be maintained and developed and that the existing yard area should be maintained. Copies of the plans are available to anyone who wishes to see them.

At present the plan would be to build 6 houses for private sale and 5 for a housing association: Ivor Sault, the owner of the land is currently in discussions with Sarsen Housing: the likely timescale of application, discussion and negotiation would be leading to 2010 as the earliest date for actual building work to commence.

Following this open session, the Parish Council also discussed tree pruning on the green, the allotments and the concerns regarding speed limits down along Caen Hill.

The meeting heard that progress on the refurbishment of the Village Hall continues well :the roof is now on and

the scaffolding should be down in the next week. Despite running behind schedule it is hoped that all work will be complete for the very start of the new year 2009. The Village Hall Committee intend to hold an open day on the 3rd of January 2009 for members of the 100 club, this will include the Christmas and New Year draws. After the 3rd the hall will be available for private hire.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Tuesday 6th January 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**ST PETER'S CHURCH - POULSHOT
FLOWER ROTA 2009**

January 4th & 11th Mrs Emma Janes

January 18th & 25th Mrs Shirley Taplin

February 1st & 8th Mrs Christabel Francis

February 15th & 22nd

Mrs Hazel Coleman

LENT No flowers



Boxing Day Walk



This year Ray Josey is organizing the route. The start of the walk will be as usual at 2:00pm outside the Village Hall - please do wear suitable clothing and footwear for a cross country ramble. We hope lots of you will come, but the walk will not be suitable for pushchairs. Children and dogs should be accompanied, and it would be useful to have a lead for your dogs.

We aim to be back by about 4:00pm - and after the walk you will be warmly welcome at a changeover for tea and mince pies to be enjoyed at Barleyfields, the home of Chris and Pam Langton (instead of at the Gravina's as publicized last month).

Come and enjoy the afternoon whatever the weather.

Diana Gravina.

Don't forget!

Poulshot Village Quiz

Tuesday 13th January 8pm

The Raven



Stay safe this Christmas -
some advice from Wiltshire Constabulary

Christmas Shopping When the shops are crowded, the pickpocket has more chance to steal from you. If you can't arrange to shop during less busy times then have your purse/wallet close to your body and don't carry too much cash. The same applies to travelling on crowded buses or trains.

If you travel by car, make sure you park in a well-lit area, lock all doors and windows and do not leave anything in view. Always remove your satellite navigation systems from your vehicle. Try not to return to your car to leave purchases in the boot before continuing with your shopping trip as thieves may well watch car parks for just such a chance. Arrange to collect heavy items from stores when you have finished all you're shopping or get them delivered. Keep your chequebook and cheque card separate at times, make sure you stay alert and be extra careful with your wallet or purse.

Christmas Home Security Having bought all those wonderful presents, don't make it easy for someone to steal them from your home. Keep them out of sight until last thing on Christmas Eve and if you 'hide' or store larger items such as bicycles in the shed or outbuildings, make sure they are very secure. Now is a good time to check that you know what you have both normally (TV, Video etc) and with the extra presents you have bought. You may well find you need to check your insurance to make sure you are covered for the value of goods in your home. Take the frame numbers of new cycles and the serial numbers of new electrical equipment for future reference. Remember, empty boxes left outside advertise that you have new goods inside - dispose of packing carefully.

If you go out for the evening - make it look like someone is at home by turning on lights and the radio. Try to use a timer so that it looks like someone is in. Don't leave curtains open so people can see your decorations as potential thieves can see in. Be extra careful about locking doors and windows and if you have an alarm always set it. As a fire precaution, don't leave Christmas lights on in the house whilst you are out.

If you go away for the holiday period - use an automatic timer for lights and ask a trusted friend, neighbour or family to watch your home. Don't forget to cancel newspapers and milk if you have them delivered and either redirect your mail through the Post Office or have your neighbour take mail into the house - unopened Christmas cards and mail is a sure sign that a house is empty.

Strangers at the door - genuine delivery personnel usually have uniforms and liveried vehicles and should not need to come into your home. **DO NOT LET** anyone into your home unless you have clearly looked at their identification and with the front and rear doors locked phone the company from the telephone number in the phone book to verify who they are. Charity collectors will have identification and will not be offended if you ask to see it. Always check that there is a registered charity number which you can check with the charities commission. Always check if you receive any literature to be away of private limited companies who use this time of year to gain benefit from your charitable nature through doorstep collection of clothing. If you are not sure but want to make a donation, ask whether these can be made in other ways, perhaps through a bank. If you are within a cold calling zone do not answer the door. If you decide to answer the door please ensure the rear door is locked first and then put the chain on. If they do not have identification that they should hand to you or act suspicious lock the front door and ring 999 with a description and direction of travel.

Sometimes the elderly and vulnerable can be targeted by "Bogus Officials" please look after your neighbours and do confront cold callers by asking if they are looking for someone and a particular address.

Out celebrating

With office parties and general Christmas celebrations, pubs, restaurants and other venues are often crowded. Don't leave bags over the back of your chair and keep wallets and purses close to your body to make it more difficult for the pickpocket. Busy places make it easier for the opportunistic thief, so be alert at all times. Stay with friends if you can.

Make prior arrangements as to how you will get home. Book from a reputable taxi firm and ensure that the vehicle is displaying the District Council registration in the rear window and the driver is displaying their personal license. Remember to keep enough cash for your journey home and keep your keys separate from your bag.

Avoid any potential disturbances on the street by ensuring that you do not drink to excess. An estimated 23,000 alcohol-related incidents take place in Britain each week. Regular visitors to pubs and bars are twice as likely to be victims of assault. Try and travel home with a friend. Avoid violence by avoiding intimidating groups, alleyways and short cuts home. If you are confronted try talking your way out of potentially aggressive situations and avoid using aggressive body language or verbal communication. It is important that you appear to be in control of the situation. Too much alcohol will reduce your ability to be able to do this.

Don't flash your mobile around in public (81% of mobile phone theft victims are young men).

Make sure someone knows where you are going and what time you will be back. Don't drink too much - you could become a target for thieves.



For more advice on personal safety, see the Suzy Lamplugh website.

POULSHOT VILLAGE TRUST ARCHIVES

would love to have some printed photos to keep Nora's albums up to date. Records of unusual weather, village events, nature, farming etc. would be much appreciated. Please email Pam cplangton@aol.com or drop them in to Barleyfields letterbox or give them to any Trust member

Many thanks. Pam Langton

Seend and District Gardening Club

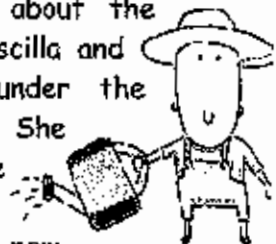


We had an excellent and well-illustrated talk this month from Kat Saunders, who has been the head gardener at The Courts in Holt for about the last 4 years. Many of us know it as a convenient place to take visitors, especially since the tearoom opened, and some of us remember the previous gardener who brought these gardens to greater prominence.

So we were interested to find out how a new gardener goes about changing and improving an established and popular garden. She remarked how special this garden is because it is not the usual National Trust large landscape but a much smaller and more intimate space. Her approach was to look back at the history of the garden in writings and photographs and conserve the early 20th Century atmosphere whilst making repairs where necessary and managing other features that are working well. The two main projects undertaken so far were to renew the Wither Walk border and to re-line the dye pool. Trees were pollarded, plants removed, poor soil improved. The pool was drained, walls taken down, lining put in, walls re-built and the pool re-filled. Everything is now finished and the stream sorted out to prevent flooding problems.



Many of the garden features are being merely tweaked but she was very enthusiastic about the unusual drifts of blue scilla and fritillaries naturalised under the trees which she is adding to each year. She recommended visiting in March to see them. The kitchen garden is comparatively new but has already paid for staging and equipment in the new



greenhouse through sales at the gate.

Two useful tips.

Kat emphasised the importance, as you look at your garden, of taking notes or photographs of the tasks for next year, otherwise you forget! Plant a new border in threes, one main plant and two 'nursemaids' to come out later as the border fills out.



On December 9th the speaker will be photographer Mike Read on The Barn Owl, and we start the new year on January 13th with a talk on *Gladiolus* and other species bulbs by the owners of Great Western *Gladiolus*. The competition for December will be a home-made Christmas wreath and for January, home-made muffins.

The away trip next year will be a long weekend from the 26th to 29th June when we will be visiting Kent. The list is filling up but will be available at future meetings or you can contact Roger to add your name. The day trip is being finalised still but will be on July 18th 2009.

Sue.

Village Hall Reopening

At last an end is in sight! The new toilet and storeroom block is almost complete; the services are in and the plastering is in hand as I write this update. The main building has been re-roofed (there was not a trace of insulation in the old roof!). The rather extraordinary Victorian air conditioning system - a series of holes in the ceiling leading straight out to the sky - has been replaced by several inches of insulation to provide much improved heat retention. A new eco-friendly heating system, worked by extracting heat from the air outside and transferring it to the inside air which is then pumped round the building, has been installed.

In response to a request from residents, we have created a lower ceiling in the main Hall to provide better acoustics and, hopefully, to improve heat efficiency. And last, but by no means least the folding doors between the two Halls will be replaced by a system providing a degree of sound insulation such that the two Halls can be hired out and used separately. The entrance will provide disabled access and the floors throughout the building have been brought up to the same level to improve safe movement for all. We're even sanding down the Hall floor and re-sealing it with a high wearing commercial/sport seal. Together with a new room to store all the furniture, we aim to provide a choice of Halls for the use and enjoyment of all.

A huge amount of effort and activity have been put in to ensure that Poulshot ends up with a meeting place of which we can all be duly proud. Now that the contractor, Pippin Construction, have given us a handover date - the end of December - we will be reopening the Hall in the New Year. To let everyone see what has been going on behind the contractor's fence for the last five months, we shall be holding an OPEN DAY on Saturday 3rd January to which everyone is invited.

The Hall will be open from 11.30am until 2.30pm and we shall also be holding the 100 Club Christmas Draw during that period.

This time last year we had plenty of bright ideas, no money and no planning permission. Come and see what has been achieved since then!

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