



Clearing footpath WG 6/13 *Photo by Ian Loudon*

*We would love more occasional & regular contributions for OUR community magazine from parishioners.*

Please send articles/ photo's to  
[lbr.roundabout@gmail.com](mailto:lbr.roundabout@gmail.com)  
or simply scan the QR code.





Some of the art—The winners (the top three above) were chosen by Pam Farr and the Art Group.

*Photos by Ali Eland*

March Café Plus-Portrait fun!

# Welcome

There are two longer articles in this issue: one on local history from Barbara on page 14; and, Lissie's sailing sequel starting on page 20. As well as the numerous regular activities, there are a couple of one-off events coming up which I would like to flag: a spiritual walk on May 21 (see below) and a coffee morning with reflections at St Peter's to remember the 80th Anniversary of D-Day which falls on June 6.

Café Plus will return in the Autumn.

*Tryphena Huntingford and the Round About team*

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MILVERTON'S HEDGEROW  
CHAPLAIN, invites you for a  
SPIRITUAL WALK

May 21, 10am

Start: Jubilee Hall

3.5 miles, 2.5 hours

We stop on several occasions to admire and take in the beautiful countryside around us.

We have moments of mindfulness to experience our own individual spirituality, and talk with others about it.

We bring along poetry, stories, we pray, have a short bible reading or maybe a psalm. The main emphasis though is on nature, our place in it and how we can spiritually be part of it by understanding it.

To book a place please email me on [stevenwort@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stevenwort@hotmail.co.uk) or phone/text me on 07557 958013

Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you on the walk!

# What's On

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Fri 3 May	Friendship Circle: coffee and chat	Jubilee Hall	11-12.30am
Mon 6 May	Jubilee Wood Jobs	Meet at Jubilee seat	10am
Wed 8 May	Jazz Night	Jubilee Hall	7 for 7.30pm
Mon 13 May	<b>Parish Council Meeting and AGM</b>	<b>Jubilee Hall</b>	<b>6.30-8pm</b>
Wed 15 May	Langford Ladies: trip to Hestercombe	Meet at Martlet	12 noon
Fri 17 May	Friendship Circle: Devon County Show	tbc	tbc
Sat 18 May	Budview: Next Goal Wins	Jubilee Hall	7 for 7.30pm
Mon 20 May	Blood Donation	Jubilee Hall	11am-8pm
Mon 20 May	Greener Gardening Group:	The Martlet	6.30pm
Tues 21 May	<b>Spiritual Walk</b>	<b>Jubilee Hall</b>	<b>10am</b>
Wed 22 May	Police beat surgery	Jubilee Hall	2-3 pm
Fri 31 May	Friendship Circle: coffee and chat	Jubilee Hall	11am-12.30pm
Thur 6 June	<b>80th D-Day Anniversary</b>	<b>St Peter's Church</b>	<b>10.30am</b>
*Sun	Table tennis	Jubilee Hall	10.30-11.30am
*Mon	Baby & Toddler Group -In termtime	Jubilee Hall	10am-12pm
*Tues	Fitness	Jubilee Hall	10-11am
*Tues	Pilates	Jubilee Hall	11.30-12.30pm
*Tues	Tai chi and Qigong	Jubilee Hall	1.30-2.30pm
*Wed	Short Mat Bowls	Jubilee Hall	10-midday
*Wed	Bridge	Jubilee Hall	1-3.30pm
*Wed	Art Class	Jubilee Hall	10am-12pm
*Mon and *Wed	Ladies Boxing Fitness	Jubilee Hall	6-7pm
*Fridays	Dance	Jubilee Hall	9.30-10.30am

*\*These are weekly events held at the Jubilee Hall. This list is not exhaustive so please check for further details at: [lbjubileehall.com](http://lbjubileehall.com)*

# LANGFORD LADIES

## Gin in March

Many thanks to Jane for generously hosting a gin making and supper event. She had researched various “standard” gins and made some in advance for tasting. After, the learning, we were let loose on a fabulous selection of herbs and spices to make our own mix to take home. Juniper is the only fixed element of “gin”!



## Fyne Court in April

On a bright and chilly afternoon six intrepid Langford Ladies set out for a walk at Fyne Court, just north of Taunton. Having previously been warned of treacherously muddy footpaths we were all suitably shod in Wellingtons which turned out to be unnecessary as the footpaths had mostly dried out. Wood anemones, primroses and many other wild flowers lined the paths but sadly we were a tad early for the purple vistas of bluebells which anyone visiting in the next few weeks will see in abundance. We then drove to Hestercombe House, a mile away, and caught up over coffee and cake. A very pleasant walk and company.

*Barbara Hughes*



## Hestercombe visit in May

May's trip to Hestercombe on 15 May is now being organised by Laurian and Jane who kindly took over when Marion got tied up with family commitments.

The plan is to car share and leave the Martlet at noon, returning about 5pm. Tickets are £16.90 without discounts. If you would like to come, please contact Jane ([janehancock45@gmail.com](mailto:janehancock45@gmail.com)) who is arranging the car sharing and who can also pass on any details of discounts.

# News from LB Parish Council

## Parish Council – Budget update

I was talking to a resident recently regarding how much money we have to spend and on what. He felt most people would have no idea of the financial situation your Parish Council has to deal with, and by advertising the facts he believed more people would be aware of why we need help from volunteers.

In the financial year 2023/24 our income came mostly from Somerset Council, plus rebated VAT and a small amount of bank interest therefore giving a total income of £10,420. However, the areas we have to spend your money on are much more plentiful. There are expenditures we have to pay for legally, also expenses to cover the upkeep of the Triangle and dog bin emptying, plus numerous affiliation and insurance fees. 2023/24's surplus will be needed to cover the cost of future expenditure on replacement trees for the Ash Dieback infected trees which had to be removed.

Examples of expenditure for 2023/24 are:

£3360 Clerk salaries and expenses (a legal must pay)

£3500 Upkeep of the Triangle and dog bin emptying

£2870 Other allocated expenditure (e.g. *Affiliation fees, insurances, Ash Dieback removals etc*)

Total £9730, giving a surplus of only £690.

However, the next financial year could be even harder to navigate financially, because, given the well documented financial problems of Somerset Council, all Town and Parish Councils are being instructed to pick up several of the services normally carried out by the County Council. All councils are going to have to either pay for these services, which will eat into already tight budgets, or rely on voluntary working on more occasions.

Our income for this financial year will be £10,576, and, as things stand, our expenditure is projected to be £10,545.65. If any unknown costs occur, then we will have no option but to draw on our reserves, which are not vast, but if we continually have to eat into them, in future years, we will have to modify our spending on some of the areas already listed. Something we really do not want to do.

We are very fortunate in having an active community, but in the future I have no doubt we will need to call on your help more. I am sure, as a community, we can work together for the benefit of everyone.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in projects over the past 12 months, and I look forward to seeing many more in the next 12 months.

*Derek Sowden, Chairperson*

# LANGFORD BUDVILLE BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Following a successful trial in June and July of 2023 the Village Baby and Toddler Group started up again in September 2023, following the Summer break, and has continued to prove popular.

Held most Monday mornings during term time in the Jubilee Hall, from 10am – 12noon, the Group welcomes parents, grand-parents and carers of babies and toddlers from the Village, surrounding Parishes and beyond. Dates for the Group are published on the Facebook page – just search for Langford Budville Baby and Toddler Group - or alternatively contact Rachael via email (see below).

The Group has kindly been offered use of the newly refurbished outdoor play area at the Village School for some sessions when the Hall is unavailable. Jon Moise-Souch – Head of School – has been a great support and the Group looks forward to continuing to build links with the School especially with the creation of the new 'Seedlings Preschool' opening soon.

The current cost is £3 per family per session of friendly and informal, child-led play. The cost includes plentiful tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. If you have or know of anyone with children of pre-School age why not make us your Monday morning outing - we'd love to see you!

The Group has been well supported by many from both the Village Hall Committee and wider Village Community for which we are most grateful. However, we are always looking for additional volunteers to attend and help run the sessions so if you may be able to assist please do get in touch!

*Rachael Pavey rachaelpavey@gmail.com*



# Friendship Circle

For our March "coffee & chat", Roger O brought us a challenging quiz concerning places, streets and roads around Wellington - this got us all thinking hard!

John Burgess gave a very interesting talk on Exmoor characters. He worked for the National Park Authority, taking photos; he also carried a tape recorder to collect stories about the way of life of the folk who lived

there. Some years later, he joined the BBC and among other things, was involved in making a radio programme "Notes from an Exmoor diary". There were many stories, but my favourites would be about Norma Huxtable, a farmer's wife who knew where to go to hear tawny owls and stags bellowing (or bolving) and Hope Bourne who lived for many years in an old caravan in a remote spot. Hope worked on a farm and could do all of the work; she started writing about Exmoor and was also an artist - her journal is still in print. Some of the characters were remembered by our local members.



The next meetings are :

3rd May - Coffee & Chat + photo competition (spring)

17th May - Devon County Show

31st May - Coffee & Chat

14th June - Wellington Operatic touring group

28th June - AGM

12th July - Speakers (Jill & Martin James - gardening)

26th July - Coffee & Chat

All the above meetings 11 - 12.30 in the Jubilee Hall (unless otherwise stated).

The £2 entry includes one raffle ticket.

*Pam Farr*

The **Art Group** meets every Wednesday in the village hall committee room; 10.00 - 12.00. We pay £4 which covers hire cost and tea/coffee/biscuits. If anyone would like to know more, please email Pam at [pjayfarr@gmail.com](mailto:pjayfarr@gmail.com)



**Announcements-** please send in pictures of anniversaries, marriages, births etc as well as welcomes and farewells

**Welcome to ..**

Welcome to Sandra Turner and her son Jack who have moved into Quarryleaze from just outside Tiverton. Sandra comes from a Devon farming background and is a retired event's organiser. Jack attended Wellington School and now is busy at a variety of general gardening tasks like garden clearance, fencing and hedge trimming.

*Laurian Cooper*



**Farewell and Welcome at 2 Higher Houses**

Runnington was sad to say goodbye to Will and Sarah who have moved to Cornwall. We wish them every happiness in their new home.

A warm welcome to John and Fiona who moved in a week ago and are now busily decorating, unpacking and settling into their new home.

John and Fiona have moved from Shoreham in Kent. Having fallen in love with Somerset they are delighted to have settled here in this beautiful part of the County.

John is a professional gardener especially interested in "green gardening". Fiona is an artist specialising in art in relation to ecology, using many different mediums. She has worked closely with Hestercombe and has exhibited her work there.

We wish them a long and happy time in Runnington.

*Sue Osborne*

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## Planning Applications-updates

**21/24/0002**—Demolition of outbuilding and erection of a detached gazebo in the garden and detached gatage/carport at Wellisford Manor Barn. Decision of conditional approval made on 5 March 2024.



## LANGFORD BUDVILLE JUBILEE HALL

**Retiring Trustee—Pam Farr** Very many thanks to Pam Farr who has stepped down from the Trustees after many more years than she would have wanted acting as Treasurer. We will miss her good humour, understated competence and financial nous.

**New activities at the Hall** In addition to Baby & Toddler group, fitness, Pilates, art, bowls, bridge and dance there are now also weekly classes in **Tai Chi & Qigong, ladies boxing fitness and table tennis**. We also host the Friendship Circle each fortnight and Budvue cinema and Jazz concerts each month. Details of who to approach to join these activities are posted on the physical noticeboard outside the Hall and on the Whats On page of the Hall website.

Please see the online booking system for the monthly calendar and also for details of how to book different spaces. <https://www.lbjubileehall.com/bookings>

**Capital works** There are a couple of projects which we would like to undertake which include fitting rooftop solar panels and paving the courtyard. We are holding these though, pending further investigation of our complex storm water system.

**AGM** Please come along to our Annual General Meeting on Monday 17 June at 7pm to hear more about the Hall. We very much welcome new Trustees and Keyholders.

**Keyholders** Keyholders oversee activities at the Hall over the course of a week. We are moving to simplify their role by providing wider physical access to the Hall. It

is a good way to appreciate the breadth of activities that we host.

**Gardening on the bank** Finally, it would be great if someone could help maintain the bank: a high-impact visual advertisement for your gardening skills!

*Michael Huntingford*

***The school planted a new birch tree outside the hall which will be lit up at Christmas.***

*Photo by Josh Wedderkopp*



# BudVue

We finished our winter season with **One Life** which told the story of Sir Nicholas Winton who helped save the lives of 669 Czech Jewish children through the Kindertransport scheme of 1939. It was a moving story which was largely untold until fairly recent years.

Our summer season will start in May and is for two months only as we are taking a break, our first one apart from Covid lockdown since we started in 2018.

*Tim Wyatt*

## May 18 Next Goal Wins

This is the story of the American Samoa soccer team, who suffered the worst loss in World Cup history, losing to Australia 31-0 in 2001. With the 2014 World Cup approaching, the team recruits a down on his luck, maverick coach to help turn their fate around. Starring Michael Fassbender and directed by Taika Waititi this is a comedy drama.



## June 15 Wicked Little Letters

Wicked Little Letters is a crime comedy. A 1920s English seaside town bears witness to a dark, absurd scandal in this riotous mystery comedy. Based on a stranger-than-fiction true story, it follows two neighbours: deeply-conservative local Edith Swan (Olivia Colman) and rowdy Irish migrant Rose Gooding (Jessie Buckley). When Edith and fellow residents start to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. Please note that this film does have a warning for strong language.



**Budvue tickets are still only £5 and doors open at 7pm with the main film at 7.30pm, the bar is open and ice-creams are available during the interval.**

# Community and the School

## Springing into 2024 at Langford Budville Primary School

It was a rich and exciting Spring Term for the children of our village school, from wassailing the apple trees of our neighbours on '12th Night' right up to the final day's Easter Service at the church.

Spring Term can be a most fertile time for learning and one in which the children often really start to blossom. By now children have settled into their new classes and we are not yet into the crowded summer, with its exam cycles, residential trips, sports days and so on. So in spring we are able to immerse ourselves deeply in our learning. This term, across the three classes, just some of the topics studied have been Ancient Greece and Babylon, the British feudal system and Magna Carta, the science of biscuit dunking, the art of Islam, Hebrew script and the Torah, the montane environment, the skeletal system, and Shakespeare's MacBeth. Along with the excitement of World Book Day and Comic Relief and the school's annual sponsored walk, the children have had outings to Paighton Zoo and to sports festivals as well as running a reading cafe and hosting friends from across their federation for a recorder music jamboree! Mr Moise-Souch, teachers, assistants and coaches are providing a tremendously rich and wide learning environment for the children and it has been wonderful to see tangible results within the work the children produce and within their personal development.

My responsibility and educational passion is for Learning Outside the Classroom and I've been asked to write a little about this for Roundabout. The benefits of time outdoors are well documented and I am fortunate to be able to teach



the children in an environment that nurtures bodies and minds. In nature historian Stephen Moss' words, "Nature is a tool to get children to experience not just the wider world, but themselves". Along with covering the curriculum the children develop resilience, patience, empathy, curiosity and a plethora of other personal skills, along with physical grit, gross and fine motor skills and common sense!

We aim to be outdoors in all reasonable weathers, adapting our activities to the environment, from shelter building and fire lighting to bird watching and animal tracking. We walk with the seasons, following the cycles of indicator species such as lesser Celandine, Lords and Ladies, and bluebells. When the temperature is below zero, we make ephemeral sculptures like Andy Goldsworthy from sheets and spires of ice and when it rains we can get busy in the mud kitchen or go on wild walks that push our limits.

We work with the parish council to look after green spaces – litter picking, bird box building, sign cleaning and tree planting. We enjoy working with the Wildlife Trust, planting oaks grown from acorns to fill gaps where diseased ash have had to be removed. We love meeting locals on our walks and are amazed by who we come across, from hedgehog rescuers and handymen, to vicars and bodgers! It is a secret strength of small communities, the rich experiences, skills and knowledge that can be shared among us and passed on to the children. The incredible mural of 'Roots to grow, wings to fly', painted and donated by a local artist, is a great example of this, as well as the volunteers helping with the school garden and listening to readers. Thank you for the generosity of those who share themselves, all invaluable and all hopefully benefiting from the experiences as well. If you'd like to help in some way, just pop into school or give the office a call.

On the final day of term, the heavens opened and the wind roared. We'd planned to work in the woodland and parade to the church for our service but instead we took shelter from the storm within St Peter's Church. Here, safe and warm (thank you Lyn), Reverend Helene taught us to weave willow into floral headbands for our Easter parade. Adults and children joined us as we worked, crafting with natural materials generously gathered for us by other parishioners. It was a peaceful, productive and powerful experience. The children learned so much through interaction with others, having to help their friends, and by working in a different, atmospheric and memorable space. A wonderful and impactful way to round off a brilliant term.

From map reading to data gathering, from plant classification to poetry, and from team games to campfire cooking, learning outside the classroom takes limitless forms, guided by the seasons, weather, curriculum and of course the children. As a wise one once said, "When life gives you rain, jump in muddy...."

*Text and photo by Josh Wedderkopp*

## CHURCH NEWS From the vicarage

Since the February edition of Round About Magazine there have been changes in the community and in church life. We said farewell to Rev. Alan Ellacott and Katrina and I have, since then, started to take church services and got to know the school and this community.

For those that I have not yet met, I am the Rector of Milverton, Halse, Fitzhead and Ash Priors and am soon to be licenced as Priest In Charge of Langford Budville and Runnington. I have been with my present four churches for 15 years, and am also Area Dean, so am only too aware of the challenges facing rural churches and small communities. I bring with me my Reader/Community Chaplain, Sandra Lee, already known to many of you and other Lay volunteers including the Hedgerow Chaplain, and as a training incumbent, we may also be joined by a curate in training at some stage.

Change can be refreshing or unnerving, and we face changes in some way, every day. I look forward to meeting you, seeing what God is doing in this community and praying for you and joining in as much as possible.

*Grace and peace, Helene*



School children wearing their willow headbands at the End of Term Easter Parade with Revd Helene in St Peter's

Photo by Josh Wedderkopp

*More volunteers needed for **church flowers**. Not an onerous task, altar flowers the only essential and flowers last very well in the cool church! Please contact Laurian.*

## St Peter's News

Our Annual Parish Committee meeting heralded several changes. Lyn Wyatt has retired as Church Warden to be replaced by Laurian Cooper. Sarah Nutt has retired as Treasurer but is 'holding the fort' until a replacement is found. (Any offers??) Our grateful thanks to both Lyn and Sarah for their many years of service for the Church. We also welcomed Rosie Walker, our bell ringing captain, to the Committee.

We are now officially part of the Milverton Benefice with the Rev. Helene Stainer as our new vicar. We will be holding a Communion Service on the first Sunday of each month with a lay led (non-communion) service on the third Sunday of the month. Both services will be at 11.15am and we look forward to welcoming you. *Sarah Nutt*

**80th anniversary of D-Day**

**Coffee morning 10.30am**

**Thursday 6th June**

Readings and reflections on D-Day and to share our hopes for future peace. Contributions are welcome to this informal gathering at St Peter's.

*Laurian Cooper*

The **plant sale** held at the village hall during Cafe Plus raised over £240 for St Peter's Church. Such a successful sale would not have been possible without the generosity of those who purchased vegetable and flower plants on the day - here's hoping for spectacular results in your gardens over the Summer! Thanks too to those gardeners who supplemented my plant stocks with their own donations for sale.

*Keith Moore*

## CHURCH SERVICES Revd Helene Stainer 01823 400305

Date	Langford Budville	Runnington	Thorne St Margaret
5 May	11.15am Holy Communion service	Join Langford	Join Langford
12 May	Join Runnington	10.30am Lay-led service	Join Runnington
19 May	11.15am Non Communion service	Join Langford or Thorne	9.30am Holy Communion service
26 May	Join Runnington	9.30am Holy Communion service	Join Runnington

## Quaint Langford Budville Custom

This snippet was found in a book purchased at Whitepost Nursery in the Green Bee shop. Written by S.E.Winbolt as part of a series of Bell's Pocket Guides - Somerset, it was published nearly 100 years ago in 1929 and was very much of its time.

*'Langford Budville (or Botteville) has (or had) a quaint custom which smacks strongly of pagan ritual. Is this yet another survival of Roman Somerset? On the feast of SS. Peter and Paul the people, meeting in the churchyard, formed a ring round the church. On the side opposite the door - probably the N. Or Devil's Door - the ring broke, and the two leaders "went straight to the wall", says Prof. W.Boyd Dawkins, "and were followed by the others. Then they make their way back to the entrance of the churchyard, and when they got there they gave three shouts". This was by way of frightening the devil away to a neighbouring village.'*



Is this a variation on the "shouting from the church tower at Thorne St. Margaret" custom? A variation of this can also be seen in the "History of St. Peter's church" by M.B. McDermott, available in the church. There is another version in "Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries". Here the devil is chased to the River Tone at Harpford Bridge, the devil apparently disliked running water. At Harpford Bridge the lane called Bughole Lane is a corruption of the Celtic "bogie" meaning a dog. Nearby is Hell Lane and another similar local legend has a black dog, symbolising the devil, being chased out of the village.

These traditions often took place as part of a village Revels where much church ale was consumed! This often led to a lot of unruly behaviour and fights, as much a way of letting off steam rather than an intent on lawbreaking. However, injuries were incurred and no doubt work suffered the next day so by Victorian times many of these festivities were abolished.

May was a popular time to hold the Revels, as was midsummer, and often attracted other activities such as bear or bull baiting and drew wandering minstrels, jugglers and performers to set up their stalls. Relicts of these customs such as Maypole Dancing and the Obby Oss etc. have survived to the present and this time of year is popular for village fetes and fairs.

Has anyone heard of these at all, maybe from family who used to live in the village? Maybe we could reinstate the custom but find some other evil to shout at?!

*Barbara Hughes*





## SLOW COOKED LEEK AND LEMON SPAGHETTI

*Having a recipe which cooks all day whilst you are out at work is always useful. This one ticks a lot of boxes- it's easy, cheap and nutritious and is an ideal springtime supper. This amount serves 2 but can easily be doubled if your slow cooker is big enough. If you don't have a slow cooker, just set your oven to 100°.*

### Ingredients

500mls vegetable stock

1 large or 2 small leeks

Zest and juice of a lemon

A few sprigs of thyme or rosemary leaves picked and chopped or use dried.

150 g spaghetti

250g Ricotta

Grated parmesan to serve

Switch your slow cooker to low and add the vegetable stock

Cut the leeks in half lengthways and divide into halves or thirds. Cut each section into ribbons. 1cm wide. Wash thoroughly and place in the slow cooker. Stir well and put the lid on and leave for 4-8 hours.

About 15 mins before you want to eat add the spaghetti, turning your slow cooker up to high or the oven up to 180° (I find it easier to break the spaghetti in half) and stir well making sure the pasta is fully submerged. Cook with the lid on

When the pasta is cooked (about 15 mins) add the herbs, lemon zest and 1/2 the lemon juice. Adjust the seasoning - you can add more lemon if you want.

Stir through the ricotta and cook for a further 5 mins to warm through.

*Fiona Barber*

***This recipe is a Riverford one. For an illustration of the finished dish, please see their website in the recipes section.***

## Greener Langford Budville

**HEDGES**– We are very lucky to be living in a part of the country which is rich in hedges. These, however, are costly to maintain, especially if managed for wildlife. Under the government's much delayed Sustainable Farming Incentive, farmers can now access funds for assessing, managing and adding trees to hedgerows. On arable and grass land, grants are available for buffer strips which could provide habitat for pollinators, birds and small mammals and reduce water and topsoil run-off from fields. It will be interesting to see how well this scheme works and which fields round here benefit from these subsidies, perhaps with buffer strips along hedgerows instead of ploughing as close to the hedge as possible or by adding trees here and there along the hedge.

**WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**–Hedges can be crucial in the creation of wildlife corridors. The now designated green corridor running in Wellington from the Community Farm near Courtfields School to Fox's Field in Tonedale could usefully be extended up to Langford Heathfield. Much of it already has ribbons of trees or hedgerows: along the river Tone and up to Runnington, then along Ramsay Lane and past the old lime kiln to the southern border of the reserve. Improving some of the hedges and adding occasional standing trees would help and the conservation group could provide labour if allowed to do so.

**CONSERVATION GROUP ACTIVITIES**–Zenah Rowe, our footpath officer, reports any issues or obstacles on local footpaths but until now, we have not been able to take any action. Recently, however, the conservation group has been given permission from the County Rights of Way Officer to do so. With permission from the landowners, we have recently replaced a stile, removed a tree and dug a ditch to turn a stream back into a path. Soon we will be back protecting the trees from nettles, thistles and rough grass in the Jubilee Wood.

The next activity is in the Jubilee Wood. Meet at the Jubilee Seat.

**Monday 6 May, 10am**

*Ian Loudon ifloudon@googlemail.com*



Thanks to Paul (the stilt) and Roger (the tree— see front cover photo), footpath WG 6/13 is now clear, the stilt safe, and our visiting runners happy. *Photo by Ian Loudon*

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## Emotional display: March Café Plus

There were trousers made from old curtains, loved-ones' moth-eaten jumpers visibly mended, bags made from scrap fabrics, and lots more inventive ways to repurpose and upcycle old clothes.

The rack of old-clothes-made-modern did not just show the ease and value of up-cycling material. It also brought out lots of reminiscing about how fabric can affect our emotions and our memories. People admiring the display told stories of a grandfather's old shirts made into cushions for his great grandchildren after he died, and parents who first met because her mother couldn't bear to see her father trying to darn a pair of old socks so offered to do it for him.



*Theresa Jacoby*

## *2 White Oaks Cakes and Bakes—sioned Barton*

Whilst recovering from a recent operation with a few months off work, I was inspired to rekindle my love of baking. Our daughter who is studying for a business degree encouraged me to try selling my bakes, so *2 White Oaks Cakes and Bakes* was born.

You may have spotted the wicker basket outside the wall of our house on the corner near the church. It's a fair weather venture but please do stop by and enjoy some cookies, brownies, a variety of muffins or loaf cakes.

Payment is easy using your mobile and the handy QR codes or simply pop cash into the honesty box.



## Green fingers COMPANION PLANTING

A vast subject which, on researching this article, I very quickly realised I needed to narrow down! The use of French Marigolds (*Tagetes petula*) planted in the greenhouse with the tomatoes as a method of reducing whitefly and aphids appears to work! Bob Flowerdew makes the point that it won't get rid of whitefly once established so plant the marigolds at the same time as the tomatoes. The smell in this instance being the deterrent, it is also useful in with brassicas as the cabbage white butterfly is attracted by the smell of the cabbages and can be fooled by the strong smell from marigolds. Geoff Hamilton evidences the secretion from the roots of the marigolds deterring eel worms, a soil pest that attack potatoes.

The use of *Tagetes* to reduce aphid numbers is well documented because they attract hover flies whose larvae devour aphids, the most persistent of all garden pests. Hover flies are a valuable pest predator in the garden, the female requires protein which she gets from pollen, before laying her eggs near colonies of aphids so her young have a readily available source of food on hatching, 40% of the 280 species of hover fly young feed on aphids. Hover flies have mouth parts that dab like a sponge requiring open structured flowers where pollen and nectar are easily accessible. Geoff Hamilton recommends poppies, nasturtiums and, of course marigolds, but there is a much bigger selection than that offering us all a chance to plant what we like to grow. The RHS includes a very long list of other suitable plants to attract the all-important hover flies, such as Japanese anemone, Budleja, English marigolds, poppies etc. So as always, the longer the season and the greater the variety of flowers you can grow in your garden, the better.

It's not too late to plant and grow French Marigolds as it takes approximately 8 weeks from seed sowing to flowering : they are also readily available in garden centres. So, hopefully with a little companionship, we can all have cheerful gardens with aphid free tomatoes and roses!

*Jackie Milsom*



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## Biocentric Plants



At our March meeting, Chris presented us with a challenge. She invited us to choose a Turmeric rhizome and try our skill in growing a sturdy plant. The competition is for the best plant when harvested, so do bring along your triumphs or disasters to our November 11th meeting.

Chris introduced our guest speaker, Tom Nielsen from Biocentric Plants who gave us a fascinating insight into his method of growing plants, sustainably. A few years back, he and his wife bought a derelict farmhouse and yard near Wivey where they converted the barn into a home for his family and the surrounding area into a garden and plant nursery.

Tom is an educated and experienced gardener with a Masters in sustainability. He grows plants some of which are unusual and all grown for reliability and toughness. With his planting he is passionate about the creation of habitats for wildlife and insects. As a garden consultant he will advise on suitable plants for your particular garden and soil.

Particular examples of his philosophy in practice: when the time comes to cut down spent growth, just leave it on the ground to rot down and nourish and protect the plants; and, to grow comfrey as an under storey to suppress weeds and feed the soil. Once established the plants require no watering or feeding. It almost goes without saying that herbicides and pesticides have no place here.

His illustrated talk certainly inspired some of us to garden in a different way.

You can find Tom at Wivey farmers market once a month or contact him via

[tom@biocentric.org.uk](mailto:tom@biocentric.org.uk) or [www.biocentric.org.uk](http://www.biocentric.org.uk) Pam Langton



The next meeting is 20 May, 6.30pm at the Martlet "Recycling in the garden, companion planting and a bucket full of flowers".

*Wikipedia photo of Tagetes by Muhammad Mahdi Karim*



Photos by Lissie Fuller



# Dwarf Adventures on the High Seas

Hello Friends! I am now writing this from home in Rowan Barn, Chipley, but didn't want to leave you hanging, having had to return earlier than planned due to a shoulder injury.

I last left you when we were sailing from Lisbon, through the Straits of Gibraltar to the ancient city Cartagena in Spain. This was a really interesting place to visit for someone who was once set on reading Classics at university. I fear my enthusiasm for Roman artefacts may not have rubbed off on my Watch!

I was torn between being desperate to sight some orcas in this area, and rather nervous to know they were in our vicinity on that sail because there have been numerous reports over the past couple of years of pods of them swimming at pace, in a coordinated manner towards yachts to cause them damage. We weren't too concerned because our ship was much bigger than those boats being targeted but it was still in the back of my mind!

Life continued apace on board with academic lessons and day and night watches being stood by all the students. Firm friendships were being made and homesickness was all but a memory. We enjoyed an American version of Halloween complete with a costume competition, pumpkin carving inter-Watch competition and pumpkin pie at our celebration dinner.

We were also together, sailing past Trafalgar Point, on Trafalgar Night (the anniversary of Lord Nelson's victory over the French in the Battle of Trafalgar), and having been raised in a Naval family, I wanted to share this nautical celebration with my students. I persuaded the Captain to let us hold a celebration dinner (he wasn't French, fortunately...) and I explained the history behind it and then we all raised a toast to "the immortal memory" as is traditional. It was fun to share some Royal Naval history when the overwhelming culture on board was heavily Norwegian.

After Spain we next made land in Madeira. This was a beautiful island and all of us were ready for a few days out of lessons. I had reached a rather dry point in the syllabus so spent the few spare days I had on land working out how to add a little pizzazz to the finer points of English grammar. I was also eternally grateful for Ian Loudon's gentle encouragement when I was 10 or 11 at school, meaning that I had a firm grasp on the subject matter! After a lovely break in Madeira (which I can thoroughly recommend), we had a very short sail south to Gran Canaria where we were met by many parents and families. It was a joy to see so many smiling faces on the quayside as we entered port and to be able to spend the following day meeting

with my students' parents to chat about their incredibly positive progress in all areas of academic and maritime life.

We then all took a well-deserved two-week break when I was able to fly home and stay with my sister and her family. It was so lovely to catch up with them and get stuck into normal day to day life, doing the school run with my nieces. I also realised how much I missed having control over what I ate and when I ate it! Having been involved in boarding schools for so long I have been quite used to institutionalised living but it turned out that I was more used to living alone and being completely in control of my life and I was missing that a lot!

When I returned I was very excited for what I viewed as the best part of the year - the start of the Transatlantic Sail, from Las Palmas to Grenada. I had first sailed this route 12 months earlier on another tall ship, *Tenacious*, and it was what had inspired me to apply for this job. I'd returned from that trip feeling like I'd left part of my soul mid-Atlantic forever and I was excited to see if I could find it again! Before we departed Las Palmas we had to prep the ship for a long crossing. We planned to stop for a week in Cape Verde on the way, but knew that provisions would be hard to come by and expensive there, and indeed this would be the case for many of the favourite things on board until we returned to European waters in May, so much stocking up took place, both as a ship and as individuals. The trading price of pot noodles got slightly out of control after 3 weeks at sea, and I dread to think what a bar of Norwegian chocolate costs in the student mess these days! (All Norwegians I have ever met are of the certain knowledge that their chocolate is far superior to any other chocolate found anywhere else in the world and they will not be persuaded otherwise).

After 5 days back aboard doing last minute running repairs to some rigging, including fixing a wobbling mast (!) and sewing up our fore-upper-topsail which had got torn in some strong winds on an earlier sail, I was desperate to get back to sea. I found life ashore quite hard and much preferred the routine and predictability of life at sea. There were also far fewer opportunities for my brilliant students to make silly decisions and get themselves into trouble when we were at sea!

I'll leave you with some photos from our sail to Cape Verde. It was very special and took us up to just before Christmas. I thought I'd be able to report spotting some whale tails but I am firmly informed by our lovely Chief Mate that it was tuna leaping one very calm, breezeless evening on the aft ship. It was quite a magical moment because one of the other crew members was, as usual at this time, playing sea shanties on his accordion as we spotted them. Seeing marine life was one of the real treats of living at sea. Here are some of favourite moments in our journey thus far.

*Lissie Fuller*



## Magazine Information

**Editorial team:** Tryphena  
Huntingford; Denise Hunt - Treasurer;  
Jane Hancock; Alison Eland; Fiona  
Barber

**Contact:** lbr.roundabout@gmail.com

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#### Round About in Brief

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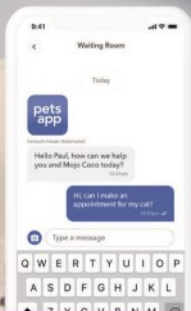
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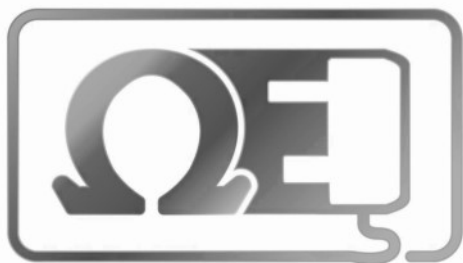


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