

# SUTTONS SEASONS

APRIL/MAY 2018



Wildlife Friendly Gardening DWT — see page 4

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The year's at the spring,  
And day's at the morn;  
Morning's at seven;  
The hill-side's dew-pearled;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn;  
God's in his Heaven — All's right with the world!

Robert Browning (1812-1889)

## Village Diary

15 April	11.30pm.	Sutton Hill Walk	Manor Farm
18 April	2.30pm.	WI AGM and Magician	Abingdon Hall IM
22 April	2.30pm.	Fabulous Hats	SW Village Hall
2 May	7.30pm.	Friends of St Bartholomew's AGM	SW Village Hall
12 May	2.00pm.	Plant Sale	SW Village Hall
23 May	2.30pm.	WI The History of Glass	SW Village Hall
23 May	7.30pm.	Parish Council Meeting	SW Village Hall

## FROM THE EDITOR

I hope that all villagers who wanted a copy of the February issue managed to procure it in one way or another. Vanity makes me wish that those who have their copy of this magazine will read and enjoy every page. Two new types of article are worthy of comment. One—an exclusive view of the reaction to Brexit from the some of the citizens of France. The other instructions from Dorset Wildlife Trust on how to plan a wildlife garden. Any comments gratefully received. **KP**

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Spring is on its way with a possibility of more snow! But keep your fingers crossed that it will be fine for the Sutton Hill Walk on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April. As usual we will meet at Manor Farm at 11.30 and after the walk be treated to a warming mug of soup. Children and dogs all welcome.

The following Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 2.30, we will be treated to a talk by Caroline O'Brian on her hats. She makes the most amazing hats and she will bring them for us to 'oooh' and 'aaah' over and will explain how she goes about designing and constructing them. We will also be allowed to try them all on, which sounds like fun. The cost will be £5 which will include a delicious selection of cakes and tea. All money raised will go to the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May will be the Annual Plant Sale at the Village Hall at 2.30pm so now is the time to keep to one side those plants you are dividing, the extra cuttings you don't know where to plant and not to mention the seedlings that have taken over! Please donate them to the sale and the rest of you who need more plants for the garden (and who can find a space somewhere!) come along and buy some extra special plants.

The Committee had heard of a funding opportunity that we could have applied to for funding for a new roof for the Hall which we were beginning to wonder might need replacing. It was last done over 20 years ago. A local roofer, Colin Wills, met with Tim Woolcott, our friendly architect, and they inspected the roof and pronounced that it was good for another 10 years! They will inspect it annually, just to make sure, but that was a huge relief to the Committee.

Watch out for leaflets coming through your doors giving you more information on forthcoming events.

**Jane McNeill**

## LEFTOVERS

In the Village Hall there are a number of items that have been left after events. They are:

- Oval Christmas plate, 'ho, ho, ho' round the edge
- Blue oval Poole Pottery plate
- Blue patterned saucer (Carnival design)
- Small square wooden chopping board
- White melamine plate
- Blue painted Spanish/Italian painted bowl
- 3 fabric table mats, blue and green

**If they are not claimed they will be given to a charity shop. So please phone me if anything is yours**

**Jane 811008**

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The roadworks on the A350 have now been completed and subject to the weather Highways will be back in the near future to do the road linings, the signs and to install the gates at the entrances to the Village on the A350. In this regard the Traffic Regulation order altering the speed limits on the A350 will shortly come into force and there will be a 30mph signs at the entrances to the Village from the A350 and Vale Farm.

Work has started on clearing the Spinney and it is already much tidier and less overgrown.

The Secretary of State has now given the go ahead for there to be two Unitary Authorities in Dorset one covering Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch and the other, to be known as Dorset Council, covering the rest of the county area. Each new authority will deliver all local government services in their respective areas. The number of councillors will be reduced from 207 to 82 and the Boundary commission will shortly be consulting on the new wards. The councilors workloads will be increased but this is part of the plan to reduce costs. There will be some staff losses but the plan is to keep the number of forced redundancies to a minimum.

The new council services hub at the Nordon Lodge in Blandford is now fully operational. The office is open every weekday from 8.30am to 5.00pm, and residents who drop in will receive help and advice at the Customer Services reception. It is best to make an appointment to speak to an advisor from a particular service, such as housing or planning, because they are not in the Nordon office all the time.

The NDDC budget has now been set and there will be a council tax increase of £5 for a band D property. Depending on the banding of any property for council tax purposes the increase may be more than this or less than this.

The Parish Council are currently looking at the on-going flooding issues within the Village and will be liaising with Highways as to how to resolve the same.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at 7.30 in the Village Hall. This will also be the AGM. As ever everyone is welcome.

**Marianne Wheatley**

## **Suttons Seasons is now available to all in the following ways:-**

*Full colour: Downloaded in pdf from the Village website on [www.suttonwaldron.info](http://www.suttonwaldron.info)*

*or in pdf via personal email—write to [suttonseasons@suttonwaldron.info](mailto:suttonseasons@suttonwaldron.info)*

*Black and White copies: available in limited quantities from the telephone box or church porch*

## Gravy Continued

## (Part Two)

In the last edition I was so joyous and up standing in my desire to sing the praises and show my appreciation of gravy, that I sprang into verse. When one is happy one may feel compelled to sing, but that doesn't translate too well into print hence the rhyming instead!

I do however feel a certain element of guilt when looking through 'Gravy Part One' as it is very much slanted towards a meat eaters' pleasure so apologies for any offence caused to those who don't feel the need to partake in the consumption of animals. The boiling of bones part may have made some of you wince, however, I did hold back from using the word 'carcass' which could have featured when it came to the production of stock. It was not though very amenable as a word when it came to pairing it with something suitable that would rhyme nicely.

So what I've wondered is what the difference is between a gravy and a jus? Is it that gravy is sort of working class, blue collar, socio-economic group D or E and jus is posh? You won't find gravy offered in a classy restaurant, it is always a jus. When looking for a reliable definition I found this from the Oxford dictionary:

**Jus (especially in French cuisine) thin gravy or sauce**

That sounds to me rather like a badly made gravy with no 'oomph' or body to speak of. A little research into local 'up-there' eateries gave me these examples:

**Roasted local partridge, leg meat hot pot, celeriac puree, beetroot game jus**

So here we have the jus served with partridge.

A little internet trawl into the manufacturing of jus kicked up that you bung a load of shallots, bay leaves, rosemary and stock in a pan and when it is all infused you strain out the bits and 'voila!' your jus.

However, here we have another partridge dish served with a sauce!!

**Roasted Dorset partridge crown, smoked leg croquette, pickled kohlrabi, mustard parsnips, game sauce**

So when is gravy not a jus or a sauce and would a sauce not resemble a gravy? All far too confusing.

Another search later and gravy I find is considered a type of sauce so ha-ha! Or is it? Go back to definition number one and I think I can conclude that they are all runny and there we have some common ground.

In our house we have one more type of gravy which is made out of chocolate. This is poured over ice cream or other puddings and is constructed by mixing melted chocolate with condensed milk or evaporated milk or even double cream. It has been branded as gravy by the children as it is served from the gravy boat (carefully washed from the roast), is hot, the colour and substance of a thick meaty gravy but that is where the resemblance ends!

Till next time when we look at left overs.



Celia Myth

### GARDEN NOTES

Spring is officially here so the garden and all the jobs should beckon you out! After all the birds are busy and even in the snow I saw a bumble bee hard at work all day on the flowers of my Corsican Hellebore.

It is time to think of spreading any compost or manure and feeding your plants including especially roses of the more modern variety.

Species roses go on regardless. I give my David Austin roses 3 feeds of 'Toprose fertilizer' each season to promote flowering.

If you haven't done your pruning do try to now, all herbaceous plants roses and shrubs.

It will be a good time to fertilize your grass as well with a nitrogen rich feed and to mow if needed on dry days.

Get your summer flowering bulbs and plant them plus get planting compost ready to refill and or replace the soil in your pots ready for the bedding plants which will be available soon.

Have a look at your beds and try to remember what needs doing with them but you can start by doing an initial weeding and tidying up after the ravages of winter.



Fritillaria meleagris

Just enjoy the garden for there is no better time than now with that hope and expectation that come with spring.

Apropos that my fritillaries (meleagris) have made an appearance though they have been knocked back by the cold snap. If you haven't got any try to remember to get some for next year, they are such a joy.

DM

### WHAT'S ON NEARBY

The Iwerne Minster Produce & Horticultural Association (IMPHA) welcome visitors from other villages to their monthly meetings. We have a good variety of speakers and visitors pay £2 to attend.

The next two meetings are:

Monday 23 April. 7.30pm.

Monday 21 May. 7.30pm.

Close Encounters

What's Hot, What's Not

by Colin Varndell

by Joy Michaud.

### Paint Samples

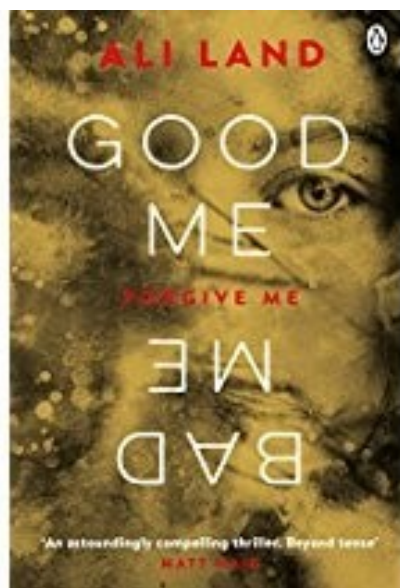
We have managed to accumulate a large quantity of paint samples, so if you are planning to decorate, before you buy any samples, you are very welcome to come and look through ours and help yourself. Likewise, if any one needs small amounts of paint for craft projects, please do come and look and see if there are any colours of use. It seems such a pity to throw them all away, especially in these days of minimal waste!

Phone Jane and Iain 811008



## BOOK REVIEW

Good Me Bad Me by Ali Land was the Richard & Judy Book club thriller last year, which would certainly guarantee sales, but did it live up to the hype?



This is a lovely, fast read, told through the voice of Annie/Milly, a damaged teenager who has had to turn her mother in to the police for infanticide. She is now living with a foster family but encounters traumatic bullying at her new school, masterminded by her jealous, popular foster sister Phoebe.

There's lots to get your teeth into: Annie's fragile mental state as she relives the horror of her past experiences, attempting to rely on no-one but herself whilst desperately needing the support of a mother, albeit one she knows is evil but nevertheless longs to impress. There's her brittle relationship with her dysfunctional foster family and her foster father / counsellor who plans to exploit her after the court case when he will publish a book about her and there's the horror of the depth of vicious bullying by the mean girls at school, and much much more. What is most unnerving is the full extent of her psychological oscillation from good to bad and her awareness and command of all of her actions. It is hard to know how to feel about this character as you move from sympathy to fear. Annie has gone from one hideous situation to another through no fault of her own and is naturally trying to take back some control for herself but she is her mother's daughter. How much evil is she capable of? Is it all self-defence or is it premeditated? The ending's great. There are two twists, one of which I could almost see coming, one of which was a shock. Going on holiday for Easter? Liked *Gone Girl*? Then this is a good read to take with you.

**Next time:** *Dark Matter* by Michelle Paver; a most unsettling ghost story set against the never ending dark Arctic winter.

**A Book Lover**



## Oh la la Brexit

*A selection of French people's views of Brexit*

Whatever your views on Brexit, it was always clear that breaking free from the European Union would never be easy for the UK.

I well remember the sunny morning of the EU Referendum result - June 24 2016 - in a small French village in the Rhone-Alpes département. A French neighbour, an 80-year-old veteran of the Algerian campaign, rushed over to congratulate me on the result saying, 'Simon, what great news for the UK! Hopefully we'll be leaving next?'



The UK has long had a rocky relationship with the EU. There is a joke in the corridors of Brussels that you always know when the British diplomats have arrived because levels of moaning and groaning increase as if their aircraft's engines are still running in readiness for the return to London.

Though President Macron strives for more European integration, involving fiscal union whereby each member's taxes are administered from Brussels, the French don't seem to be so keen.

Paul Rychen, 51, a French IT professional living near Gex, said, 'Harmonization cannot be achieved solely on financial and fiscal matters. I would prefer to keep some national differences but work together to reduce inequalities and poverty in each European country. Solidarity and sharing are great but not closer union.'

French corporate pilot Jerome Werner, 43, from Metz, Lorraine, said,

'Most British people who voted for Brexit don't have offshore accounts, aren't worried about belonging to the club of EU profiteers, and wanted to have their voice heard. They can't be blamed for the return to greater sovereignty and the United Kingdom will emerge even stronger. No offence to "Lord Branson", who is the opposite of the aforementioned British citizen and one of the worst ambassadors of the Remain campaign. 'Eccentricity, extricating yourself and not doing like everyone else - it's just so British!'

The French mother of my sister-in-law told me recently,

'In 2005 the French voted overwhelmingly to reject the proposed European Constitution. So why not Frexit after Brexit? We'll all miss the UK, but if it can leave with a good deal then it'll thrive.'

A retired French friend from Villé, Alsace, said of Brexit,

'Nothing will change! We'll all trade with each other and get on the same after the UK has left.'

We wait with bated breath.

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Simon Watkinson is a freelance journalist, editor and copywriter. See more of his writing on [www.simonwatkinson.org](http://www.simonwatkinson.org).

## Wildlife Friendly Gardening

Whilst Spring seems to be taking a while to get underway, we are approaching a crucial time for looking after wildlife in our gardens. The role that our gardens now play in supporting the overall ecosystem and sustaining many species is well-known, and many gardeners take great pleasure in being a part of the nationwide movement of helping the environment and wildlife. Regardless of the size of your garden, balcony, or even a window box, there are numerous ways to help wildlife which is sadly declining, including our much beloved creatures such as bees and hedgehogs.



© Ken Dolbear MBE

There are several things you can do in your garden, no matter what the shape or size it is, ranging from simple tasks to more creative and complex projects.

Choosing shrubs and trees to complement the flowers provides more colour, food and shelter for a broader variety of species, and adding a water feature is

by far the easiest and quickest way to support wildlife and make your garden a favourite spot in the neighbourhood.



Katie Wilkinson

A pond is ideal but requires a bit of work and safety measures, however even a small bowl or bird bath makes a big difference to your new feathered friends. Simply putting up a nest box at this time of year can provide a refuge for cold and tired birds searching for somewhere to bring their young into the world.

Bees (and butterflies) are essential for pollination, so choosing the right flowers and plants is a good place to start to help them.

Marigold, bell heather and evening primrose are all good, gorgeous summer bloomers. Looking ahead at the seasons, it is ideal to choose native plants that provide nectar and pollen for as long a period as possible, enabling our pollinators to make the most of their havens in our green spaces.

Food can be provided in the form of feeders for birds, food plants for caterpillars, bee and butterfly friendly flowers. Size doesn't matter for wildlife, any garden can provide a 'service station' stop.

Try and choose plants that flower at different times of the year, maybe leave a patch of lawn untouched by the mower. If you only have a courtyard garden, try planting climbers which can provide food and shelter for many insects as well as birds, or put up some bee and butterfly friendly plants in containers. Don't forget this is your haven too, so make sure you have allowed yourself some seating so you can observe the life that is happening in your oasis for nature.

Minibeasts are not everyone's favourites, but vital for supporting the life above ground. Contrary to popular belief, most are not a nuisance, but the exact opposite; they perform a crucial gardening role by helping with pest control, pollination and waste recycling.

Gardening for wildlife doesn't mean you have to leave your garden to overgrown borders, wild planting and weeds. In fact, the perfect wildlife garden is a haven for both you and the creatures that visit it. With the stresses of today's modern world, having a wildlife haven on your doorstep can be a source of relaxation and enjoyment. The dawn chorus, which will be at its peak in early May is the perfect example of being able to enjoy nature. Sit back and relax to the sound of bird song to start your day, or if you hit the snooze button too many times, listen out in the evenings for the dusk chorus which can be just as impressive.

Along with the health and wellbeing benefits of getting 'back to nature', a few simple changes to your garden mean you have a perfect recipe for creating a wildlife friendly garden and a happier, healthier you.



Jane Adams

**Dorset Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Friendly Gardening Competition is open from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.**

To find out more and enter visit:

[www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife\\_gardening\\_competition](http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife_gardening_competition).

You can also apply for a wildlife friendly garden plaque and download more information about gardening with wildlife in mind.



## Notes From A Country Church

The project to tidy up the Old Churchyard Nature Reserve starts in April. We would love to have your help to maintain this precious community facility. If you are willing to help put a layer of wood chippings over the existing path then let me have your name and I will arrange a suitable date for the working party. We need to replace around a dozen assorted nesting boxes, they will cost £10 each, if you would like to purchase one for the Nature Reserve then let me have your name - thank you.



**P.S.** We don't mind you walking your dog in the reserve but please take IT'S poo home with you.

The PCC face challenging times this year. Both Churchwardens are retiring from their posts for personal reasons, Dot has had to relinquish her roles due to her poor health and we need to maintain a full fund-raising programme to raise much needed church funds.

If you feel that you may be able to offer your help in any way, we would love to hear from you.

On a personal note, at this worrying time, Dot and i would like to express our huge thanks for all of your Genuine offers of help , your thoughts and prayers and the warmth of your love and affection. we are truly blest to live in such a caring village.

***As usual, we would love to get your feedback on what happens in the Church – your opinion matters.***

**Rod Swift – Churchwarden (rod@swchurch.uk)**

### The West Wind

It's a warm wind, the west wind, full of birds' cries;  
I never hear the west wind but tears are in my eyes.  
For it comes from the west lands, the old brown hills.  
And April's in the west wind, and daffodils.

It's a fine land, the west land, for hearts as tired as mine,  
Apple orchards blossom there, and the air's like wine.  
There is cool green grass there, where men may lie at rest,  
And the thrushes are in song there, fluting from the nest.

"Will ye not come home brother? Ye have been long away,  
It's April, and blossom time, and white is the may;  
And bright is the sun brother, and warm is the rain,  
Will ye not come home, brother, home to us again?"

"The young corn is green, brother, where the rabbits run.  
It's blue sky, and white clouds, and warm rain and sun.  
It's song to a man's soul, brother, fire to a man's brain,  
To hear the wild bees and see the merry spring again.

"Larks are singing in the west, brother, above the green wheat,  
So will ye not come home, brother, and rest your tired feet?  
I've a balm for bruised hearts, brother, sleep for aching eyes,"  
Says the warm wind, the west wind, full of birds' cries.

It's the white road westwards is the road I must tread  
To the green grass, the cool grass, and rest for heart and head,  
To the violets, and the warm hearts, and the thrushes' song,  
In the fine land, the west land, the land where I belong



**John Masefield 1878 - 1967**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

### Bertie To The Rescue

I would like to say a huge thank you to Damory Vets in Blandford who on two occasions have treated wild animals for us. While walking in Washers Pit in January, my dog Bertie, came across a buzzard lying on the ground. She did not move and allowed me to pick her up with my coat, (so I didn't get pierced by her beak). My trusted assistant, Dora, held her in the car while we drove to the vets. All vets have an obligation to treat injured wild creatures, but Damory go a step further as they know of a wild life rehab centre so all the creatures, after any treatment, go there until they are ready to be released in the place they were found. The buzzard had clenched talons which was due to a vitamin deficiency. She was treated and then given to rehab.

The second occasion was the Sunday just gone when the snow arrived. While walking in the fields Bertie came across a small creature buried in the snow. He dug it out, picked it up and dropped it a few times and then I realised it was a baby bunny! I picked it up, frozen and in shock, put it in my coat to warm, got home, phoned the vet for advice and was asked to take it in! The same vet as last time took the baby and the following morning I had a call asking me to collect the bunny as she had no injuries at all, despite Bertie's attention! As the snow was still quite deep in the field I let it go in the hedgerow, near to where I thought there might be a Warren, and the dear little thing shot straight into the undergrowth, probably glad to be home and having not eaten or drunk for 24 hours.

So the moral of this story is, if you come across an injured wild creature, please take it to the vets for checking, they are all precious, even bunnies!

**Jane McNeil**

(see picture of Bertie's bunny above and across)



Editor: Keith Prenton:  
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If you have anything to say about the letters in this magazine or have views on any topic, local or worldwide that you wish to share within the village, then please address them to the above email. No letter will be published if it uses threatening, profane, racist language or does clearly show details of name and home address. If you do not wish to have your name published alongside your letter for any reason then please write in your email clearly "mark my letter—name and address supplied."

### David Wallis

David, formerly of Fontmell Magna, came to rent the east end of our house 3 years ago after his house burnt down. He was the nephew of the famous Barnes Wallis. He was possessed of great charm and a huge intelligence. His powers of absorption of books and information was staggering. He used to run an engineering firm in Essex making, for example, escalators for London Underground. He served in an armoured car division in the last war and took part in the defeat of Germany after D day. He was a great raconteur on this subject and his business life. He had four wonderful sons who all used to visit him regularly with their families and were deeply involved in trying to get his new house re-built in Fontmell. Sadly, as he had a stroke last Autumn he was never able to move in as the house is still not complete. However he loved the project and two of his sons will be taking it on. We miss him greatly but it is wonderful to know that those sons will carry forward his dream. He died in February and aged 92.

**DM**

### Key local price indicators

Description	Price	Amount/timing	Source	Date
Heating Oil	£275.74	500 litres (incl. VAT)	The Heating Oil Company	31 March 2018
Electricity	£714.02	5000 Kwh p.a.	Website: Annual Contract	31 March 2018
Broadband, unlimited	£19.95	Per month	Website: Annual Contract	31 March 2018
Broadband, Fibre, unlimited, + calls	£29.99	Per month	Website: Annual Contract	31 March 2018
Savings Rates, easy access	1.30% variable	Per annum	Website	31 March 2018
Savings Rates, notice account	1.55% variable	Per annum	Website	31 March 2018
Diesel	120.9p	Per gallon	Website	31 March 2018
Petrol	118.9p	Per gallon	Website	31 March 2018