

The Squeaker



DECEMBER 2020

Number 153

**The village magazine of Langrish and Ramsdean in
Hampshire**



BALLOON NEXT TO THE CLOSE

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Temporarily suspended

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EDITORIAL

Once again an edition of The Squeaker comes out in a Lockdown period; not as severe as the first one but still affecting our daily lives in a big way. Betty and I are never quite sure which day of the week it is without my regular golf matches and our gym visits to delineate the week. I am sure you know that the virus has reached Langrish and Ramsdean; we wish all those affected a speedy recovery.

Although many of us have become expert users of Zoom, the lack of personal contact has been getting to us all. Video conferencing is no substitute for actually meeting people; we are social animals and thrive on personal contact. I am sure Betty and I are not alone in missing The Friends meetings, not just for the talks and meals, but for meeting and talking to people. I can only imagine what it's like at the moment if you live on your own.

The first article in this edition of the Squeaker is about the future of The Squeaker. Please do contact me if you feel you can help with future publications.

As a final tribute to Rosemary I have re-published her obituary from the British Medical Journal which shows how highly regarded she was in the medical profession. I feel lucky to have known her.

Finally it was great to hear of the birth of two new children in the Luff family. I couldn't resist re-publishing a lovely article written by their great grandfather, Tom Luff, for the Millennium Squeaker.

"Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose".

Ian Wesley November 2020

Our thanks to the following contributors:-

Articles and Suggestions

Jane Ball, Julie Blackwell, Jon and Wendy Allan, Louisa Denby, David Mowlam, Luke Hodgkinson, Betty and Ian Wesley.

Pictures

Ian Wesley, Peter Cowlrick, Luke Hodgkinson

THE FUTURE OF THE SQUEAKER

The Squeaker is the village magazine of the Parish of Langrish in Hampshire. Appearing quarterly, as a booklet of some 30-40 pages, it contains news, views and pictures of all matters of concern to Langrish and Ramsdean.

It is distributed free of charge to all households in the two villages and is posted to anyone outside who has a personal interest in the area. We are supported by voluntary donations and a small income from advertisements. Publishing is done at home by the Editor. The Squeaker also has a website which hosts a colour version of the printed magazine.

History

The Squeaker was founded in 1979 by Evelyn Hickox, who wrote a detailed and fascinating history of the area, "Aspects of Langrish Life"; much of our knowledge of our villages stems from this work.

After 20 years John Hopewell took over as editor. As John became more incapacitated, Rosemary gradually took over from John and remained the editor (with IT assistance from me) until her death this summer.

For the first 20 years, The Squeaker was prepared by good old fashioned "cut and paste". When John took over he taught himself to use Microsoft Publisher so it could be produced electronically. In recent times under my influence we have switched to preparing The Squeaker using Microsoft Word and publishing a colour version on The Squeaker website, which I also maintain.

During the pandemic, we have had to suspend deliveries to houses so The Squeaker has been emailed to everyone on the parish council email list.

What next?

We have had two periods of editorship, both extending for 20 years, the question now is what next?

We have now made the funding and publication The Squeaker the responsibility of The Friends; there is now no separate Squeaker committee. But the real question is what form The Squeaker should take in future?

When the pandemic is over, we are planning to publish The Squeaker, in its current printed booklet form, twice a year rather than quarterly as at present. I think that this "bumper" edition of The Squeaker shows that we do need space to publish longer pieces on occasions.

But now that nearly everyone in the two villages is online, I think it's time we moved on to a more up to date and timely method of communicating regular information about the villages. This could either be using The Squeaker website as a blog (if you signed up to the website you would get an email telling you that a new item had been published) or just regular email communication using the parish council email list (which now has 105 members.)

Please let us know what you think to this proposal. And if you feel you could help with putting together the 6 monthly Squeakers please contact me soonest.

Ian Wesley

LANGRISH AND RAMSDEAN FRIENDS

The news that vaccines that will provide some protection from Coronavirus may be available early next year gives us hope that it will not be too long before we will be able to resume some Friends activities.

The committee has discussed the use of Zoom for Friends meetings. Opinions about this are mixed. For many the most important aspect of Friends events is the opportunity they offer to meet socially. While an interesting talk given by a good speaker is undoubtedly an enjoyable part of the evening meetings, it is the social side of Friends functions that people most enjoy. Clearly a meeting on Zoom would be quite different.

Our December event is traditionally a Christmas meal together and normally we don't have a meeting in January. So I suggest that we wait and see what happens over the next few weeks. During this time, with the help of the Friends Committee, I will plan a programme of events for 2021 that could take place as long as we are no longer in total lock-down. It is likely to start with village walks followed by afternoon tea and lets all hope that we will be able to hold the annual village lunch in late summer 2021.

Whatever happens, we need to have an AGM in March or April 2021 to elect a new committee. The Friends constitution is such that we have been able to continue with the same personnel for 2020 but with some changes of role, following Rosemary's death. Almost certainly this will have to take place remotely on Zoom.

Betty Wesley

PARISH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

It's been a busy time for the Parish Council meetings; we have held two meetings since the last edition of the Squeaker: an in-person meeting on 14th September and a remote meeting using Zoom on 9th November 2020.

New parish councillor roles

At our September meeting, Ian Wesley was elected as Chair of the Parish Council and Debbie Luff as Vice Chair. Debbie has also taken responsibility for Planning and Nigel Talbot- Ponsonby is now Tree Warden. Roger Hetherington has joined the Parish Council to replace the much missed Rosemary Hopewell.

Planning

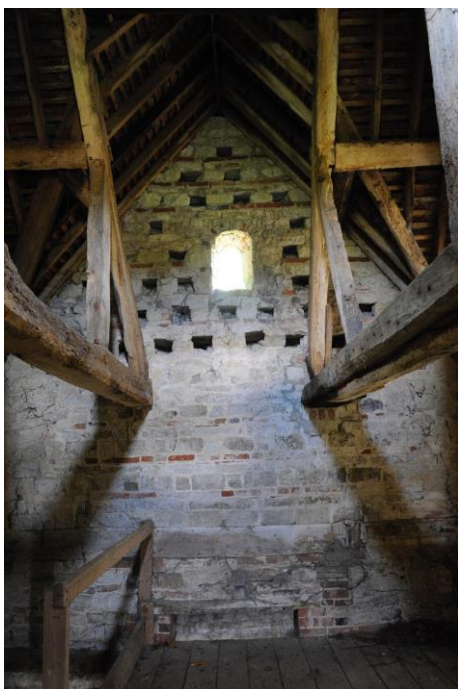
Two planning proposals have been considered:

Langrish House

Change of use of a storage building to habitable accommodation. The Parish Council supported this planning application which has been successful for a single unit.

Manor Farm Dovecote

Demolish or partially demolish buildings adjoining the Dovecote at Manor Farm (a Grade 2 Listed Building.) We have supported this application as it will help to reveal the dovecote in all its glory. Unfortunately this application is now on hold until a bat survey is carried out in the Spring. Please see below photos of the interior of the dovecote supplied by the architect.



Ramsdean Green

Hampshire Highways have replaced the fence at the back of the parking bays but they were short of wood and couldn't complete the returns at either end. The contractors said that their brief had been scant. It was felt that the fence was too short, disappointing that only one extra parking space had been created, the ground had been left rough and the fence doesn't do anything to enhance the Meadow.

Debbie Luff and Ian Blackwell subsequently met with Ian Janes of Hampshire Highways to explore his recommendations for improvements to Ramsdean Green including preventing parking on the Green and vehicle damage to the verges in Ramsdean Lane. Ian Janes will provide an estimate for various improvements at a cost to the parish council. It will then be possible for us to seek quotes from other contractors. He did not agree to 'No Parking' signs unless they were very small.

Footpaths and Rights of Way

Kissing gates

With the kissing gate between Lambert and Luff's land now installed, phase one of the stile improvements now completed.



As you can see from the above photo these gates are substantial to allow wheelchair access. Steve Tuff is looking into a second phase of installation so please contact him if you have any requests.

Notice Boards

The new Notice Boards on Langrish and Ramsdean Greens are now in place. Work remains to replace the maps which are on the reverse side of each board.



John and Rosemary Hopewell Memorial Tree



In view of Rosemary's interest in nature, we have decided that the most appropriate memorial to her is a tree; we would also like to commemorate John's contribution to the village. A suitable position had been identified for the tree on Langrish Green. We have chosen a Morus Nigra Mulberry as it is a traditional village tree and does not grow too large. The tree will be planted in December and at the same time the other trees on Langrish Green will be pruned and the whole site tidied up.

The Friends of Langrish have offered to make a donation to cover the cost of the plaque.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 11th January 2021 at Langrish House, Covid-19 restrictions permitting.

Ian Wesley

LANGRISH CHURCH

At its meeting in September your Parochial Church Council (PCC) decided to pursue a merging with the parish of East Meon. This, if it comes about, will involve some administrative changes but most people in the community will not notice any difference. Services will continue to be held, the church will be available for weddings, christenings, and funerals as it has been for 150 years and the building will be there for concerts or any other appropriate use the community may wish for it.

What it will mean is that one PCC, comprised of members of the two congregations, will administer both East Meon and Langrish with one set of church wardens and officers (treasurer, secretary and so on). Since Langrish Church will still be operating as normal, it follows that the existing financial obligations will remain unchanged. The same contribution to the combined parish share will have to be found and the community will be expected to continue to cover the operating costs of the church and provide for fabric repairs and alterations.

As with the merger of any charitable institutions, there is a formal process that will need to be followed to enact this merging of the two parishes involving the Diocesan Bishop and the Archdeacon of the Meon. Part of this process will be a full consultation with the community of Langrish and Ramsdean that make up the existing Parish. Whilst Covid restrictions are in force this will most probably be done electronically but everyone will have a chance to have their say.

In the meantime, church life continues. The building is open daily for private prayer and, although we no longer have a churchwarden, various people have taken on the duties necessary to maintain a functioning church. They are:

Joy Sang	Verger and Sidesman/Reader Rota
Alison Meggeson	Flower Rota and 'Holy Washing'
Cheryl Walder	Altar Frontal Care and Changing
Sue Ricketts	Organising Refreshments
David Mowlam	Open/Close Rota, Mowing Rota & PCC Secretary
Betty Wesley	Cleaning Rota
Charlotte Denby	Organist Rota
Jon Allen	Treasurer

If anyone wishes to comment on the proposed merging of Langrish Parish with that of East Meon I would be happy to take representations and ensure they are made known to the PCC.

David Mowlam (davidmowlam01@gmail.com) PCC Secretary

CHURCH DATES – DECEMBER 2020

It's difficult to know what to say with regards to church services at the moment! With lock-down lifted, from Sunday 6th December we can at least have services in church again. Tier 2 means that our services will look no different to what they did before lock-down. We are required to wear masks in church, keep a record of all who attend for the Governments Track and Trace and sadly we are not yet able to sing. We are very grateful to our organists for providing some musical accompaniment during our services.

Sunday 6th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) East Meon

9.00am Parish Eucharist Langrish

6.30pm Candlelit Compline East Meon

Wednesday 9th December

9.00am Morning Prayer Langrish

Sunday 13th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) East Meon

9.00am Parish Eucharist Langrish

6.30pm Candlelit Compline East Meon

Wednesday 16th December

9.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 20th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) East Meon

9.00am Parish Eucharist Langrish

Wednesday 23rd December

9.00am Parish Eucharist Langrish

Christmas Services

24th December – Christmas Eve

8.00pm Christmas Eucharist East Meon

11.00pm Midnight Mass East Meon

25th December – Christmas day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) East Meon

9.00am Christmas Eucharist Langrish

10.30am Christmas Eucharist East Meon

Sunday 27th December – St John the Evangelist

10.30am Patronal Festival service at St John the Evangelist, West Meon

Date for the Diary

Saturday 12th December – Churchyard Clear up

From 10am with Chris Siddons' bacon butties.

Sunday 20th December

6.00pm Carol Singing

We aren't allowed to sing inside but we are allowed to sing outside! We'll be gathering outside church to sing some carols together. Bring a torch!

A WEDDING AT LANGRISH HOUSE

Despite these unusual times we have all found ourselves in over the past 8 months, Anna & I had the most wonderful day by getting married on the 27th August at Langrish House.

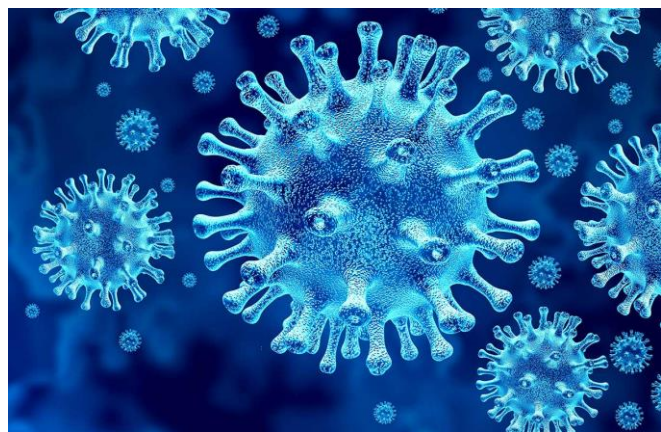
Although a different day to the one we had planned, everything came together and we were blessed to celebrate with our close friends and family on a very rainy day.



Luke Hodgkinson

THE VIRUS THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS?

I am turning into an increasingly grumpy person! Jonathan and I had to drive to Co Durham this week to sort out an issue with a leaking roof. It's a journey of over 5 hours so we were in the car for getting on for 11 hours. During the drive we heard a lot of news, most of which left me shouting at the radio, 'No, no, no, NO, NO!!' What got me so annoyed? All the news about this little virus that looks, at first glance, rather like a snowflake!



The focus of the reporting was all about Christmas. Was Christmas going to be cancelled? How could we celebrate Christmas if we couldn't get together with our families? What was the government going to do to make sure this would be possible? I suppose I should have been pleased that the focus of

Christmas in these reports was not about whether we would be able to spend money on gifts and enough food to keep us going for a month, but about how we would be able to spend time with the people that matter the most to us. But I still found myself thinking that the whole point of Christmas seemed to be absent. The whole point is that whatever happens over the few days around the 25th December, whether we're with our families or not, Christmas will not be cancelled.

The second lockdown has been filled with events that have been cancelled – and yet they haven't. Remembrance Sunday, we were told, would be cancelled. Yes, it was different, but lockdown didn't stop us from remembering, from standing in silence as we recalled all those who gave – and continue to give – their lives in the service of their country. Yes, it was different, but there was something positive in the difference. There was something quite powerful about that stripped back simple service outside church, reciting the names of the dead, listening to the silence.

Christmas will not be cancelled. It might be well be different, but we will still celebrate the birth of a vulnerable baby, born to immigrant parents miles from home, in the backyard of an inn. Jesus was named Emmanuel, God with us. This is God who is just as much a part of our lives when things are going wrong as when they are going well. I'm including in this edition of The Squeaker the list of

services for Christmas and I hope that's what we can do. But whatever happens we will still celebrate Christmas.

One of my favourite carols is, 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and in particular verse 3, which says,

*How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.*

Still, the dear Christ enters in. That doesn't depend on churches being open or shut, who we're with or sharing our lunch with. The virus won't steal Christmas.

In the midst of my grumpy shouting at the radio I did realise something important though, and that was maybe COVID-19 hasn't all been bad news. As I was muttering about Christmas not being about eating dinner I found myself saying, 'It doesn't need to be 25th December for us to share time with those that we love'. For a lot of us, sharing time has been difficult if not impossible. One thing that I think we've really come to understand over these last few months is the importance of contact with other people. Loneliness has become a major issue for a lot of people. Maybe the different Christmas this year will help to remind us of the importance of the people in our lives, the importance of looking out for those who have no-one, the importance of looking out for those who are vulnerable? We don't need a specific date to have a special meal with those we love and care for, we need to grab the opportunity to do that whenever we can.

May the dear Christ enter in, wherever you are, and who ever you're with this Christmas.

With love,

Jane

Paediatric paediatric cardiologist who cofounded the charity Chain of Hope



In 1964 Magdi Yacoub was a senior registrar working at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London. He said, “I was doing my round late at night, preparing for the following day, and I found a young doctor reviewing the notes. We got talking and she told me ‘I have studied every patient on the ward and your patient has x, y, and z.’” The young woman was cardiologist Rosemary Radley-Smith, and she and Yacoub were to forge a close working partnership that lasted nearly 50 years.

Early life and career

Born in 1939 in Epsom, Surrey, Radley-Smith was the eldest of four children. Her father, Eric, was a neurosurgeon and her mother, Eileen, was a nurse at King’s College Hospital. After studying at Trevelyan School in Hayward’s Heath and Cheltenham Ladies’ College, Radley-Smith went to the Royal Free Hospital in London to study medicine, qualifying in 1963.

Anxious, according to colleagues, to free herself from her father’s shadow and to prove her capabilities, she chose the stressful and difficult new specialty of cardiology. After several house jobs, she took a break, boarding a bus in London and travelling overland to Melbourne, through Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Radley-Smith had a tough, determined outlook and, according to Yacoub, was tireless with a huge sense of vocation and a prodigious memory for patients’ details. On her return from Australia, her stamina was put to the test when in July 1971 she was appointed the UK’s first paediatric cardiac consultant, working with Yacoub at Harefield Hospital in Middlesex. For the next 15 years she was on her own, working a 1:1 rota that included covering intensive care. Harefield’s paediatric surgical unit became a leading centre in congenital cardiology, and

Radley-Smith and Yacoub carried out several new procedures. In 1976 they carried out the two stage arterial switch to correct transposition of the great arteries and in 1982 the one stage neonatal arterial switch. They performed operations to preserve heart valves in children, fitted children with pacemakers, and in 1984 performed first a heart transplantation, and then a heart and lung transplantation on children under 16.

Theirs was a very successful cardio-surgical collaboration: Radley-Smith supported Yacoub's operations, which often went on long into the night, as well as assessing suitable patients, including carrying out cardiac catheterisation, and monitoring their aftercare and immune response. She also meticulously kept survival rates and other records and published the results in over 100 papers. She was particularly interested in the psychological effects of heart transplantation on patients.

They were on a stressful learning curve, and Yacoub described the 1970s and '80s as "a lonely road" in cardiology. According to colleagues, Radley-Smith was his "rock," but she also fought her corner and would push to make sure her paediatric cases got the attention they deserved. By 2001 the team had carried out 193 paediatric heart transplants and 96 heart-lung transplants, including treating a week old baby.

Chain of Hope

Inspired by the French charity La Chaîne de l'Espoir, Radley-Smith and Yacoub wanted to set up a similar charity to treat children with heart conditions in developing countries. They cofounded Chain of Hope in 1995 and in November that year the first child arrived in the UK from Morocco for treatment. Until she retired from being a trustee in 2007, Radley-Smith used all her leave from the NHS to lead a treatment team to places such as Ethiopia, Gaza, and Mozambique. According to the charity's chief executive, Emma Scanlan, Radley-Smith was tireless, often seeing up to 60 patients a day, with hopeful families camped out in the lobby of her hotel. She also lectured and trained cardiology staff, for example at the Maputo Heart Institute in Mozambique. In 2001, in a characteristically modest aside, Radley-Smith mentioned to her family that they might want to switch on their TV that night. She received a special "Pride of Britain" award from Cilla Black for her charity work.

In 1984 Radley-Smith married long term family friend John Hopewell, a urologist who had worked for her father. He was widowed, and Radley-Smith became stepmother to his two children. After she retired from the NHS in 2006, the pair set up home in Langrish, Hampshire, where she became active in village life. She was the chair of the parish council, tree warden, and the editor of the village magazine *The Squeaker*. She was also passionate about botany and watching football, and supported the work of the local hospice at home. Hopewell died in 2015, and in 2020, after a trip to the Antarctic, Radley-Smith became unwell. She died aged 81 and leaves her stepdaughter, Valentina; three step grandchildren; two sisters; and nine nephews and nieces.

Rosemary Claire Radley-Smith (b 26 February 1939; q 1963; FRACP, FRCP, FRCHCH), died from colon cancer on 1 August 2020

August 2020

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

Continuing what seems to be a popular topic of refugees and moving to another country, American Dirt was quite controversial when it was released as it was written by a white author who said she hoped to educate readers about the experience of Mexican migrants, but sparked a backlash over the portrayal of the journey and Mexican culture. Nevertheless, it is a story of a journey full of danger, desperation and self-survival. It takes you on the journey with the characters and starts with a desperate family situation which propels you through the rest of the book.

The characters are rich and varied and opens your eyes to the struggles of immigrants. It is about culture, trust, class divide, parenthood, injustice, grief and love for family. We enjoyed the read, if 'enjoyed' is the right word, as it provoked many emotions within our readers and again how far would you go for self-survival and family. Set in contemporary times it is a powerful read.

September 2020

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

The author is a wildlife scientist in Africa and has received awards for Nature Writing, hence the beautiful descriptions of the marsh/swampland in North Carolina where this story is based. It revolves around a young girl called Kya, abandoned and living on her own from the age of 10 years old and the mystery of a murder which occurred there when she was in her late 20s. Through interaction from a few characters and minimal help from the outside world, she manages to educate herself and immerses herself in the beauty and nature surrounding her. She takes her human lessons from the characteristics of Mother Nature as her links with the few people she encounters falter.

Her story becomes entwined with the murder of Chase Andrews and the trial of Kya's possible involvement not unlike "To kill a Mockingbird". The author has created a beautiful, engaging and at times, unsettling, story that created mixed emotions in our readers. As Kya navigates the discoveries of new emotions, of life and love in general, with no-one to guide her you can't help but hurt for her and cheer her on to defend herself against the prejudices she endures.

The book is to be turned into a film with Reese Witherspoon.

October 2020

Holding by Graham Norton

For those fond of a Midsomer Murder story, this has a familiar plot. Set in West Cork, the characters in the small village of Duneen find their lives changed by the discovery of human remains in a plot of land being excavated for a new housing development. The author is less interested in the identity of the murderer than the effect of loss on those the victim left behind.

The Sergeant of 15 years, a corpulent but friendly man, finds himself overwhelmed by the investigation. Two middle aged women who find their lives have been diminished by the disappearance of a man they both loved many years earlier. The Sergeant's housekeeper who herself holds a secret in the past and the local priest who assists her.

Common themes of Irish fiction find a place here, the importance of land in rural communities, unpunished assaults by men towards women, teenage pregnancy, all find their way into the story and are treated with originality and sympathy.

The book for November is The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

Julie Blackwell

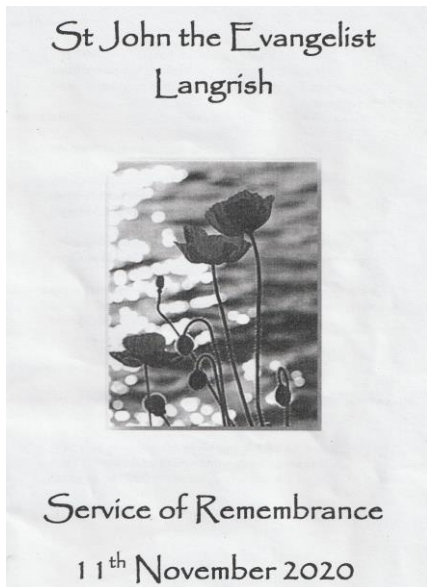
WISDOM WHILE YOU WORK - VALUES FOR WELLBEING

Encouraging Self-Confidence and Positive Mental Wellbeing for Young People

Wisdom While You Work, is an Inspirational Notebook of Values for ages 10 & up. It is a journal and guide of life's most essential core values including communication, positivity, understanding and respect, with space to write thoughts, feelings and ideas. During Lockdown young people have experienced a huge change in their lives. Separation from friends and their normal education may have made them anxious and the feeling of the unknown days ahead is unnerving. This notebook inspires young people, it builds self-confidence by putting meaning into their lives, therefore creating happiness. It is a perfect Christmas present and using the voucher code Wisdom10 you will get it for the special price of £10 plus P&P.

Libbla Kelly

LANGRISH REMEMBRANCE DAY



Because of Covid restrictions, it was not possible to hold the usual service in St Johns on Remembrance Sunday. Instead we had a service outside the church on Remembrance Day itself. Rev Jane conducted the short service, David Mowlam marked the beginning and end of 2 minutes silence with his boson's pipe and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Church, Langrish Parish Council, East Hants District Council and Stroud Parish Council.



On our way home we noted that David was flying the White Ensign in his garden. This was to mark both Remembrance Day and the Battle of Taranto (look it up on Wikipedia!)

Ian Wesley

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Congratulations to Robert and Ellie Luff on the arrival of baby Freddie Ralph Leo on the 5th of September 2020.

And to Dan and Sarah Luff on the birth of Thomas Alexander on the 27th of October 2020.

We welcome Oliver and Anna Hunt, with baby Olivia, to 5 Pond Cottages in Ramsdean.

The Raisbeck family have moved to Dorset; we will always remember Sarah's wonderful bread and cakes.

SHEEP WALK AND SCAFFOLD'S ROW

Slope hanging beeches,

Bide transcendent, storm seared,

Anchored by time.

Sparse leaves lucent,

Beaten copper, burnt umber,

Embers of the year.

Hare, sudden and fleet,

Melting to black-tipped obscurity,

Over fields,

Spare and wide,

Stubble streaked.

Distant tawny velvet at the edge of night.

Wendy Allan

THE LUFF FAMILY AT BARROW HILL FARM

Oscar Thomas Luff, my grandfather, came to Barrow Hill Farm in 1912 from Rogate. He took on the farm as a tenant on the Talbot-Ponsonby estate. Oscar had four sons Cecil, Oscar, Neville and Leonard. My father, Neville, worked for some time in Portsmouth and Alton in the butchery trade but returned to the farm after Cecil died and Oscar was killed in a traffic accident. Neville married Eleanor Bridger from Stroud in 1918.

My father moved from Gardener's Cottage, where Dick my elder brother and I were both born, to Barrow Hill on the death of his father. Dick worked on the farm during World War II and then left to run his own haulage business. I took over on my return from the war.

In the 1920s there were eight dairy farms in Ramsdean producing milk from mostly shorthorn cows. At the time the milk was taken by horse and cart in 17 gallon churns to Petersfield station and then by train to London. There were dramatic changes during and after the war when food was rationed. During the war we were directed by the War Agricultural Committee to plough up grassland and grow such crops as corn, mangel-wurzels, swedes, cabbages and kale. The labour force included two land girls.

During the war my father was an Air Raid Warden and I was in the Home Guard until 1943 when I joined the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and Royal Artillery, serving in Belgium, Holland and Germany. I married Mary Wren of Riplington Farm, East Meon in 1950. Mary has been a VAD attached to the Navy at Haslar Hospital and then was drafted overseas to Australia and at the end of the war to Hong Kong to look after POWs.

During the 1950s we purchased Homelands Farm and then later Barrow Hill Farm and 55 years on are the only remaining dairy farm in Ramsdean with 200 Holstein Friesian cows. My eldest son Graham now runs the farm and Andrew, my second son, lives and works in London as MD of an independent TV company.

Graham and Debbie have 3 sons and I wonder what the future holds. Will a fifth generation of the Luff family work and run the farm? World trade and the Common Market policies make it more and more difficult to survive.

Tom Luff December 1999

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

I'd like to introduce you to Soroptimist International, particularly as I have recently become the Region President for Southern England.



It is a global women's organisation with consultative status at the United Nations. In 2021 it will be 100 years old and I'm sure it may be something that not many of you have heard of.

The name comes from the Latin 'soror' meaning 'sister' and 'optimum' meaning 'best'. This translates as being the best for women. We have worked at this for the past 100 years supporting women and girls all over the world. I am in the Winchester & District club and have been a member (albeit in different clubs) for almost 30 years. Our ongoing mission is to Educate, Enable and Empower.

As well as the United Nations, we lobby governments worldwide on issues which affect women and girls, particularly relevant is the Domestic Abuse Bill going through UK Parliament. The projects that each club takes on are familiar: we support the local Women's Refuge, lobby against human trafficking, environmental issues, water shortages where we have instigated Toilet Twinning programmes and partnered with Water Aid for clean water in developing countries. We also have a project making dresses from pillowcases to send out to young girls in Africa, along with knitted baby sets to Nepal for new-borns, where they would be otherwise sent home in newspaper.

We also support women in Prison and have lobbied for Prison Reform where mothers are often imprisoned miles away from their children/families. We are often on the ground supporting the major aid agencies in war-torn and disaster areas such as East Timor, Haiti and Afghanistan. We have outreach programmes in South Africa and other countries where we partner with other SI clubs to facilitate a project. We have an amazing project in South Africa 'Volunteering in Pretoria' with two inspiring young girls who are working with us and SI Tshwane club to promote education for women and girls.

Through our project work we hope to encourage more women to join us and support what we do, increasing our membership ensures continuation of this amazing organisation worldwide. We have an important campaign starting on 25 November and running until 10 December which is the UN Day of Peace. We have 16 days of activism to 'Orange the World'. This is to highlight the UN Day of saying NO to violence against Women which is 25 November. This will be a social media and press campaign with lobbying of the Government DA Bill.

March 8 is International Women's Day; we hope to be in London to support the Women of the World. The theme is 'Choose to Challenge'. We have had successful attendance in the past with speakers such as Bianca Jagger and Annie Lennox who took great interest in our African projects, raising the profile of these challenges.

We hope to be able to celebrate our centenary in some physical way later in 2021, to celebrate the remarkable women over the years who have made a difference to the life of women and girls.

You can find out more about the Winchester club on www.sigbi.org/winchester-and-district and the SIGBI Federation at www.sigbi.org or contact me directly.

SIGBI is Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland which is at the head of all the clubs in this geographical area. There is also SI of South West Pacific, SI America, SI Europe and the recently formed SI Africa.

Julie Blackwell

MY LAUNDRY AND OTHER ANIMALS

It's been a few *Squeaker* issues since I last contributed some musings, and as I am utterly fed up with hearing about Covid every minute of every day (as I suspect everyone reading this will be too), I thought I'd try to write about something different.

Having said that, however, I can't help but acknowledge the fact that the best part of 2020 has been rather peculiar. I spent the time between March and October back in Langrish with my parents, which in many ways was rather jolly, although it was not without its challenges. In order to 'pull my weight' I decided to take responsibility for all the cleaning and housework. Things started reasonably well, but then it became evident that the lockdown was slowly

taking its toll on my cognitive faculties: one morning I changed my parents' bed and managed to put the new sheet on top of the old one. I later discovered my mother upstairs playing a rather lengthy game of 'hunt-the-sheet', as she wanted to wash it. The stripey cat tried to help by leaping up onto the laundry basket to inspect its contents, the only problem being that there was no lid on it at the time, and therefore nothing for her to jump onto, so she disappeared into the black hole with a frantically twirling tail and many squawks of startled indignation. We did eventually figure out what I'd done...

There were several cat-related dramas during the months I spent at home, many of them to do with wildlife of one sort or another. One afternoon the French doors were open and both cats were out...or so we thought. All of a sudden there was a minor kerfuffle as someone or something was evidently having issues with the curtain; the woolly cat emerged looking ruffled, and then the stripey cat burst forth but appeared to be caught in the net curtain. I rushed forward to help disentangle her as she gets very distressed when this happens, BUT NO - she had a bird in her mouth and as soon as she was free, raced upstairs and took refuge under my parents' bed. All three of us immediately leapt into action and there was much fetching of gloves and shutting of doors and flinging of furniture. Mum tried but failed to separate cat from bird and then extract the latter, so I fetched a hockey stick from the back of my wardrobe and managed to gently hook the bird out. The stripey cat was most unhappy with us; we were just glad the bird was in no state to go flying around the room, sad though that was.

Another household palaver occurred when our washing machine developed an exciting automatic floor-washing function, which quickly escalated into an added everything-in-sight-washing function. As it was still cleaning the clothes inside the machine perfectly adequately, we put off doing anything about it, until one Sunday morning it properly tried to kill my mother before declaring itself terminally defunct, rather dramatically and loudly and joyfully (while dad was on the phone to the vet, a combination of events which resulted in an extended moment of chaotic hilarity for those of us not directly involved).

There followed several weeks sans washing machine, which necessitated the laundering of clothes and so forth in the bath. One evening my mother had gone upstairs to start on a second load, when there came an agonised yell from the bathroom. Dad and I looked at each other with interest, before calling up to

enquire as to whether all was well. The reply came that all was most certainly *not* well: an absolutely *colossal* spider the size of her hand had suddenly materialised in a pile of socks and waved its legs at my mother in rather a threatening manner and could my father please come upstairs and deal with it. Mum is usually fairly chilled out when it comes to spiders: I'm pretty sure she doesn't particularly like them, but she never makes a fuss. This occasion was an exception, however, and so my father reluctantly made his way upstairs, armed with various implements and ready to do battle. When the two of them eventually reappeared downstairs, it transpired that yes it had been rather large, and had taken quite a lot of 'dealing with'.

You'd be forgiven for thinking that having two furry felines about the place might be advantageous when it comes to the extrication of awesome arachnids from places we'd rather they didn't reside, but the situation is not quite so in the Denby household. The cats are, frankly, useless under these circumstances. One evening I was in my room playing with my Lego (as you do when in your early thirties and living with your parents...) when another giant spider came out of one of the boxes and legged it under the wardrobe. I tried to get it with my shoe but missed, so posted the stripey cat in after it, but she didn't find it (I have my suspicions that she didn't even *try*). The woolly cat then spent the evening prowling around the immediate vicinity, clearly with the intention of giving the impression of being 'on guard', but carefully not going anywhere near the spot where the spider was last seen.

Another evening I went out into the hall and found the stripey cat peering with great interest into one of my father's shoes. Something then extended a leg or two, so I immediately informed the parents. Dad instructed me to ready the vacuum cleaner which I duly did, by which time of course The Thing had disappeared. There then followed much flinging of shoes and poking of wedge attachment into various bits of footwear until The Thing was foolish enough to emerge. It was pretty big and pretty quick. I have never seen my father demonstrate such epic balletic prowess on quite such a considerable scale. The vacuum cleaner hose of course then ceased to function and there was momentary panic before dad realised he was surrounded by shoes. The unfortunate arachnid was then belted unceremoniously with someone's sandal before eventually being sucked up into oblivion. The cats fled upstairs; my mother and I sought sanctuary in the living room, where, once the crisis had subsided, we were subjected to a lengthy rant about "how *dare* these things

come inside *our house*,” and, “what do they think they are *doing* here,” and, my personal favourite - “they must just march in during the day wearing Doc Martens and tin helmets while the French doors are open,” - no dad, even if we failed to notice something that big parading around the living room, the cats most certainly would not, but would *definitely* proceed to do absolutely *nothing* about it.

Louisa Denby

RECIPE - CHRISTMAS FLAPJACKS

175g butter

50g dark brown sugar

100g golden syrup

225g porridge oats

75g chopped nuts (pecans or almonds work well)

50g crystallised or stem ginger, chopped

75g glace cherries, quartered

- 1.
2. Preheat the oven to 180C or gas 5.
3. Grease an oblong cake tin (approx. 26 x 22 works well) & line the base with greaseproof or baking parchment
4. Put the butter, sugar & syrup into a large pan and stir over a moderate heat until the sugar has dissolved.
5. Add all the remaining ingredients and mix well.
6. Spoon into the prepared tin and spread evenly.
7. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden brown and firm to the touch.
8. Leave to cool slightly then run a palette knife round the edge to loosen the flapjack from the edge of the tin.
9. Cut into 12 pieces & carefully remove the pieces from the tin onto a cooling tray.

Betty Wesley

Notes on Bayleaf, a 15th century farmhouse

There have been a number of articles about old houses in previous editions of the Squeaker, so I thought I'd continue with the tradition. However, I should start with a confession. Although this article is (loosely) about a C15 farmhouse, it is also a sneaky plug for the Weald and Downland Living Museum (WDLM) at Singleton, where I work a couple of days a week.



I want to introduce you to the house known as 'Bayleaf'. It is a C15 'Wealden Open Hall House' rescued in 1968 from the site of the Bough Beech reservoir near Chiddingstone in Kent and reconstructed at WDLM in 1972.

You will now find Bayleaf some quarter of a mile from the museum entrance at the rural end of the extensive museum site. It is a

striking house of almost perfect symmetry with a red tiled roof, its elegant oak framing contrasting with white lime washed wattle and daub infill. In good weather, as it glistens in the sunshine, you may even agree that it lives up to its reputation as the 'jewel' in the crown of the Museum's collection.

Behind its handsome exterior lies a wealth of fascinating historical detail both architectural and social - together with a number of unanswered questions. But let's start at the beginning... with a mystery.

We know from tree-ring dating¹ ('dendrochronology') that the middle and northern (service) end of the house, on the right as you look at it from the front, were built between 1405 and 1430, but that the southern (solar) end is more recent, dating from around 1500. This southern end replaced an earlier construction. Various clues such as vacant mortise holes and the crudely cut off end of the 'dais beam' visible from the front, suggest that previously there had been a larger cross wing. So the wonderful symmetry of the house is not

¹ Dendrochronology pinpoints the date at which a tree is felled. Because oak framed buildings were generally built from fresh green oak, it also gives us a pretty accurate date for a building's construction. Although recycled wood was sometimes used it would have been very difficult to work - and in particular, despite the tales, the use of old ships' timbers was very rare indeed. One well documented (and local) exception is Chesapeake Mill, a watermill in Wickham that was constructed in 1820 using the timbers of HMS Chesapeake.

original and we are left with a mystery as to why over 500 years ago the house was reduced in size.

The answer may lie in the question of status. We know that during the C16, Bayleaf was tenanted by successive generations of yeoman farmers from the Wells family. The lord of the manor who owned the house along with 100 or so acres of associated farmland occupied Bore Place, a manor house that still exists (well away from the reservoir!) But we know little about Bayleaf before the Wells' tenancy. One possibility is that when first tenanted by the Wells, this was a step down in the social status of its occupants, and consequently the lord of the manor decided that the status of the house should be reduced accordingly.

This hypothesis may be a bit fanciful and we may never know the real reason for the early C16 changes. However, it is probably fair to say that to understand the history and development of Bayleaf, we also need to understand the importance of status to its original builders and occupiers.

Even though they were tenants, yeoman farmers such as the Wells family were quite substantial figures in their communities, just under the level of the gentry and probably quite 'aspirational'. Commensurate with this, despite its reduction in size at the beginning of the C16, Bayleaf was still a high status building. The most obvious signs of this are the jetties that overhang both the front and the north end of the building. In an urban setting, jetties are of practical importance providing extra floor space where land on which to build is limited. However, there are no such constraints in a rural setting; instead jetties are included to denote status and wealth - they are simply showing off.

Normally a jetty is created by extending the floor joists for the first floor a couple of feet beyond the footprint of the ground floor. However, these joists will only go in one direction, so having jetties on both the front and end of the building, as with Bayleaf, involves considerable structural complication - and expense. To achieve this a diagonal (or 'dragon') beam is incorporated, allowing joists to be attached in a herringbone pattern, so providing the necessary support for the protruding jetties.

But the implications of status for the structure of the building go further than jetties and the odd dragon beam (however exciting for timber framing enthusiasts). Indeed, the whole house is arranged to reflect the status of the occupier.

The middle section of the house consists of a large open hall extending up to the roof, spanned by a massive tie beam that supports the crown post. To the south of this tie beam is the 'upper' (private) part of the house. This includes the upper bay of the open hall itself, lit by massive double height windows, heated by a central hearth and containing the high table, and behind it, the private rooms - a parlour and above it the solar chamber.

As now, mediaeval visitors would have entered the house via a cross passage into the northern or lower end of the hall, which along with the service rooms and the chamber above it form the lower status north facing service end.

However in mediaeval times, before being allowed to enter the private upper end, visitors would have to have been invited across an imaginary line delineated by the tie beam above. Some historians have even gone so far as to use the analogy of a theatre - with the head of the house presiding over the high table, as on a stage, framed by the light from the windows and the glow of the fire - with the arch of the tie beam being likened to the proscenium arch of a theatre.

Open hall houses like Bayleaf did not survive in their original form much past 1600. From 1550 onwards they were either converted (often in stages) or replaced by houses with a 'closed' construction. In the case of Bayleaf the central fire was replaced by an inglenook fireplace and chimney and the open hall was ceiled in providing a further upstairs chamber.

If you visit Bayleaf on a winter's day when the steward has lit the central fire you will understand why. Not only were open hall houses cold, smoky and unpleasant, there was also a growing desire for a bit more privacy. So, this was not a surprising development. Indeed, an obvious question might be why it took so long?

I do wonder if part of the answer takes us back to where we started - with the issue of status. The open hall may have been draughty, smelly and uncomfortable but there is no doubt that it had the wow factor. Perhaps Mr Wells put off the conversion of Bayleaf as long as he could simply because he felt that with the modernisation of his cherished home, he would also be just slightly diminished?

Jon Allan

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Mr Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby (<i>Tree Warden</i>)	266941
Mr Steve Tuff (<i>Footpaths</i>)	823205
Mr Roger Hetherington	263458
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County & District Councillor

Cllr Rob Mocatta	<i>robert.mocatta@easthants.gov.uk</i>
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- Alresford Perins School
- Cherlton Hall
- Bramdean The Fox
- West Meon Hut
- Wamford George & Falcon
- West Meon Thomas Lord
- East Meon Church
- East Meon School
- Stroud Seven Stars
- Petersfield Rail Station stop S
- Petersfield Square stop A
- Petersfield Tesco

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	0930	1130	1300	1500	1650	1650	1750
	0935	1135	1305	1505	1657	1657	1756
	0942	1142	1312	1512	1703	1704	1803
	0949	1149	1319	1519	1709	1711	1809
	0953	1153	1323	1523	1713	1716	1813
0705	0729	0959	1159	1329	1529	1719	1724
0712	0736	1006	1206	1336	1536	1726	1732
0718	0742	1012	1212	1342	1542	1732	1738
0723	0747	1017	1217	1347	1547	1737	1742
0738	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
0742	0751	1021	1221	1351	1551	1741	1746
0754	0758	1028	1228	1358	1558	1748	1753
0757	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
0808	0806	1036	1236	1406	1606	1756	1801
0813	0811	1041	1241	1411	1611	1801	1806
0815	0813	1043	1243	1413	1613	1803	1808
0818	0816	1046	1246	1416	1616	1806	1811

Saturdays

0900	1200	1500	1750
0905	1205	1505	1755
0912	1212	1512	1802
0919	1219	1519	1809
0923	1223	1523	1813
0929	1229	1529	1819
0936	1236	1536	1826
0942	1242	1542	1832
0947	1247	1547	1837
▼	▼	▼	▼
0951	1251	1551	1841
0958	1258	1558	1848
▼	▼	▼	▼
1006	1306	1606	1856
1011	1311	1611	1901
1013	1313	1613	1903
1016	1316	1616	1906

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- Petersfield Square stop B
- Petersfield Rail Station stop R
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- East Meon Church
- West Meon Thomas Lord
- West Meon Hut
- Bramdean The Fox
- Cherlton Hall
- Alresford Perins School
- Itchen Stoke Church
- Itchen Abbas Trout Inn
- Kings Worthy Cart & Horses
- Winchester City Road
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0655	0715	0825	1055	1255	1425	1430	1525	1625	1815
0658	0718	0828	1058	1258	1428	1433	1528	1628	1818
0701	0721	0832	1102	1302	1432	1437	1532	1632	1821
0706	0726	0836	1106	1306	1436	1441	1536	1636	1824
0714	0734	0845	1115	1315	1445	1450	1545	1645	1833
0722	0744	0853	1123	1323	1453	1458	1553	1653	1840
0726	0752	0857	1127	1327	1457	1502	1557	1657	1844
0730	0757	0901	1131	1331	1501	1506	1601	1701	1848
0737	0804	0907	1137	1337	1507	1511	1607	1707	1853
0744	0811	0914	1144	1344	1514	1517	1614	1714	1859
0749	0816	0919	1149	1349	1519		1619	1719	
0753	0820	0923	1153	1353	1523		1623	1723	
0800	0827	0930	1200	1400	1530		1630	1730	
0806	0836	0936	1206	1406	1536		1636	1736	
0811	0841	0941	1211	1411	1541		1641	1741	

Saturdays

0725	1025	1325	1625
0728	1028	1328	1628
0732	1032	1332	1632
0736	1036	1336	1636
0745	1045	1345	1645
0753	1053	1353	1653
0757	1057	1357	1657
0801	1101	1401	1701
0807	1107	1407	1707
0814	1114	1414	1714
0819	1119	1419	1719
0823	1123	1423	1723
0830	1130	1430	1730
0836	1136	1436	1736
0841	1141	1441	1741

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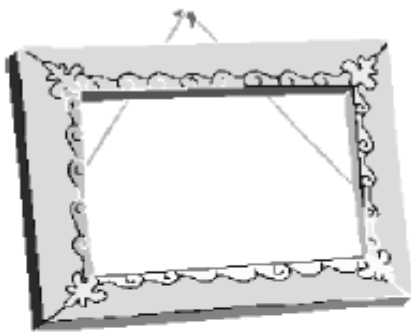
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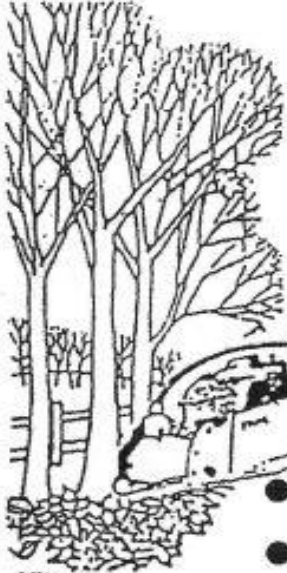
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