



UPPER KENNET NEWS

June 2021

Published by Fyfield, West Overton and East Kennett Parochial Church Council for the Upper Kennet Benefice

Kennet Valley Lottery Club draw winners

£100 Number 14 Daniel Williams

£75 Number 22 Nigel Gray

£50 Number 74 David Lawrence

(Some winners prefer that their names were not published, in which case we just state the winning numbers)

If you would like to join the lottery, ring David Snape on 01672 861267 or email: davidwsnape@aol.com

Another way to support our churches at West Overton, Fyfield and East Kennett

Notice Board

Wedding

Rebecca Goodwin & Andrew Phillips 24 April West Overton

Burial of Ashes

Reginald Longstreet 8 May Winterbourne Monkton

100 Club

Draw Results for May

1st	£48.00	38	Hilary Ind
2nd	£36.00	59	Jill Petchey
3rd	£24.00	10	Greg Hallam
4th	£12.00	75	Jayne Telling

(some winners prefer that their names are not published)

If you would like to join the lottery ring Richard Nutt on 01672539611 or email richard@184systems.com

Your way to help support the churches of Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett

Lottery is licensed by Wiltshire Council

“A brief respite from everyday pressures – a time of peace, calm and silent reflection.”

MEDITATION (TAIZÉ) Service

Every fortnight on a Wednesday evening at East Kennett Church from 7.00 to 7.25pm: a chance to just sit quietly and relax and enjoy the silence and the peace by candlelight, with a background of occasional singing and some words of wisdom.

Future dates for your diary:

Wednesday 9th June, Wednesday 23rd June & Wednesday 5th July

View from the Rectory

As I write this mid-May we have just had news of the destruction of the home of yet another family of the Lighthouse School in Gaza; moment by moment news filters through of children injured, homes rattling under bombardment, power lines destroyed, smashed water pipes beneath roads and human waste spilling out of the ground. Many of you have emailed or spoken to me knowing my connection with the school for over 14 years and some of you have asked for an update

The statistics are staggering: 188 plus killed, many of them women and children, families trapped under rubble, and fears mounting of a deepening humanitarian crisis in a prison where two million people live under an Israeli-Egyptian blockade which has been in place for 14 years. To date six of Gaza's 10 electricity lines are down and repair crews are unable to fix the lines due to continued attacks. Israel has blocked access to the territory for all aid workers and prevented fuel from entering. A spokesperson from the UN confirmed supplies of vital animal feed remain festering in trucks held on the Israeli side of the frontier, adding the chilling fact that Gaza's stockpiles of food and feed would run out on Pentecost, Sunday 25th May. UN humanitarian coordinator Lynn Hastings appealed to the Israeli authorities and Palestinian armed groups to immediately allow the United Nations and our humanitarian partners to bring in fuel, food, and medical supplies. More than 17,000 people have fled their homes and are sheltering in roughly 40 schools. All this in a pandemic.

Many of my contacts in the Jewish community around the world have pleaded for a ceasefire (www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org). There is widespread concern amongst aid agencies that current violent exchanges will lead to further human rights violations, poverty and suffering, particularly for a lost generation of children and young Palestinians. Laila Barhoum, a charity's adviser in Gaza, as reported in the Guardian newspaper said: "Day after day we watch the bombs fall on homes where our friends and family live and buildings where our colleagues work, wondering if we will be next. And day after day we wait in vain for the unequivocal condemnation from the international community that never comes". And yet, the resilience and hope of this battered community, caught in the maelstrom of ancient hatreds and reactions to persecutions between two warring factions, is astounding. Leila adds "When a ceasefire is eventually declared, we will once again dig out from the rubble and begin to rebuild, only to wait for another cycle of bombardment to destroy what we have done". And they will, God willing, and I will be there with others from the Hope Christian Trust to help.

I remember on my second visit to the Gaza strip seeing the power of the human spirit revealed in flowers, deliberately planted (hibiscus) between bombed out houses and along the sides of the potholed roads, and children physically hungry, mentally and emotionally traumatised, for whom the Love of God and the Lighthouse School meant everything in a world of uncertainty, violence and fear. There was a deep and profound sense that the school, underpinned by God's welcome and love, would survive anything, including a pandemic and this latest round of violence. The innocents on both sides suffer and most of all the children of Gaza and I for one cannot ignore their plight.

On June 10th at 730pm we shall gather for a special Gaza update evening in the Rectory garden and we shall be joined by Rev'd John and Mrs Janet Angle of the Hope Christian Trust for a conversation, and for prayer and fellowship. The event will be streamed on Zoom so those still isolating can join in. As I write the Avebury PCC are looking at a date for a fundraiser Teas for Tourists in aid of the school, so watch this space. Above all, whatever your faith, whatever you may feel about the political wrongs and rights of the Middle East in conflict, please pray that for the sake of the children the spirit of love and peace may extinguish the flames of hate and war.

UPPER KENNET CHURCHES SERVICES

	St Nicholas FYFIELD	St Michael & All Angels WEST OVERTON	Christ Church EAST KENNETT	St James AVEBURY	St Mary Magdalene WINTERBRNE MONKTON	St Katherine & St Peter WINTERBRNE BASSETT	St Peter ad Vincula BROAD HINTON
Wednesday 2 June				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion			
6 June Trinity 1	8.30 AM – PRAYER BOOK COMMUNION – FYFIELD 9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – WINTERBOURNE BASSETT 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 9 June			<u>7 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion			
13 June Trinity 2	9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – BROAD HINTON 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 16 June				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion			
20 June Trinity 3	8 AM – HOLY COMMUNION – EAST KENNETT 9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – WINTERBOURNE MONKTON 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 23 June			<u>7 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion			
27 June Trinity 4	9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – WEST OVERTON 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer 2pm - Swadden Baptism - Broad Hinton						
Wednesday 30 June				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion			
4 July Trinity 5	8.30 AM – PRAYER BOOK COMMUNION – FYFIELD 9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – AVEBURY 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 7 July			<u>7 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion			



Talking Tuesdays **@ The Rectory** **Garden Tents** **Avebury** **7.30 pm**

Have you a story to tell about how you came to have faith? Do you enjoy hearing the journeys of others? Do you enjoy storytelling or listening?

A safe place to come and listen.

Rectory garden tents - Refreshments provided - social distancing in place as needed.

Dates:

June 1st 7.30pm
 June 10th 7.30pm GAZA SPECIAL
 (see separate advert)
 July 13th 7.30pm
 July 20th 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME

Readings

Sunday 6 June – Green
Trinity 1
 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1
 Mark 3.20-end

Sunday 13 June – Green
Trinity 2
 2 Corinthians 5.6-10
 Mark 4.6-34

Sunday 20 June – Green
Trinity 3
 2 Corinthians 6.1-13
 Mark 4.35-41

Sunday 27 June – Green
Trinity 4
 2 Corinthians 8.7-end
 Mark 5.21-end

Sunday 4 July – Green
Trinity 5
 2 Corinthians 12.2-10
 Mark 6.1-13

Plant sale success

The plant sale outside a garage in Lower Fyfield with the request that people 'help themselves' or leave a donation to Fyfield Church raised £27 as a result. Phyllida would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success. It simply shows the generosity of our communities.

POST-LOCKDOWN LUNCH

SAT 26 JUNE 12noon to 2.30pm

AT MEADOW COTTAGE,
WINTERBOURNE MONKTON

SOUP AND CHEESE
PLOUGHMAN'S

(NO CHARGE JUST
DONATIONS PLEASE)

ALSO

TOMBOLA AND CAKE/PRODUCE STALL*
ALL PROCEEDS TO 'COMBAT STRESS'
AND MONKTON CHURCH

Come along and celebrate our freedom and
enjoy a social get-together.

Further information from Penny Gold [539158/
goldpennygold@aol.com](mailto:539158@goldpennygold@aol.com)



*Donations for Tombola and
Cake/Produce Stalls
gratefully received, as are
offers of help on the day!
Disabled parking available
at house

Under The Beech Tree

A Space to Breathe

Do you connect best with
God in creation?

Are you in need of a
breathing space simply
to rest in the Divine
Presence and be still
within creation?

Then THIS might be just what you are
looking for!

Come and join us @ the Rectory Garden Tent,
Avebury on the following dates/times for
Quiet Mindfulness, Guided Meditation,
Sounds of Creation.

ALL welcome, wherever you are on your
spiritual journey.

WITH REFRESHMENTS and opportunity to
chat.

DATES

Tuesday	1st June	7.30pm
Monday	7th June	4pm
Tuesday	22nd June	4pm
Saturday	26th June	4pm
Saturday	3rd July	4pm



Talking Tuesday Special

Gaza in Turmoil - with
Rev'd John and Mrs
Janet Angle of the
Hope Christian Trust



-All the latest news direct from the Lighthouse
School and a chance to ask questions

-A time of prayer together for all the peoples
of the Holy Land

Tuesday June 10th at 7.30pm
in the Rectory Garden
Refreshments from 7pm

All welcome.

A zoom link will be sent to all those still shielding
on our current email lists

For anyone else wanting to take part via Zoom
please email
revmariashepherdson@outlook.com

MONKTON CHURCHYARD GOES (A LITTLE) WILD

It has been decided to re-wild a small area of the churchyard at
Winterbourne Monkton, as a trial, to see what grasses, lichen,
bugs etc appear. As part of the Churches 'Count on Nature'
we will make a note of the animals, birds, insects or fungi in
our churchyard in early June. It is hoped this trial project,
along with other measures we have taken, will help us achieve
a Bronze award in the National Eco-Church Campaign.



Gaza Crises

St James Church Avebury
Fundraising Event
in aid of the
Children of the Lighthouse
School Gaza and church
Sunday 13th June
11.30 - 4pm



Refreshments, Plant and produce Stall, Handmade crafts and
books

Rev Maria will be on hand to chat about the current difficulties
facing the school and the families, staff and local area
from 1230 until 4pm



Avebury Community Shop

Shop Phone Number:
01672 539200

Revised Opening Hours
10am–4pm every day

Shop News – Goodbye and Hello

This month we sadly said goodbye to our manager Lynda who has been with us for about 8 years. Thanks to Lynda for all her hard work in the shop, especially over the last year. We are all sad to see her go and send her good wishes for the future.

We also bid farewell to Dawn who has been our relief manager who is leaving because her other job in Swindon has extended her hours.

We welcome Martin as our new manager who will share the role with Lyn. Martin is moving to the area from Reading and has already settled in well.



Meet the Team



Andrew has been working in the shop for about a year. His wife, Annie, was working at the shop and she said that the shop needed his help. He was very happy to help. They live in Burbage and were introduced to the shop because Annie is a member of the Avebury and District WI.

Andrew is retired now. Before he retired he was the Chief Executive of a Housing Association. His main hobby is golf, and until recently he was a member of The Lord Mayor of London's ceremonial bodyguard.

Andrew enjoys working in the shop because he likes meeting lots of nice people.

His favourite product is wine.

Call and Collect Service

We provide a call and collect service for people who don't want to go into the shop or are unable to go into the shop. Please call us on 01672 539200 to place your order, we will then contact you for payment and have your shopping ready to collect from the door, or we can load it into your car.

Extension of Free Delivery Service

Avebury Community shop will be providing a FREE delivery service of food and other essentials to anyone in our community who is in self isolation due to the Coronavirus. This is an extension of the service we already provide to the elderly and others in our community who are unable to get to the shop.

Please call 01672 539200 to arrange a delivery. We would prefer payment by card, but can accept cash on delivery if necessary.

Michele Lomas (Chair of Avebury Community Shop)

Wansdyke Carriage Driving Group

Do you want to:

- Learn new skills
- Help to make a difference
- Make new friends
- Be part of a team
- Enjoy the outdoors (and keep fit!)
- Boost your CV

Then we need you! Volunteer with Wansdyke Carriage Driving Group, a Riding for the Disabled group. For more information please email wcdg18@gmail.com or call 07930 341524 and leave a message

WINTERBOURNE MONKTON VILLAGE PLANT AND PRODUCE STALL OPEN

Please donate your
surplus seedlings,
divided plants and spare
fruit/veg and support the
Village Plant Stall
outside the New Inn.
Pick up a bargain too!



DONATIONS
WILL BE FOR THE
TRUSSELL TRUST
FOOD BANK AND
THE CHURCH

News from the Tower

The troops are getting restless! It looks as if ringing will be permitted in the near future, with at least three ringers allowed in the tower and more if some are from the same family.

On 17th April, 2021, Brian Vickers tolled the old tenor bell 99 times at 20 second intervals, before the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh, one for each year of his life. The bell weighs almost a ton! Thank you and well done Brian.

The Annual General Meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers took place via Zoom on 8th May. There was a service before the meeting which was led by the Bishop of Ramsbury. Sadly the technology let half of us down, we could see everything but had no sound. There was a choir singing hymns, handbell ringing and the Bishop's sermon all without sound. Luckily the sound was back for the meeting and amongst other things, we learned that the Channel Islands' ringers are going to transfer to our Guild and our members are looking forward to ringing in the Channel Islands. Also during the meeting David Davidge was accepted as an Honorary Life Member of the Guild for his 20 years as Treasurer of the Calne Branch.

Mary Davidge

Belfry Correspondent. Tel: 01672 513819

SECATEURS FOUND

Secateurs found in West Overton churchyard (the new part).

Please contact the Benefice Office if they are yours.

01672 861786

upperkennetchurches@gmail.com

Avebury & District WI

April and May 2021

Before I update you on the WI goings on for the last couple of months I want to recount a conversation I had recently with two local ladies. Both wanted to know more about the WI, what we did and how they could join but one comment struck home – “No-one will come to my home and judge me, will they?” I was startled by the idea that anyone from the WI would (a) go to someone’s house to ‘inspect’ it for their suitability for membership and (b) that this was the impression the person had of the WI, that we would judge someone on their house or lifestyle. I quickly reassured both that WI members wouldn’t do that and that they would be more than welcome at meetings – when we can have them. It got me thinking and I want reassure anyone who is interested that you will be welcomed with warmth and friendship, a cup of tea, cake and sandwiches! The WI prides itself on being inclusive for all women, of all ages so if you’re unsure about joining, keep an eye on these ramblings and come along to a meeting, hopefully in September. We have interesting and informative speakers and it’s a great way to get to know your community.

As I forgot to submit an update for April I’m including it here. Our AGM was held and all the current committee, being happy to continue, were re-elected as there was no great rush to replace us – we must be doing something right! Our speaker was Angela White who took us on a journey from Exeter all the way to Sorrento to meet friends from abroad. She and her husband did the whole trip by train encountering a few alarms and excursions on the way and learning about the vagaries of different countries train services. They arrived safely in Sorrento and enjoyed their stay before heading back, via a slightly different route to get back to their little local station on a two carriage local service.

May is Resolutions month and this year there was only one resolution to debate – A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer. It is a shocking statistic that a woman dies every 2 hours of this disease in the UK! It mainly affects post menopausal women but can strike at any age. As the symptoms are often confused with other conditions, such as IBS, diagnosis often delayed. The most common symptoms are:

- Constantly feeling bloated
- Swollen tummy
- Pain or discomfort in tummy or pelvic area
- Feeling full quickly when eating, or loss of appetite
- Urgency or frequency of urination

Any woman with symptoms should seek advice. After a short video the President read the briefing paper and a vote was taken – it was decided to support the motion unanimously. Our decision will be sent to the Annual Meeting delegate.

Our next meeting is our garden visit and we will meet in front of the house at Lacock to enjoy their lovely grounds. Unfortunately group visits can’t be booked but many of our members are NT members also so can book nearer the time, details will be given by email or phone.

Maggie Lewis
President, Avebury & District WI

AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Headlines from Avebury Parish Council’s online meeting on
4 May 2021

Road safety: We agreed to install T junction warning signs on the A4361 on either side of Nash Lane having obtained Wiltshire Council’s approval, and thanked Beckhampton Stables for helping us to fund them.

Local issues: We supported a full planning application to replace a garden shed at Rose Cottage in the High Street and decided to meet later in the month to consider an application for listed building consent for refurbishment and redecoration at Truslowe Manor. Work on planning the installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) continues. It seems unlikely that we will be able to re-install the handrail alongside the concrete steps leading from the Waggon and Horses layby into Beckhampton given the high cost suggested by an estimate. We began discussions of an offer from the National Trust to make the chapel available as a community exhibition space for a defined period of time and to secure a loan for funding new play equipment. We noted that the bench replacing one destroyed by van at West Kennett layby had recently been installed on the play area. The wire fencing surrounding the play area has been repaired.

The Ridgeway: We continue to discuss with Wiltshire Council how it proposes to protect the Ridgeway and facilitate its use by walkers and horse-riders, especially but not only during the period of the summer solstice.

Summer Solstice: A comprehensive paper focusing on management and the expectations of the community and other interest groups, prepared by Zandria Service, was tabled, considered, and agreed. Wiltshire Council has confirmed that it will provide security arrangements and enforce parking restrictions. Once Wiltshire Council’s approval has been obtained, APC will set up a car access scheme, for which arrangements will be announced on the noticeboards in Beckhampton, Avebury Trusloe, and West Kennett and at the community shop and also on Facebook. We have been told that police officers will maintain a visible presence in the village throughout the long weekend.

Dates of next meetings: an ordinary meeting on 1 June at 19h30 in the Social Centre. As always, residents wishing to participate in these meetings are most welcome to do so.

Draft minutes of this meeting may be found on the Avebury Parish Council website.

AVEBURY SOCIAL CENTRE

The Committee met via Zoom in April and welcomed the reopening of the hall. The secretary reported that this had involved a considerable amount of work following the guidelines issued from the village hall’s association but that had highlighted some need to update records and other paperwork which she had undertaken and was in the process of completing. The Treasurer reported on the current financial situation, which while there had been no income from the hiring out of the hall the last quarter for obvious reasons, showed a healthy balance due to his successful application for government grants. The Committee were very grateful and on the strength of this were happy to confirm the refurbishment of the porch entrance as agreed in the near future. It is hoped this will be achieved with as little disruption as possible; dates have yet to be confirmed. There was a discussion about future uses of the hall which the committee agreed would be an ongoing project. The hall serves an important role as a meeting place for the WI and Parish Council, a venue for Drama and music events and a home for various clubs such as yoga and Rainbows. We hope to see all resume in the near future.

Judith Farthing
Secretary

Kennet Valley Parish Council

Update on Lockeridge Community Speedwatch Programme

Following the easing of the pandemic lockdown restrictions the Lockeridge Community Speedwatch Team is able to move ahead with its work. Speedwatch exercises will take place at several locations in the village and at different times during the day.

This will help us monitor the traffic situation and support better compliance from drivers with the 20mph speed limit. If you are interested to find out more and join the team please contact:

Parishclerk.fyfield@googlemail.com

Community Book Swap in West Overton

This is a local amenity for BOOKS ONLY! Recently other items have been left there which then have to be disposed of. Please do enjoy it but do not put in anything except books.

Parish Council Elections 2021

Following the recent elections all existing members or our Parish Council were re-elected unopposed.

New PC members and a Vacancy

A warm welcome to Rachael Richards and V Hemery who have just joined us on the Parish Council.

We still have one more vacancy for a councillor to represent either West Overton or Lockeridge. If you are interested talk to any Parish Council member or Sophie Roberts our Parish Clerk.

Congratulations to Jane Davies

She has been re-elected as our Unitary Councillor and has been appointed the Cabinet Member for Adult Services, SEND, Transitions and Inclusion.

Our next PC meeting will be on Tuesday 29 June in the Kennet Valley Hall at 6.45pm

Stoned in Lockeridge

I would like to put on record the help and encouragement of Douglas Adams and Brian Cox in writing this explanation about why, and how, the stones seen around Lockeridge came to be there.

Many years ago, a young ambitious lad called Zaphod, a student at an academic college for astro-science on the planet Magerethea, was asked to dispose of a cluster of meteorite droppings that were blocking the construction of a hyperspace bypass. The Vogon construction workers had refused to do this work because they were given false facts about a coronary virus that was said to be radiating from the stones.

Zaphod met the Vogon charge hand and told him that he had personally visited each of these stones and wrapped polyethylene around those parts of the stones that were leaking radiation, and that now, these stones could be loaded into the Vogon ships and removed from the area of the proposed hyperspace bypass and could be transported safely to another area. Zaphod had taken so little notice of the lessons from the Great Googlex professor while at college, that he only guessed at solutions to the great problems of state. Most people think he was lucky at getting most problems solved, while others explained that he had read a brief history of time, and gained an inkling about the mathematics of improbability drives for space ships, which he had determined to acquire.

Thus he convinced the Vogons to transport the stones into space, somewhere near Betelgeuse, and leave them in a heap outside the gravitational pull of the Betelgeusian star system.

He had not foreseen that he had selected this dump in the middle of the path used by stray meteorites coming around Jupiter and then passing the small, but insignificant lump called Earth.

Thus it was that these stones were sucked into the path of the meteorites and deposited in the atmosphere of Earth, somewhere above Wiltshire.

Because the stones were already arranged in a clump, covered in plastic, they stayed together and landed to the west of Marlborough. Primitives of the area tried using these stones to build stone circles, but were so intimidated by the Aveburian tribe nearby, who used much bigger stones to build circles that intertwined and overlapped, that they decided to just leave their stones where they lay.

Today, many citizens of Lockeridge, have a chance to elect new council members to re-arrange the stones after recording each and every one and its respective location so that all members of the community can apply for building permission to re-locate stones and build retaining walls, workshops or even castles.

This story is told so that you can prepare your own schedule of works to re-locate the stones within a 50m range of your front door and create a monument to Zaphod, or any other members of your family.

You may also choose to write and present your own explanation of the stones of Lockeridge and the editor might be prepared to accept bribes to publish them.

Dr Liam Macanally
1st April 2021



The New Inn
WINTERBOURNE MONKTON

DOG FRIENDLY INSIDE & OUTSIDE SEATING

LOCAL ALES & CIDERS

FRIDAY **SATURDAY & SUNDAY**
4 - 9 PM 12 - 9 PM

BOOK NOW FOR FATHER'S DAY ROAST
1 COURSE - £9.95 2 COURSES - £14.95

BOOK & PRE-ORDER BY 16TH JUNE TO GET A FREE DESSERT FOR DAD!

THE NEW INN, WINTERBOURNE MONKTON, SN4 9NW
01672 539793 



CURIOSITY COMPASSION COURAGE

Church of England,
Voluntary Aided School
www.kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk

Ofsted 'Good school' News from MAY 2021

The start of May has been very wet and windy, as you will all know, and this has meant that we have had to have a few days of wet playtimes - although not as many as you might expect!). As a school we try to be outside as much as we can, with children playing in the light rain whenever possible. Sport and PE sessions also always continue unless the weather is dreadful. After several years of having this outdoor ethos we have found that our children are always keen to be out and are ready with their wet weather coats when needed. All of the staff are grateful to our parents who ensure that children come ready to be out in showery weather.

Curriculum

This term we have had a Modern Foreign Language week with children learning to speak in French and Spanish. It was really wonderful to walk around our delightful little school and hear different children learning these new skills. I loved working with my class to learn some Spanish words and phrases and was incredibly grateful that one of our parents, Mrs. Gonzalez from the Marlborough School of Languages, came in to work with the Year 4/5 children for an afternoon. We looked at the names of family members with a song to help them practice these more. This class had a food tasting day and made presentations about Spain in pairs. The children in Year 6 focused on learning French and had a food tasting day, which they seemed to love. They learnt important words and phrases in French, and you could hear them practicing them throughout the week. The youngest two classes learnt a mixture of French and Spanish. As well as learning simple

phrases they heard stories in different languages, made tapas for the class and found out about these places. We have continued to practice all that we learnt this week and will, of course, continue in the coming weeks and months.

Tiny Beastie Leaving the School!

As you will remember I previously told you about the very large group of tadpoles we have had in Wrens class (Rec and Year 1). These tiny creatures have been growing and changing over the last 12 weeks and we have now been able to release some of the tiny frogs into the pond that they came from. The children have been terrific at looking after them. The work that has come from these year groups, as part of their continuous provision has been astonishing. Mrs. McQue, class teacher, said "It has been delightful to see the children taking care of these little amphibians so carefully. They have drawn pictures of them, written about them and completed research to find out more about them. We are so pleased that so many of them have become frogs and that we can release them back into the pond".

More Arrivals!

It won't be long after the frogs and froglets leave the school before we welcome several eggs to the school. These are going into Wrens class to be incubated and to hatch out. The staff and children are all extremely excited while they wait for them to come. After they have hatched, they will be going to live with one of our staff members. I will give you more updates about them once they have arrived.

ELSA

As with many schools we have a marvellous and inspiring ELSA in our school. ELSA stands for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. Our ELSA is Mrs. Watts, who has worked at Kennet Valley for over 20 years. An ELSA should be a warm and caring person who wants to help your child feel happy in school and to reach their potential educationally - and we would all agree that this is absolutely true of Mrs. Watts. An ELSA's aim is to remove the barriers

to learning and to have happy children in school and at home. Mrs. Watts works with a variety of children within the school and provides fantastic support for them. As part of the role of ELSA Mrs. Watts works with other practitioners from local schools and with members of Wiltshire Council's Behaviour Support and Educational Psychology Team. I know that we are not the only school that has found that after lockdown there are more children and families that need support, and an ELSA is ideal for helping with anxiety and hurdles in learning.

Mrs. Watts said "As soon as I had completed my basic ELSA training, many years ago, I knew that I wanted to specialise, I feel very lucky to be well supported by the school and supervisors in the local cluster group. I simply try to be inclusive, fair and, above all, kind. The sessions are very definitely child led. It has been an unpredictable, scary times for us all and giving children the skills to cope with such uncertainty is more important than ever before"

I would like to take this opportunity to say a BIG thank you to Mrs. Watts for all her hard work and commitment to this vital school role.

School Places

We are delighted to be able to offer tours of the school again for parents looking for a school place, either for the coming school year or for a place in reception in coming years. If you would like to come for a tour and a chat about Kennet Valley, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can arrange a time to show you around our lovely little school. You can do this by calling 01672861202 or by emailing Ruthie (our Admin Officer) on admin@kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk
Many thanks -

Mrs. Emma Russell, Headteacher

Starcrazy

OGBOURNE MAIZEY, NR MARLBOROUGH

Wednesday 14 July - Starcrazy

Outdoor performance by The Miracle Theatre Company

In aid of Miracle Theatre and the performing Arts

Miracle Theatre is in Wiltshire for one night only on 14th July at Ogbourne Maizey with a cosmic comedy about obsession and the rekindling of love, hope and possibility.

Performance starts at 8.00pm (gate open for picnics at 6pm). Bring your own chairs. Bar/coffee/ice creams /WC/ parking. Venue in the garden at Maizey Lodge, Ogbourne Maizey, Marlborough SN8 1RY. Tickets in advance only: Adults £14, children £8, Family £40 (2A+2C). Tickets: 01672-512125 or email maizey50@gmail.com. Please observe social distancing at all times and be prepared to be directed to an area in which to sit.

Update from the National Trust June 2021

Open again!

No-one can deny that it's been a bit of a struggle for everyone this year, but at last we can say that most of the National Trust facilities and attractions are open for business.

We were able to welcome back visitors in early March with the re-opening of our visitor car park, toilets and provision of a limited take-away offer. Over the next few weeks, we re-opened our Visitor Reception in the Barn and Avebury Manor Garden via a booking system. The National Trust shop and Cobblestones second-hand bookshop opened in April – do pop in and have a look at the spring range and the new books. In mid-May the Stables Gallery of the Alexander Keiller Museum welcomed its first visitors of the year, and Avebury Manor has re-opened its doors for guided tours on Fridays to Sundays.

Although we have opened up again, due to the need for social distancing, we can only accommodate limited numbers of visitors at any one time in the manor and museum – time will tell how long we will have to work with these restrictions, but for now it is wonderful to be able to give people more choice when they visit.

With the half-term upon us we're hoping that the weather is kind and we'll have lots of happy children enjoying nature themed activities.

Summer Solstice

This year, the National Trust is asking visitors not to come to Avebury for Solstice celebrations. We're asking people to respect the ongoing Government restrictions and not to travel to the area in order to avoid the potential impact that large gatherings of people could have on local communities.

We have consulted with Avebury Parish Council, Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Council, and have agreed that our car park, toilets and catering facilities will operate as normal during our standard daytime opening hours. We will not however provide any facilities overnight this year. In addition, Police and Security will be on site throughout the Solstice weekend.

Our priority is always to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, volunteers, residents and visitors. We believe that the best way to do this is to continue to follow Government and National Trust guidance on mass gatherings, which will remain in place until at least the Solstice weekend. Any updates to this approach will be shared locally with the Parish Council, and more widely through our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury.

We wish you a lovely summer, as usual if you'd like to get in touch please contact us on 01672 539250 or email avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk; we always love to hear from you.

Could you help to discover more Stone Stiles in Gloucestershire and beyond?

In 2020 Peter Wilson, launched 'The Gloucestershire Stone Stile Project'.

Supported by CPRE Gloucestershire the Countryside Charity, English Heritage and the Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club, Peter's aim was to produce a record of every remaining stone stile in the ancient county of Gloucestershire before they are lost forever. Through support from volunteers and members of these groups and other keen walkers he has received over 800 contributions. For centuries stiles have provided access to locals walking along pathways as they went about their business whilst preventing sheep and cattle from straying further afield. No-one knows for sure how many stiles there were originally as despite their historic value, scores of them have been abandoned and some now lost forever. It's thought however there are at least 100 more stone stiles yet to be mapped.

There are three main types of stone stiles: slit stiles, also known as 'squeeze' stiles are usually two upright stones too narrow for farm animals to pass through, slab stiles vary in height and can prove difficult to negotiate even for the most energetic walker! The less common stile is the step and even with a series of flat stones protruding out from a stone wall, these can be tricky to climb over. **You may come across some or all of these types of stone stiles in and around the parish of Upper Kennett.**

So if you are out walking and you spot a stone stile, or if you know of an existing stile, please photograph it, if possible from both sides. Download a Stile Recording Form by going to the CPRE website, <https://www.cpre.org.uk/creating-a-record-of-gloucestershire-stone-stiles/>. Please give as much information as possible before emailing the form to: peter.wilson@woodchestervillage.co.uk. 'Duplicate' notifications are fine as you may have been able to provide more information on the location and history of the stile and ...you may take a better picture. As well as recording the type of stile and its OS location, we are seeking information on the history, geology and landscape setting relating to each stile. If you have a particular interest in any of these areas please contact Peter.

Due to the tremendous response to the Project the second phase is being started earlier than expected. We now have a new volunteer who has joined the team. He has begun recording all the information from our contributors onto an analysed spread sheet. This is a mammoth task which we are seeking volunteers to help.

The final phase of the Project is the production of an interactive App from all the information received. The App will show the location of the stiles and will encourage more people to explore our wonderful county adding to their enjoyment of country walks. It will also help wheelchair and scooter users and families with children in buggies to plan their walks.

There are many stiles out there just waiting to be discovered but please do remember the Countryside Code – Respect other people, Protect the natural environment, Follow advice and local signs and Obey social distancing regulations.

Maggie Booth (Volunteer Publicity coordinator)

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