View From The Jungle, Calais

Ellie Hanratty, a young resident of Broad Hinton, visited The Jungle in November – It had a profound impact on her and provides us with a glimpse of the reality facing those fleeing violence in Syria and elsewhere. This article (see pages 8 and 9) addresses many of the issues facing us as human beings as we watch the tide of refugees swell and see appalling tragedies unfold on our TV screens. This is a shortened version of a much longer blog – we have provided the links – and is a longer read than one might normally expect. We urge you to listen to the voice of one of our own villagers speaking very much from her heart. It is particularly poignant to read as both the church, St Michael’s and the Mosque she mentions as being places of welcome and refuge, side by side, have actually been demolished by French soldiers and the workers and leaders displaced.

As the Benefice Church Team works with the Harbour Project to build on our contacts within this organisation we invite you to read Ellie’s words and ponder what your role might be. We are 100% behind Helen Tulissio, and others who are undertaking voluntary work or preparing to train with the project and know there are others out there who might like to work with us to build a relationship between our 8 villages and the refugees. If this is something you would like to help us with Contact Reverend Maria 01672 539643 or Helen Tulissio 01793 739278

The Harbour Project is desperately in need of two specific items. Working bicycles of all sorts and Laptops. If you can help, contact Helen.

The Swindon Harbour project provides a safe space for refugees and asylum seekers in Swindon, primarily through a daily Drop-in facility. They also provide basic advice, guidance and signposting, with a view to integrating their visitors into the local community, thus reducing their vulnerability and social isolation. In addition, they offer basic English and other activities, such as sewing and cooking, in order to provide life skills.

March 2016

Kennet Valley Lottery Club
February draw winners
£100 Number 66 Jacqui Taylor
£75 Number 70 Mark Humphries
£50 Number 60 Philip Loveday
If you would like to join the lottery, please pick up an application form from any church, or ring David Snape on 01672 861267 or email davidwssnape@aol.com
Another way to support our churches at West Overton, Fyfield and East Kennett

Easter Day Services (27th March)

Fyfield – 8 am, Easter Day Service (Holy Communion)
West Overton – 10 am, Easter Day Service (Holy Communion)
Avebury - Easter Day Dawn Service at Galtye More Farm, Beckhampton, followed by breakfast
Winterbourne Monkton – 10 am, Easter Day Service (Holy Communion)
Winterbourne Bassett – 11.15 am, Easter Day Service (Holy Communion)
Broad Hinton – 10 am, Easter Day Service (Holy Communion)

Notice Board

Funerals
William Gibbs 1 February East Kennett
Lily Oakey 22 February East Kennett

www.upperkennetnews.co.uk
## Upper Kennet Benifice Services

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## Readings for March

### Sunday 6 March – Purple MOTHERING Sunday
- Exodus 2. 1 – 10
- or 1 Samuel 1. 20 – end
- Psalm 34. 11 – 20 or 127. 1 – 4
- 2 Corinthians 1. 3 – 7
- or Colossians 3. 12 – 17
- or John 19. 25b – 27

### Sunday 13 March – Purple LENT 5
- Isaiah 43. 16 – 21
- Psalm 126
- Philippians 3. 4b – 14
- John 12. 1 – 8

### Sunday 20 March – Red PALM SUNDAY
- Luke 19. 28 – 40
- Psalm 118. 1 – 2, 19 – end

### Sunday 27 March – Gold or White EASTER DAY
- Acts 10. 34 – 43
- John 20. 1 – 18 or
- Luke 24. 1 – 12

### Sunday 3 April – White EASTER 2
- Acts 5. 27 – 32
- John 20. 19 - end
Upper Kennet Churches
Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Services 2016

20 March - Palm Sunday:
10.30 am Palm Sunday - Procession & Communion Service at Broad Hinton - a combined service for all churches

24 March - Maundy Thursday
7.30pm Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar service and Vigil until 10 pm at Broad Hinton

25 March - Good Friday
10.00am Sung Matins at Broad Hinton
2.00pm-3.00pm Walk of Witness at Avebury
6.00pm Sung Compline at East Kennett

26 March - Holy Saturday
8.00 pm HOLY FIRE at AVEBURY - Night prayer and the lighting of the fire followed by an overnight vigil in church. The fire will be walked across to the LONG BARROW just before dawn (40 minute walk)

27 March - Easter Day
Avebury Easter Day Dawn Service at Galtee More Farm, Beck Hampton, followed by breakfast
8.00am Fyfield - Easter Day Service (Holy Communion)
10.00am West Overton - Easter Day Service (Holy Communion)
10.00am Broad Hinton - Easter Day Service (Holy Communion)
10.00am Winterbourne Monkton - Easter Day Service (Holy Communion)
11.15am Winterbourne Bassett - Easter Day Service (Holy Communion)

Wiltshire Sight - TRUSTEES WANTED

Wiltshire Sight is an independent charity supporting people living with sight loss in Wiltshire and Swindon. We assist more than 2,500 people of all ages, as well as their families and carers.

We aim to achieve our goal of being the first point of call for anyone in the county who needs information, advice and support around sight loss. We are now seeking new Trustees to sit on our Board and help guide the charity into the future. We are particularly interested in recruiting local people with skills in Change Management, Human Resources, and Ophthalmology, who have the strategic leadership and operational experience to help us make a difference to our members. Applications from people whose lives are affected by sight loss are warmly welcomed.

Commitment and Duties
• Actively commit to the charity for, initially, a period of three years
• Attend around six board meetings a year and take part in other events
• Advise, mentor and guide the management team.

This is an exciting opportunity to use your skills to make a real difference.

Contact
Informal discussions with our Chief Executive, Leanne Hubbard, are welcome. Expressions of interest and CVs should be emailed to lhubbard@wiltshiresight.org
Avebury Community Shop
Shop Phone Number: 01672 539200
Winter Shop Opening Hours: Monday- Friday 9am - 5pm, Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holidays 10.00 – 4:00
Happy Easter
Keep a look out in the shop for little Easter treats. We are selling hot cross buns and other Easter items.
Why not save yourself a trip into town and buy all your basics (and little luxuries) in the shop. If the weather stays cold, don’t forget that we sell logs, kindling and firelighters.
Pantomime Tickets – Peter Pan Comes to Avebury – March 15th, 16th and 17th.
Tickets are available in the shop priced at £4 adults and £2 children. It promises to be a really fun evening for the whole family, so please come along to support the Avebury Players. We will be raising money for Sarcoma UK (the bone and soft tissue cancer charity).
Meet the Team

Sheila McKeown is one of our loyal volunteers from Winterbourne Monkton. Sheila is a lady who likes to keep busy. Most of her life she worked for Southern Electricity ending up as a team leader and she then worked for British gas. When she retired, she spent her time caring for her uncle and her mother. When the shop first opened, she promised Wendy (the first manager of the shop) that she would volunteer one day, and in November 2013 she was able to start as a volunteer. Sheila does 2 different jobs as a volunteer – she bakes one morning a week and she also volunteers as a shop assistant for one shift a week. If she had time she would like to do even more!! Sheila says “I am a people person and I love to meet people from different nationalities”. She also likes the idea of giving something back to the community. She finds it a great way of meeting people and has made lots of new friends and has got to know lots of Avebury people.
When she is not volunteering in the shop Sheila loves gardening and knitting and especially baking for Teas for Tourists and cake sales. Her favourite purchases in the shop are ingredients for baking.

We need volunteer shop assistants, but if you don’t want to be in the public eye there are lots of other things you could do to help such as baking, helping with our recycling, our deliveries, our collections of supplies, keeping our garden tidy and so on. We don’t expect you to volunteer at the same time every week, any help however small is gratefully received.
If you think you would like to volunteer, even for an hour or two, just to help out, just call Lyn, Lynda or Holly at the shop on 01672 539200. We promise tea, biscuits and a giggle!

Charity Support
Thank you to everyone who donates to the Trussell Trust box which is in the shop. Today, they came and collected two large boxes of food kindly donated by our customers. They are very grateful for any items people can donate. They need tinned and packet foods for example milk (tinned or UHT), pasta, rice, cereals, tins of vegetables and fruit.

Home Deliveries
We offer a home delivery service for anyone who is unable to get to the shop for age or health reasons. We deliver to Avebury, Avebury Trustoe, Beckhampton, West and East Kennet, Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett. If you would like to have a home delivery please telephone the shop on 01672 539200 and ask for Lyn, Lynda or Holly.

Michele Lomas (Chair of Avebury Community Shop)

Avebury Over 60’s Club
Wednesday 10 February was a bitter sweet day. Members of Avebury Over 60’s Club met at the Social Centre, to hold their last meeting and to celebrate their talks, events and companionship over many years. With falling membership numbers, the Club had decided to disband, and its members wished to present a plaque to the community to record their activities. It will be hung in the Social Centre and says:

‘In the past ‘mists of time’ two old farmers sat in the New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton. Before them were two giant Cow Cabbages – the culmination of a competition to ascertain which could grow the biggest. The winner decided, they were auctioned for charity, the proceeds to be divided amongst the over 60’s living locally. Dubbed ‘Cabbage Sunday’ it gave birth to what has evolved as the Avebury Over 60’s Club which received a donation annually. From its early days the club met monthly in the Social Centre where you now stand. Sadly demographic changes and senior citizen life style have seen a dramatic fall in membership in recent years and on the 10th February 2016 the club was forced into dissolution on the grounds of non-viability. This plaque represents a physical tribute to mark its passage and contribution to the history of the local community.’

Beryl Greenaway (Chair lady and Secretary), Jean Davis (Treasurer) and members of the club have continued the Club’s founding tradition of generosity of spirit and care for others. They have decided to give the majority of the Club’s remaining assets to three local charities and made donations totalling over £2,000.

We felt very sad, but equally privileged, to receive the plaque on behalf of Trustees of the Social Centre.

Tony Farthing and Andrew Williamson

NEWS FROM THE TOWER
Ringing Times: 6th & 13th March 9.30 am to 10 am.
Practice Nights: Tuesdays (not 22nd March) 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm.
The good news this month is that we have two new recruits. We are very grateful to Jane Ridgwell and Andrew Woolley, from Calne, who are teaching them. The bells are silenced while they are learning; this is achieved by tying part of a rubber tyre to the clapper. Both of the recruits are doing extremely well and we are looking forward to them joining us on practice nights in the near future.
Unusually, we will only be ringing for two services in March, with both the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services being away from Avebury Church this year. Traditionally bells are not rung during Holy Week so there won’t be a practice on Tuesday, 22nd March.
There has been a request for the bells to be rung nationally on St. George’s Day, 23rd April so we are hoping to have enough ringers for that.

Mary Davidge Tel: 01672 513819
Belfry Correspondent.

Thursday 10th March
**QUIZ NIGHT**
Broad Hinton Primary School
7.45pm for an 8pm start
£5 per person - maximum 6 per team
BYO Drinks (Cheese and bread included in the ticket price)
Tickets available from the school office - adults only
Tel: 01793 731262 / email: admin@broadhinton.wilts.sch.uk
Proceeds to Friends of Broad Hinton Primary School
Broad Hinton Primary School

Aim: ‘A Love of Learning for a Lifetime of Opportunities’

We welcome everyone to our village school where all faiths, cultures and abilities are received with love, care and respect.

The theme of Collective Worship this term is: Justice
The theme of Personal, Social and Health Education this term is: Friends and Family

If you would like to support your child at home with this area, please feel free to ask for an activities booklet at the office.

Well done to pupils for achievements outside school.

Well done to Dotty Spring for gaining her Stage 3 swimming and Thomas Garbett for his Stage 2.

Easter Service

Don’t forget Broad Hinton School’s Easter Service on the Wednesday 23rd March at 1.30pm at St Peter’s in Broad Hinton. All the children will be escorted down to the church and brought back to school for lunch as normal. If you are able to join us and help in the walking to and from church on this day, we would appreciate it. We will be starting to walk at 1pm from school. Please let your child’s class teacher know.

Community Ambassadors

Thank you to everyone who donated to our charity day on 12th February - a total of £77. Through these ventures we are becoming a more understanding and thoughtful school towards those less fortunate. We intend to use this money to send to our Nairobi friends to sustain the teachers working at the school.

Next event: charity day on 18th March, which will be organised by the Community Ambassadors.

Help, Help, Help

The school are having increased enquiries about child minder facilities in the village. If there is anyone with any contacts or if you are interested in starting this, don’t hesitate to contact school.

Sainsbury’s Active Kids tokens

Active Kids tokens are now available again, so please bring these in to school to help us purchase some great equipment.

Friends update

A very productive meeting was conducted on Monday 25th January, with many ideas and suggestions discussed for future consideration.

NEXT MEETING – FRIDAY 26th FEBRUARY, 2PM, EVERYONE WELCOME!

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Andree held an 'Open MIC night' at The Social Centre, Avebury on January 30th during which a collection was made and the proceeds handed to Joan Greenaway.

This money has been sent to the Prospect Hospice. Many Thanks to all who attended and contributed.

Joan
Avebury’s Annual Parish / Village Meeting
7.00pm on Thursday 28th April 2016 at the Social Centre.
The Parish holds a meeting once a year so that everyone locally can come along to discuss the past year and plan for the next.
If you want to put something on the agenda, please contact Andrew Williamson on 539284 or email Liz (Parish Clerk) at clerk@aveburyparishcouncil.org

Plant Fair
Sunday 24th April 2016, 10.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
At Barbury Racecourse, Barbury, Wilts. SN8 1RS
(by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Nigel Bunter)
Plants, planters, garden sculptures, refreshments.
Adults £3, under 12’s free
In aid of Kennet Valley Driving Group RDA
Registered Charity No. 1074359

TO BE
OR KNOT TO BE
Sorry about the punning title (!) but macramé, the art of knotting string into patterns, does rather lend itself.

Our speaker on February the 11th at the Avebury & District WI Meeting was Susan Waldron. When macramé was mentioned many of us remembered the beige plant holders containing the sprawling spider plants adorning so many homes in the 70’s and 80’s. However she explained the history of knot-tieing and how macramé items were found in the tombs of the ancient Pharaohs: also sailors were experts in knot-tieing using ropes to make the fenders on boats and landing-stages. She showed a delicately-made handbag in fine string complete with clasp, and simple belts and bags made from parcel string.

Having caught our interest we were all ready ‘to have a go’ at making a simple bookmark. There was intense concentration until the final knot had been tied with the bead attached – only then did we exhibit our work.

A good tea was enjoyed by all and the competition of February flowers from the garden made a real splash of Spring colour.

Next month on the 10th of March at 7.30pm is our 65th Birthday Meeting so please bring a plate of food to share. Our excellent speaker is Chris Rogers who is a guide at Salisbury Cathedral, so if you wish to bring along a friend, male or female, you will be most welcome. The competition is a stone object / spring flowers in a wine glass. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on what will be my last full meeting as President.

Mary Beale

Avebury Parish Council
Headlines from a meeting of Avebury Parish Council on 2 February 2016
Membership: Following the resignation of Paul Ryder-Morris, we received two applications and decided to co-opt Stephen Stacey to the Council.
Planning applications: We decided to support works to hedges and trees at Avebury Sportsfield, trees at Truslove Manor, and trees at Avebury Manor. We decided to object to an application to increase the number of houses at Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton.
Avebury Trusloe: We confirmed decisions taken at an on-site meeting of the Parish Council at Trusloe on 16 January in respect of the play area, parking, road sweeping, litter, a dropped kerb, removal of railings, bus shelter lighting, yellow lines and speeding traffic.
Police report: PCSO Polly Ritchie reported that although Avebury is a low crime area, the main issues are car break-ins at the car parks, hare coursing, and the theft of catalytic converters. Other issues to the east of Marlborough are shed break-ins and thefts of power tools. The Parish Council reported on damage to by-ways by 4x4s and will be contacting Wiltshire Council.
Transport issues: following a meeting with Wiltshire Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, the Parish Council will be re-applying for an extension northwards of the 30mph limit beyond Melbourne House on the Swindon Road. Our Transport Group will also be pursuing a scheme to raise money towards design work to improve safety on the A4 at Beckhampton and West Kennett, developing proposals for nine informal pedestrian crossing points across roads in the Parish and working on the need for a speed limit in Trusloe.
Recreation and Sportsfield: Members of Avebury Community Sports and Recreation Committee are working with the Community Orchard Group to erect a new fence between the Sportsfield and Glebe Field. The existing hedge will also be coppiced and inter-planted with native species to encourage wildlife and facilitate foraging. Janet Polack (539 253) is organising working parties on 27-28 February and 5-6 March so contact her if you would like to help. The possibility of providing a new notice-board in the north western corner of the Sportsfield is also being considered.
URC Chapel: We considered the documents that had been circulated by the Avebury Chapel Steering Group, reports from the drop-in event and written representations from the public. We discussed people’s concerns and questions about the nature of the main focus of the Chapel project, congestion and parking, the nature of musical events, impacts on the Quiet Garden, the form of proposed religious practices, governance, long-term viability, the lack of information in the form of a business plan and the cost of buying and maintaining the building. We felt we did not have information to answer these questions, nor to respond on the potential adverse impact on the finances of the Social Centre and other existing community enterprises. We also noted that the community had not heard the results of the mandate request sent to all Avebury residents. Overall, we hoped a project could be developed that benefitted all in the community. We also felt that more dialogue would be useful and that it would be valuable to hold an open meeting.
Voluntary work: Many thanks to Peter Swatton for trimming Footpath 22 by Big Arch Bridge towards the end of last year and other work.
Consultation on cutting bus services: If you wish to comment on Wiltshire Council’s consultation, by 4 April, there’s a link on our website www.aveburyparishcouncil.org.
Date of Annual Village Meeting: 7.00pm on Thursday 28 April at the Social Centre.
Date of next meeting: 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 March 2016 at the Social Centre.
Parish Clerk: Liz Moore (861424) and clerk@aveburyparishcouncil.org
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Musical Boxes and Barometers
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WELDING BREAKDOWN
M.O.T.S. SERVICING
CHALKY'S WORKSHOP
Hillside Farm, Rhyles Lane, Lockeridge,
TEL: 01672 861123
nationalities have placed themselves close to the makeshift camp church. Along with the church, there is a mosque, an information centre, a camp library and many little shops – all small structures made from wood and tarpaulin. There is also the Good Chance Theatre which is housed in an amazing dome structure set up by two British playwrights.

Conditions
The conditions in the camp are truly shocking. The entire site has turned into a mud bath with the current frequent downpours. The camp hygiene and sanitation is appalling. There are a just a few shower and toilet blocks for thousands and thousands of people. Illnesses and infection is rife and there is a total lack of medical facilities apart from a few medical volunteers and a couple of basic first aid kits floating around. We met one young Kurdish man with a horrific mouth abscess in urgent need of draining and antibiotics. He was too afraid and embarrassed to ask for help, as he speaks no English and the entire left side of his face had swollen considerably. It broke my heart to watch him try and hide his face with his jacket hood and I left the Jungle the next day knowing how unlikely it is that it will get treated. This is just one example in thousands. An Eritrean lady also gave birth to a very tiny baby while we were there, in a freezing cold, leaking caravan. She was weak after the birth with nothing to eat but the croissants Ryan and I had bought from the local supermarket. I can't even begin to imagine how frightened she is for her new child. People’s tents are constantly being flooded, blown over or burnt down. Tent fires are a frequent occurrence in the Jungle and people desperately try to warm themselves and their families with candles and open flames in the face of a bitter French winter. It is so unbelievably unjust that these people are repeatedly having what little they have in the world torn away from them. It blows my mind how these people, who have had the odds so severely stacked against them, remain so friendly and compassionate. Refugees are provided with one meal a day from the One Spirit Ashram kitchen, which is run by volunteers, but they are desperately hungry.

I am from the UK, I am used to the cold weather and I prepared as best I could with layers, a hat, scarf, thick socks and boots. My entire body was numb within an hour of being inside the fences and my feet soaking wet. These people are from hot countries. They are not used to cold temperatures and the majority arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs (usually thin t-shirts) and one pair of shoes (usually open sandals). The high winds and storms that constantly blow in from the nearby port are biting cold, the kind that sting any exposed skin. The constant fires and plastics being burnt in a bid to keep dry and warm mean the air is filled with dangerous chemicals, which is leading to high levels of respiratory health problems within the camp. I am asthmatic and struggled to breathe frequently in the short time I was there – I know that with so many people breathing the same air I am not the only one.

It has also been exposed recently that the camp is likely only ‘tolerated’ by French officials because it is unusable for any other purpose. It would never ever be classed as suitable for housing because the entire area is littered with poisonous asbestos. The ground was previously the site of a large chemical plant. I want to scream that it is housing THOUSANDS OF HUMAN BEINGS RIGHT NOW. I also use the term ‘tolerated’ loosely – it seems police violence is a common occurrence.

Arguments and issues
I am aware that describing the conditions of the camp may not be news to everyone (anyone?) reading this but I thought I should try to describe my experience first-hand before attempting to refute some of the common misconceptions I have heard or even believed myself before talking to the people at the heart of the crisis.

I have heard so many arguments along the lines of “they want to come here and take advantage of our benefit system” with regards to immigrants and refugees. THIS IS IN NO WAY ACCURATE. Firstly, the overwhelming majority of these people are NOT economic migrants, they are fleeing war-torn, corrupt, oppressive countries where their lives are at risk and human rights do not exist. Secondly,
Asylum Seekers cannot access the benefit system. They receive only the very small amount of £36.62 per week ONLY when granted Asylum. What the majority of these people seek is safety and the chance to earn a living and make a life in a country that implements the notion of human rights.

Some other example arguments are, “they will make our country unsafe”, “they are violent”, or “allowing in refugees will increase the risk of extremist attacks”. These are not violent people. They are people fleeing violence. Has there been the odd fight in the camp? OF COURSE THERE HAS. Put six thousand British people in a field together in the harshest of conditions after being emotionally traumatised and see what happens. There are always fights at cultural events like music festivals here in the UK; events which are supposed to bring fun and happiness – large crowds of strangers can cause tension. I am reeling at the injustice of the situation so I can’t imagine the emotions of the people at the core of it. These emotions will obviously come to a head from time to time and cause disputes.

Are there occasional clashes between French police and refugees? Yes, and the numbers of vulnerable unarmed refugees injured far outweighs that of the police officials who are armed with tear gas, rubber bullets, water canons and concussion grenades. Please don’t make your mind up when reading reports of violence in the media – there are two sides to every story. I accept that the vast majority of the French police force are just trying to do their job but I also know how desperate these people are to escape the conditions of the camp. They do not want conflict, they want freedom. Ryan and I experienced no violence or tension between any refugees whilst in the Jungle. What we experienced was staggering kindness and generosity from intelligent, educated, peaceful people. We were constantly wrapped in blankets by those with nowhere to sleep, we were offered countless cups of hot chai by people with limited water (who also refused our money when we offered to pay) and we were ALWAYS made to take the seats closest to the fire by those shivering after another day of fighting the brutal cold. When we insisted, they should keep the blankets, have the first cup of chai and keep their seats next to the fire, they insisted harder – we were “their guests”. Of course we must proceed with caution when it comes to who we allow into our country and treat each case individually, but the problem the solution to the problem is greatly misinformed – they are the victims of much greater problems.

As for the last argument – there is a multitude of religions within the camp and beautiful makeshift Mosques and Churches stand proudly among the sea of rubbish and tent. There is unanimous respect for each other’s cultures and beliefs. We are living in an increasingly volatile world and with so many heart wrenching attacks happening daily, it is natural that we look for someone to blame but this only causes more disunity and isolation. Religion is not the problem, extremists are. And if you can’t distinguish between a Muslim and an extremist then I honestly pity you. By tarnishing an entire (fundamentally peaceful) religion with the same sordid brush, you are really just as disillusioned as they are. Remember, many of these people have left their homes, undertaken unbelievably traumatic journeys and risked their lives and the lives of their loved ones to escape extremism within their home countries.

Nobody wants to be forced to leave their home country and culture – circumstances have left them with no other option. We must support them just as we support victims of the Paris attacks – we are all the same. These people are no different to us. Sure, their circumstances are but they still feel pain, loss and fear the same way we do. Their journeys have not numbed their ability to feel loneliness, homesickness and sheer hopelessness the same way we would in their heartbreaking positions. They are dealing with emotional and physical trauma that most of us can’t even begin to imagine – we cannot turn our backs.

The person Ryan and I spent the most time with whilst in the Jungle was Ahmin. He is a talented, intelligent, kind and incredibly brave 24 year old from Afghanistan. We met him coming out of his tent with a camera and a guitar. With my love of photography and Ryan being a musician, we decided to go over and chat to him. His story blew us away.

He left Afghanistan after his father passed away. Suddenly, he was head of the household with the responsibility to provide for his mother and siblings. He needed to earn money so he decided to make the trip to Europe alone (predominantly by foot). It was not an easy decision but with no better option, he left. His journey took ten months. He walked through many countries, through deserts and jungles and was arrested and beaten up many, many times. He told us of how he became so desperately hungry in the jungle after not eating for, if I remember correctly, fifteen days, so he killed and ate a snake. The meat was poisonous and he became very sick. He was so poorly that he could not run and hide from the police in helicopters above. He was discovered, beaten up and put in prison once again. After being released, he carried on with his journey and finally made it to Europe. After stopping in Austria for a while, he crossed into Germany and made it to France. On his arrival to Calais, he couldn’t believe the conditions. He had been in the Jungle a few months when we met him and he told us that he would be trying to hitch a lift to Germany (where he will then make his way back to Austria) in the next couple of days because he can’t stand it in the Jungle anymore. He told us that it is no life for a human and he’s right. How can we, as humans, behave so cruelly to people who have already experienced so much pain and anguish?

We will never see Ahmin again and we have no idea what his future holds… Neither does he.

Before we left, he showed us the amazing photographs he has taken whilst in the Jungle and the songs he is learning on the guitar that was given to him by a volunteer. He is wonderfully talented and his photographs and captions really moved us.

Please check out his work (and the amazing photographs of others) on the Facebook page “Welcome to our jungle” – his pictures and words are under his last name ‘Habib’. He also proudly showed us how they had been exhibited in the Theatre dome of the Jungle. I hope with all my heart that he finds the better life he was searching for and manages to send money back to his family.

Ahmin poses next to my favourite of his photographs. The caption reads “there is still a lot of beauty this side of the fence.”

For those who feel it’s not their ‘problem’, it is. It’s a human problem. Where’s our sense of humanity? If it were our country and your family, you would pray that the rest of the world stepped up. Ryan tells me I shouldn’t feel guilty for the circumstances I have been born into but right now I do. While I write this on my laptop from the comfort of my warm bed in my safe city, good, gentle human beings just over the border are braving another numbingly cold, wet night and all that separates me from them is a little red book stating my British nationality.

Ellie Hanratty ( Abridged version of a longer article)
For the full article to donate to support
Ellie’s Work:
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Marlborough and District Embroiderers Guild
In 2007 our February speaker, Anne Griffiths joined a project at the Synchrotron based at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in Oxfordshire. Anne worked with members of the Women’s Institute, the Oxford Trust and the Diamond Light Source and used the Wellcome Trust library to translate images of diseases, scans and microscopic slides into stitch. Anne showed us a variety of images of the finished work (Alzheimer’s, Breast Cancer, CJD, Malaria and HIV) which is now displayed in the atrium in Harwell for all to enjoy. There was a royal opening at the end of the project when the Queen received a gift created by Anne Griffiths.

The next meeting of the Marlborough & District Embroiderers Guild will be a Branch Open Day on Monday 7 March at the Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge when the speaker will be Cas Holmes and her talk will be entitled “Magpie of the Mind”. The doors will open at 13.30 for a 14.00 start. All are welcome and if you require further information please ring 01672 861658 or visit our website: www.marlboroughembroiderers.org for further information.

Thanks to Marlborough Area Board
When the Kennet Valley Hall Sit-on Mower was declared too expensive to repair last Autumn, it was decided to investigate the cost of buying a new mower. The funds required were in excess of what the Hall Committee could afford, so an application was made to the Marlborough Area Board of Wiltshire Council for financial support. We were delighted when MAB approved a grant of £1225 to pay 50% of the cost of the new mower. The Hall Committee are responsible for managing the hall to a high standard, and managing the hall’s finances effectively is essential. So this further support from Marlborough Area Board is much appreciated.

K VH Hall Management Committee

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Kennet Valley 60+
The January meeting saw many very hardy soles turning out for the first meeting of the year, the weather, as we have come to expect, was less than clement. Membership fees were collected and skittles was the game on everyone’s mind. After some very galant rounds, Bill Pearse took the prize for the men’s competition and his wife Jean stood shoulder to shoulder with him taking the prize for the women’s competition.
The Weather for the February meeting could not have been more different, with bright sun and warm temperatures to give us all the idea that Spring is just around the corner, ok that’s a bit optimistic but no harm in hoping!
The talk was given by Roger Day who has written books on the subject of the First World War years in our local area, his talk was accompanied by original slides showing us the events surrounding the call up of local men. The photographs were principally taken by two local photographers, Mr Parsons from Hungerford and a Mr Hunt from Marlborough, the pictures covered a wide range of activities including the farming aspect, hospital care, Chiseldon Aerodrome and the prisoner of war camps. Marlborough was particularly easy to identify as in general the High Street has not changed that much, Ramsbury also featured. It was a very interesting talk and we look forward to Roger coming to talk to us again.
The next meeting is on March 17th when Tanya Bloomfield will be talking to us about “Walking Through Westminster”.

Friday March 18th at
Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge
EASTER BINGO

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Every child goes home with
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Kennet Valley School

Although this has felt like a short half term, the children have worked very hard and continued to enjoy a full range of activities and exciting learning opportunities. For February this included the Prospect Hospice Day, fundraising cake sales, a coffee morning for invited local residents led by our year 6 pupils, a new healthy eating tuck shop started by the School Council and a school disco arranged by the Friends – always a highlight of the school year!

Sport
Some of our year 5 & 6 pupils took part in the interschools swimming gala and demonstrated some great teamwork and individual efforts in the races. It was particularly noticeable how our pupils were very encouraging of each other. Special mention goes to Francesca Hutton and Amber Boyer for their amazing wins but we were also very proud of those who put in a spectacular personal effort to compete and do their very best.
It was a great morning and I am also pleased to report that our parent supporters received a special sticker for their outstanding energetic vocal support! We came a well deserved 4th position out of 8 local schools.

Music - Special congratulations to Sammy Till Vattier for achieving his grade 1 piano exam and also for the progress he is making with the trombone. Most impressive! We are a school that loves music. That is why I am pleased to see a record number of our pupils taking part in the Swindon Music Festival in March, as well as noting that a number of our ex-pupils are also continuing to feature in this event.

School Trips
Our younger pupils have been learning about railways and Isambard Kingdom Brunel and have created some brilliant art work about this. We recently took them on a trip to the Steam Museum to support and bring alive their learning – this involved driving steam trains, hands on exploring with artefacts and original objects, story-telling, role play and dressing up! This trip included our new 4 and 5 year olds in reception who were so well behaved throughout. This trip was a good opportunity for the older pupils to help guide and care for their younger school friends which is always an important aspect of our school ethos. The year 6 pupils have also been away on an adventure, meeting the extreme physical and emotional challenges of a residential week at the Kingswood Centre on the Isle of Wight with myself and class teacher Miss Chalker. This is a specially designed outdoor learning centre with expert teaching staff that brings learning to life in a safe and secure environment, whilst encouraging the children to take risks! For the children, key highlights were the 3G swing and the “Leap of Faith”!….scary! We recognise this was also a challenge for the parents left behind, especially when we left in rather stormy weather conditions and faced the choppy Solent Water! For some children, this was their first trip away from home and this year included some children who have only recently joined the school.

This was a great outdoor opportunity for the children to:
- build their independence & resilience
- learn new leadership and team working skills
- use their initiative in new situations
- broaden their horizons
- learn more about themselves and their classmates

All the children enjoyed some challenging and rewarding experiences and developed their self-confidence which was lovely to see. We know from our experience in previous years that that this trip increases the children’s appetite for learning and contributes significantly to enabling them to raise their standards of attainment. We were all shattered at the end of the week but returned with many memories of fun times and amazing personal achievements.

We will be continuing to support our year 6 pupils next term as they prepare for their SATS tests in May. To enable them to reach their potential, their class team undertakes a range of group and individual activities so that they are confident with the subject areas and are familiar with the process of examination. I also run an after-school session, we call the “biscuit club” to help with focussed preparation.

Our year 4 pupils will be away for an outdoor focused residential trip in March to New Barn, with similar learning objectives.

IT Development
As part of our 3 year strategy to become a Digital School, We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a £8k grant from a Salisbury Diocese fund that will allow us to equip the school with ipad tablets and associated infrastructure, in addition to the large selection of laptops that are in regular use already. We have signed up to the superfast broadband coming to Lockeridge, and we are looking forward to the opportunities this will create.

Dragons for breakfast!
In addition to our after school Dragon Club, which runs Monday to Thursday until 5.45pm, we are also starting a new Breakfast Club on Monday 22nd February from 8am, to support working parents, run by Mrs Bushnell.

Art week in May

We are starting to plan a week of art focused activities in school and would be delighted if any local residents with artistic talents would like to come in and share these with the children – either demonstrating their work and perhaps showing us some of their skills in action or coming to work alongside the pupils in the activities we have planned. Do contact the school office on ph.861202 if you are able to help us.

Marlborough Medical Practice

Patient Participation Group Update

Did you know...
All patients registered with the Marlborough Medical Practice are allocated a Named GP. This GP is responsible for the co-ordination of all appropriate services that relate to the care and support that our surgery provides to them.

We hope that you are able to see this GP when you require an appointment with the practice. However, you will be able to book an appointment with any of our GPs. It is now a national initiative that patients are allocated a Named GP and are informed of who this is. Therefore, if you do not know who your named GP is our reception team will be happy to provide you with this information. Please do contact the practice after 11 am on weekdays on 01672 512187, or drop in and ask.

Fyfield and West Overton Parish Council

Defibrillators We applied for free equipment from the Community Heart Foundation, but they had been overwhelmed with requests and we were not successful this time. However they may have some more funding later in the year, but we would have to make quite a large contribution. This would be beyond the scope of the Parish Council budget, and would require fundraising or donations from residents. If anyone is interested in forming a small working group to do this please let Ruth (861550) or Sophie (861262) know.

Dog fouling This is a perennial problem. It is an offence to allow your dog to foul on any public land. This includes footpaths, pavements, roads, verges and churchyards.

You may consider a verge a suitable place but children often walk there. Please clear up after your dog – and please don’t hang the bag on a branch! Use one of the village bins or take it home.

Annual Parish Meeting This will be held in the Kennet Valley Hall on Monday 11th April.

More details to follow.

Wiltshire Best Kept Village Competition The deadline for entries is 16th April. If you are interested in promoting this in your village, ask Sophie or Ruth for details.
**DO SOMETHING AMAZING TODAY!**

**JOIN KENNET VALLEY DRIVING GROUP (KVDG) AS A VOLUNTEER**

KVDG are a Riding for the Disabled group based at Lockeridge who rely on volunteers to allow adults with disabilities to carriage drive.

Enthusiasm not experience is more important as there are many opportunities to help – we need help with car driving, assisting our carriage drivers, helping with refreshments, fundraising and PR as well as with the horses.

For more information contact the secretary, Maggie Lewis, email: kvdgrda8@gmail.com or 07398 036718

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**BABYSITTING**

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(Work experience from Woodpecker’s Nursery, Bristol and locally in West Overton and East Kennet)

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West Overton. 01672 861882 or 07795 290390
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Please call the fundraising team 01793 816161, email fundraising@prospect-hospice.net or complete our fundraising form which can be found here: www.prospect-hospice.net/Supporter/Fundraise-for-us. We look forward to hearing from you.

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WHO'S WHO in the Upper Kennet Churches

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MAGAZINES

UPPER KENNET NEWS

in Fyfield, West Overton, East & West Kennett, Beckingham, Avebury Trusloe, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton & Berwick Bassett:

Editor  David Throup

, Longmynd, Lockeridge SN8 4ED

01672 861279
davidthroup@aol.com

Please send all copy including advertising and payment to David Throup.

Final copy date 20th of each month

LOCAL NEWS

in Uffcott, Broad Hinton & Winterbourne Bassett:

Editor Tim Powell

01793 739083

news@onefivetwo.co.uk

Final copy date 20th of each month

What's On

at AVEBURY

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www.avebury-club.co.uk

Wednesday Pool, Thursday Darts and Friday Skittles League Nights

see website for fixtures

Unless stated all activities start at approx 8.15 pm

Saturday 5th – Yorkshire Board Darts – Members Only

Saturday 12th – AGM – Members Only

Saturday 19th – Easter Draw – Many prizes to be won

Saturday 26th – Three-A-Side Skittles – Families and Children welcome

Sunday Bingo – Eyes down 8.00 pm – ££ Cash prizes

Look out for April Events – We have two very special LIVE music nights

Avebury Club is available to hire, contact Alan Blake – Secretary on 07860 112455 or email at AveburyClub@aol.com or alternatively call Avebury Club (when open) on 01672 539258 or visit Avebury Club website to check availability.

ALL ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS ARE TO BE AGREED AND FINALISED WITH THE CLUB’S SECRETARY ONLY
What’s On at AVEBURY SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB  www.avebury-club.co.uk

Wednesday Pool, Thursday Darts and Friday Skittles League Nights
see website for fixtures

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MAGAZINES
UPPER KENNET NEWS in Fyfield, West Overton, East & West Kennett, Beckhampton, Avebury Trusloe, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton & Berwick Bassett:
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Final copy date 20th of each month

LOCAL NEWS in Uffcott, Broad Hinton & Winterbourne Bassett:
Editor Tim Powell  01793 739083 news@onefivetwo.co.uk
Final copy date 20th of each month
Keep the date - Sunday 10 April
CR UK’s Marlborough Spring Fair
Over 65 fantastic trade stands will turn the Norwood Hall at
Marlborough College into a vibrant marketplace with a
myriad of great products for all. Entry £5 (every penny goes to CR UK), and open
from 10am - 4pm. Sit and enjoy coffee or tea at Café CR
UK and enjoy delicious home-baked cakes. Freshly made
sandwiches available too. Free
car parking and easy access for
pushchairs and wheelchairs.
Visit www.marlboroughcancerresearch.org for the list of exhibitors.
A fundraising event for CR
UK.

Kennet Valley Film Nights
Autumn/Winter Season
Sunday March 6th 2016
Sunset Song (12A)
An outstanding new film by renowned UK director
Terence Davies, adapted from the 1932 Scottish classic by
Lewis Grassic Gibbon (widely considered the greatest
Scottish novel of the 20th century) and starring model
turned actress, Agyness Deyn. Chris Guthrie grows up in a
farming family in North East Scotland and dreams of
becoming a teacher. Her father is a domestic tyrant but
after her mother’s death, Chris stays on to look after her
stroke-ridden father and manage the farm, which she
eventually inherits. The film shows us her life through
courtship, marriage and motherhood, until the whole world
is turned upside down by the outbreak of war in 1914.
Ravishing cinematography and meticulous period detail
e.g. the farmhouse kitchen!). Not to be missed.

Sunday April 10th 2016
The Lady in the Van (12A)
Adapted by Alan Bennett from his hit West End play of the
same name, directed by Nicholas Hytner, and starring
Maggie Smith, Alex Jennings and a roll call of stars
familiar from other Bennett films, such as The History
Boys. The Lady in the Van tells the true story of an
eccentric homeless woman who lived in a battered van on
driveway of Bennett’s Camden home for 15 years. As the
story and their unlikely friendship develops, Bennett learns
who Miss Shepherd is and what has led to her life in a van.
Doors open at 7.00 and there is a licensed bar and soft
drinks. The films start at 7.30.
To reserve tickets email: movies@kvh.org.uk
All tickets: £6-00

www.upperkennetnews.co.uk