

News and Notes

Issue 381

for Bodenham, Britford, Charlton All Saints, Nunton and Odstock

January 2008

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Play Days by Rachel Morgan

These days, it is rare to feel part of a community. We live increasingly independent lives, at a time when the means for technical communication has never been greater. Why is this so?

Life has changed. Admittedly, I grew up watching 'the Waltons'. Yes, I was infatuated by the last scene, as the whole family, under twinkling stars, said 'good-night'. 'Good-night, John Boy, good night Mary Ellen'. And it is bizarre, surreal even, to us living in 2007, how everyone married their next-door neighbours, left their houses unlocked, walked to the shops and ate the fruit of the land, thus saving food miles by a substantial amount.

Life has changed; working hours, lifestyles, priorities ... the list is continuous, and never-ending ... which means that there is not enough 'time' in the day. There are many more inner/outer pressures. When is there time to be, to rest, to play, to laugh? Well, I will confess. I've just been playing. An awful lot.

Gather a group of twelve individuals, from Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham, consisting of mainly doctors and nurses, one vet, a property developer and myself (an indefinable creature) in September for a read through at the local primary school. A couple of months later, approximately eighteen rehearsals and what was to show?..... (Continued on page 2)

(Thank you very much for this, Rachel. You can see this "blog" and others Rachel has posted at: www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/blogs/rachel_morgan. There's more about "The Goodbridge Million" on page 3. Ed.)

Church of England Services

Sunday, 6 th January Epiphany	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Family Service Parish Communion Evensong BCP	Britford Nunton Coombe Bissett Homington	AW ACFT DH AW
Sunday, 13 th January Epiphany 2	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion Matins BCP Family Service	Odstock Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett	AW DB AW
Sunday, 20 th January Epiphany 3	9.30am 9.30am	Parish Communion Family Communion	Nunton Homington	DH KRS
Sunday, 27 th January Epiphany 4	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Service Matins BCP	Charlton All Saints Odstock Coombe Bissett	AW ACFT AW
Sunday, 3 rd February Sunday next before Lent	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Family Service Parish Communion Evensong BCP	Britford Nunton Coombe Bissett Homington	AW ACFT AW AW

AW = Revd Alison Williams, DH = Revd Canon David Henley, DB = Denis Blake
KRS = Revd Kate Rosslyn Smith, ACFT = Adrian Taylor
BCP = Book of Common Prayer

In Chalke Talk

(see website & churches)

2008 Dates

Coffee Mornings:

Broad Chalke Chapel

1st Wed. of each month

Coombe Bissett Church

Every Wed. 10.30 – 12.00

Fellowship Supper

26th Feb. Coombe Bissett

4th-6th April - Lee Abbey

18th May Broad Chalke

"Countryside Afternoon"

24th- 26th May

Alvediston Open

Gardens

14th /15th June

Bowerchalke

Flower Festival and Open

Gardens

Play Days by Rachel Morgan

(continued from front page)

...I must admit that I had several 'issues' with my character, one 'Persephone Hartley'. However, in the final week (luckily), I began to grow accustomed to her style and nuances ... I discovered that it is possible to act another person. Instead of fighting against one's inner urges to be a hippy chick (in my dreams), I accepted the perfect innocence (and rather irritating habits) of a young girl (using a bit of artistic licence, admittedly).

Aeons ago now, I remember a vacant red spelling book, listing words, according to length and difficulty in pronunciation. Every Sunday night, I was tested on those infamous words, prior to the 9.00 Monday morning English lesson (was that the origin of the dreaded Monday morning feeling?). My point, in a rather convoluted fashion is that school was a very 'predictable' way of life; play week took on the same attributes.

I quickly reverted to a schedule. The kitchen clock, guided the hours until departure each day ... bath, changing into costume, attempting not to poke my eyes through putting in my contact lenses, scanning over lines whilst chewing 'high tea' (the last is not recommended as it's fatal for digestion).

Emerging on stage was either the equivalent feeling to taking one's driving test (in my case, four times) or scribbling furiously/not for one's 'A' levels (and awaiting results). Probably not the best recipe for lowering blood cholesterol or curing insomnia But there is a certain freedom, having conquered those inner fears, a lucidity of movement and speech (with luck) that is ready, waiting to be experimented with, if the individual allows their character to envelop them.

On a Sunday afternoon, emerging sleepy-eyed after a rather curtailed last night of performing, I wandered down the lane ... I met a couple of neighbours, good friends. We began talking as we walked, about the general goings-on and dare I say it – even Christmas carol services, parties and activities. In my rather dazed state, I could not help but think of the play, of how we could've easily been characters from the play (to a lesser degree!) and of how there are the potential for communities to exist wherever we go. Acting merely reinforces everyday life, exposing another dimension of ourselves.

(Thank you very much for this, Rachel. You can see this "blog" and others Rachel has posted at: www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/blogs/rachel_morgan . There's more about "The Goodbridge Million" on page 3)

WI Report

Julia Joynt

The Christmas meeting was held at the Radnor Hall and taken by the President, Sue Bourne. It was a big meeting of about seventy people including members and friends. Sue then told us that Ashleigh Smith (our newest member and Jody's daughter) is the youngest member country wide. Although Ashleigh was unable to come to this meeting we all sent her a very warm welcome. Audrey Elliott was thanked for her very attractive flower arrangement on the President's table.

The business meeting was conducted pretty rapidly, with reports on skittles, theatre and scrabble given and their future arrangements discussed. Plans for the Christmas lunch at the Rose and Crown at Harnham were tied up. Some correspondence was read and the financial report was given.

There was an excellent Raffle and a Bring and Buy stall, both of which were enjoyed during the coffee break.

After coffee Mr John Powell entertained us with a talk entitled "A Potted History of Christmas Carols." John, probably best known locally for his choir, The St John Singers, but altogether very active in the Salisbury music scene, gave us a lovely mix of talking and singing. We were taken through from the earliest form of carols around the 12th century, through Oliver Cromwell's "banning" of Christmas, and on to the Victorian age and the emergence of the carol service as we know it now. He gave us a rendering of some of the seventeen known tunes to "While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night", and although most entertaining, we understand why we stick with the well known tune used now! We were encouraged to join in with many of the carols and had a good, lusty sing. He was thanked by Margo Brennan who made it clear how much we had enjoyed ourselves.

We ended our morning enjoying mince pies and mulled wine.

The next meeting will be on 14th January at The Radnor Hall, when Dr Phillippa Swayne will be giving an update on her medical work in Pakistan.

Whist Drives

Bernice Loader

During 2007, the Barker Room Whist Drives have raised £325 for Church funds. Thank you to the few who play, and those who donate a raffle prize every year.

Odstock Primary School Winter News

Well, the nights are drawing in and the days are becoming colder and our thoughts this term have turned to the prospect of snow.

We held a story writing competition with an Ice and Snow theme and two winners were chosen. The judges looked for improvements in the writing skills of the children using their individual learning records. Of course, they were also looking for exciting, thrilling stories. Congratulations to Laurence Chandler and Gabrielle Fernando. The two lucky winners were accompanied by Mrs Sweeney and Miss Clark to London to see the National Ballet's production of the Snow Queen at the London Coliseum. It was a fantastic trip.

Our school winter production was also the Snow Queen which we performed to a packed Radnor Hall. There were fantastic songs, brilliant costumes and every child had a speaking part. A raffle at the event raised £108 for school funds.

This term we celebrated our continued progress with our Cornet tuition in years 5 and 6 by inviting Vision News to come and see our lesson. They came to film our learning and asked how it was all going. We all replied, "BRILLIANT".

If you would like to watch our clips of the Cornet Lesson and our school production, The Snow Queen, visit www.vision-news.tv.

The Radnor Hall Players

"The Goodbridge Million"

Harry Joynt

Instead of the usual Panto and Cabaret for our November entertainment this year, and under able new direction, we staged a modern comedy in a village setting. Our efforts at comedy had hitherto been limited to one act plays of twenty minutes or so with a cast of up to six or seven. This time twelve of us remembered most of our lines through three acts and eighty minutes. Elsewhere in this issue you can read Rachel Morgan's blog which includes a brief and apt summary of the play.

Our new director, Geoff Adair, was an inspirational innovator and a bundle of energy – a special thanks to him and, as always, to Shel Martin for laying on the usual delicious suppers. Thanks also to all those who took part on stage and back stage, or also helped with food and drink, front of house, raffles, advertising and ticket sales. Last and by no means least, we played to a virtually full house all the three evenings and say a big thank you to our audiences for coming along and giving us such

a great reception. Roll on the next event, and long may they continue.

(I was lucky enough to be in the audience at one of the performances of "The Goodbridge Million" and, as I'm sure all those who went will agree, it was terrific fun! Thanks, Radnor Hall Players. Ed.)

The Radnor Hall - Planned Improvements

Harry Joynt

I am very pleased to report that we have been successful in raising £50,000 through grants from the Big Lottery (£33,000), Landfree Communities Fund (£12,000) and Wiltshire Village Halls (£5,000). Odstock Parish Council have helped as "Third Party Contributor" (£1,350) to the Landfill Scheme.

These funds will cover the cost of building an extension to the hall comprising two new stage rooms accessed from within the present committee room and two new toilets, one of which will be suitable for disabled people and include baby changing facilities.

We hope the building work will start fairly early in the New Year and be complete by the spring.

Thanks again to all who completed the questionnaire some months ago, without which we would have got nowhere!

Britford Memorial Hall

After many years the Britford Memorial Hall has recently lost its stalwart management team through retirement, and we would like to thank Pat Reeves, Mike Gilbert and Dave Moulard for their combined 100 years' service.

It has therefore been necessary to look to the future, and on Wednesday, 5 December there was a successful and well-attended meeting at the Memorial Hall in order to discuss its future. It looks as though there will be a group in place to organise the promotion, upkeep and management of the Hall, but we are now looking for the Support Team! If there is anyone out there who would like to be added to the list to help with the cleaning, maintenance or marketing of the Memorial Hall, they would be made very welcome. Please phone Angela Wheeler on 01722 329766.

TABLE TOP SALE

1st March from 10.00a.m. to 12.00noon

Bishopstone Village Hall

in aid of

The Chris Brown Thursday Club

£10 per table (Trade £10 + 5% of takings)

£1 entrance - Refreshments free

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Millie Holder on 01722 780186

Chalke Valley Flower Club Notes

The Chalke Valley Flower Club had an excellent Open Evening with "Three Tarts and a Florist" to finish 2007 in style.

We now look forward to 2008 with an exciting and varied programme. A dinner for members only will be held in Broad Chalke village hall on Wednesday, 23rd January at 7.30 p.m. The Competitions will be judged that evening, and dinner will be followed by a talk on Saris.

In February our AGM will be held on Wednesday 26th at 7.30 p.m.

Our next Open Meeting is on March 26th in Broad Chalke village hall at 7.30 p.m. Susie Edwards is the demonstrator and her theme is "Doing What Comes Naturally"! Ticket enquiries to Liz Long on 01722 780448.

Calling all families!



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A very Happy New Year to all *News and Notes* readers!

Regular Events

WI	Second Monday of the month, 10.00am, Radnor Hall, Bodenham
Whist Drive	Every Thursday, 7.30pm, Barker Room, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Tuesday (ex. Aug/Dec.), 7.30pm, Barker Room, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Tiny Tots	Wednesdays (ex. Aug.) 9.45 – 11.45am, Radnor Hall, Bodenham, contact Suzie Orchiton on 01722 502026
Mobile Library	Alt. Thursdays (10 th & 24 th January): Recycling area, Britford 9.30 – 9.40am, alt. Fridays (4 th & 18 th January, 1 st February): Phone Box, Charlton 10.15 – 10.30am. and the Orchard, Nunton monthly at 11.55 – 12.25pm (23 rd January 2008)
Open Circle Folk Dancing	2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Mondays each month, 7.30pm, Radnor Hall, contact Clare Chitty on 01722 330871

Future Dates

1 st March	Table Top Sale, Bishopstone Village Hall (<i>see page 3</i>)
14 th /15 June 2008	Bowerchalke Flower Festival, Open Gardens, Teas

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The deadline for News and Notes articles is 18th of each month.

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- Age Concern**
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Call **Age Concern** on **01722 322515**
- Anchor Staying Put**
Helps the older or disabled who need essential repairs or adaptation to their home. We can advise on funding, including grants, help with form filling and project management.
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- Keep warm and cosy**
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