

HUNTSHAM VILLAGE HALL

COMMUNITY CENTRE, TROYTE HALL, HUNTSHAM

NEWSLETTER 78 – June/July 2014

Editor: Marian Webster ☎ 01398 361655 email: huntshamnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk

The Village Hall

VH Committee Chair Derwyn Pierce ☎ 361419,

To book the hall,

Please contact **Lorraine Woodward**

☎ 361716 or lorraine@clemwoodward.co.uk

Over 60's Club

2.30 Wed 4th June, talk by Spence Kingdom
"Open Nearly All Hours"

2.30 Wed 2nd July, talk George Williams
"Strawberry Tea".

Contact Doris Hayes (Secretary) ☎ 332040

Book Club

June's book **Mr Loverman** by Bernardine Evaristo and for July, **A Dead Hand** by Paul Theroux.

Book Club meetings take place assorted homes in and around the village.

Please contact Neenie Cope for more details ☎ 361578

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

In Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Huntsham Saturday Club

The Saturday clubs is open every Saturday in Village Hall. It is a great value family night out.

Fully licensed bar open from 8pm

In-house games include pool, darts and table tennis.

Info John Sady ☎ 361452

Mens Skittles

Play on Wednesday

Contact John Sady ☎ 361452

Mixed Skittles

Play on Mondays

Contact Shirley Hutter ☎ 351498

Huntsham Society

Next meeting on Thursday 12th June at 7.30.

Contact David & Lindsay Wall ☎ 361310

Short Mat Bowls

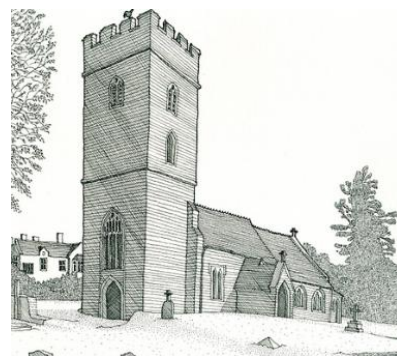
Regular playing sessions on Fridays from 7.30 to 10.30pm. Coaching by arrangement, Fri 2.30-4.30pm
Membership fee £10. Playing fees £2 a session.

We would welcome new recruits to the club, including any children over 10.

Contact John Buckle ☎ 323708

VILLAGE EVENTS

In Village Hall unless otherwise stated.



Annual Garden Fete

Saturday 7th June, opens at 2pm

In the grounds of Huntsham House

(In Village Hall if wet)

In aid of All Saints Church

Entertainment for all the family

Fun Dog show

Stalls offering plants, bric-a-brac, produce & books.

Prize raffle

Afternoon teas with cakes & scones

Huntsham Saturday Club

PRIZE BINGO Saturday 21st June



This is a great value family night out for all the family.

Doors open at 7.30pm, bar from 8.00pm

THE VILLAGE PUMP

A special welcome to “Three little bundles of joy” ...



Congratulation to Magdalena and Jaack (Of 2 Rose Cottage) on the birth of triplets.

Back by popular demand.....



CLAY SHOOT Saturday 5th July

from 11am to 4pm
In field opposite Village Hall

Everyone welcome
Try your hand at clay pigeon shooting or just come to watch the fun.

Refreshments available

50 Bird Fibre-Wads, Open and Novice Classes
Open HG Prize £50, Novice HG Prize 150 cartridges
Cartridges available to buy.

All proceeds to All Saints Church and Village Hall

For more information contact John Sady ☎ 361452

The Huntsham annual

DUCK RACE

Saturday 19th July,

Racing starts at 6.30pm



Venue as last year; in field below Morrell's Farm (Left on Uplowman road, opposite Huntsham Wood).

After racing it's all back to the village hall for celebratory “beers and burgers”.

Welcome to ...

- ☺ **Humphrey and Linda Diack** who have moved into Dowhills Farmhouse. As well as the property being their home, in time, they plan to establish a small boarding kennels at Dowhills.
- ☺ **Daniel Adams** who has moved into Keepers Cottage and will use the property as a base from which to run the Huntsham Shoot. During the latter part of the 2013/2014 season, Daniel ran the shoot and we wish him every success in his new venture.

The Short Mat Bowls bi-annual Triples Tournament is run by Willand Club in aid of local charities. A team from Huntsham usually takes part together with about 15 teams from Devon and Somerset. The event attracts a fair sprinkling of county players and can be very competitive. Matches are played on four mats and this year, one mat was unusually fast making it difficult to keep the bowl in play.

Congratulations to the Huntsham team, namely Peter Cope, Doreen and Derek Bolt, who put in an excellent performance, coming third overall. This was in spite of fierce competition and the unusually fast mat!



Very well done Huntsham!!

Lorraine and Clem Woodward renew their Wedding Vows in Huntsham church on Saturday 5th July. We wish them well on this very happy occasion.



Mrs Ed



Get well soon

Very best wishes for a speedy recovery to Margaret Pierce

Mrs Ed

Huntsham Oil Buying Group

If you would like to be included in the Huntsham Oil buying group, please contact;

Village co-ordinators Mike & Maxine Winning ☎361372

or Farm co-ordinator Maggie Goddard ☎361246

Rubbish collection dates

All collections scheduled for Wednesday mornings.

- 4th June
- 11th June (+ Recycling)
- 18th June
- 25th June (+ Recycling)
- 2nd July
- 9th July (+Recycling)
- 16th July
- 23rd July (+Recycling)
- 30th July



NATURE NOTES

The Horse Chestnut Tree (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) is an easily identifiable tree and known to most of us. With its candelabra flowers and distinctive large palmate leaf, which is divided into 5 to 7 leaflets. In winter the tree can be distinguished by deep red 'sticky buds' which are arranged in pairs along the twig, with a larger bud at the twig tip. Once the foliage has emerged from the buds and the tree produces numerous spikes of white or pink flowers which eventually give rise to the spiked husks containing the fruit, known as conkers.

The Red Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus x carnea*) which unsurprisingly has red flowers, has smaller leaves, produces a conker-husk with few or no spines. This species seldom grows to more than 20m high, where the Horse Chestnut can reach almost 40m. Both these species can be found in Huntsham as mature specimens and the Park includes some youngsters too, which presumably self-seeded. Along by Rectory Lodge, there is a splendid array of Horse Chestnut trees that today are in full bloom and the buzz of insects is apparent when walking along the lane.

The Horse Chestnut is hardy and tolerates wide range of soils and it is found in parkland but is only occasionally found in woodland. As timber, it has few commercial uses because it is close grained and soft thereby lacking strength and durability.

However the Horse Chestnut fulfilled a serious purpose during the First World War; In the autumn of 1917, the Ministry of Munitions sent out a plea for conkers from horse chestnut trees to **"help with the war effort"**. Chemicals from conkers were used in factories, to make a substitute for cordite, which was a key ingredient in explosive shells and bullets. Cordite was imported mainly from North America, but blockades results in shortages, so Britain needed other supplies. All schools, W.V.S. centres, W.I.s, were involved. Posters were put up to encourage children to gather conkers, with Boy Scout leaders helping organise collections. For every hundredweight of conkers (roughly 50kg) you could earn seven shillings and sixpence, (7s6d is almost 35p, but this sum is equivalent to about £25 today). Around 3,000 tonnes of conkers were collected and sent by train to top-secret factories in Dorset and Norfolk



HUNTSHAM SOCIETY JOTTINGS

This year, it has been a wonderful Spring with shrubs, trees and garden flowers performing as never before. The lanes are frothing with Cow Parsley and the Hawthorns are so laden with blossom that they strangely look as though they are blanketed in snow. Is this anything to do with the lack of bud-damaging frosts over winter, I wonder, or perhaps the copious rain that has fully replenished the groundwater, or both?

A most surprising event in the village is the flowering, for the first time, of two Handkerchief Trees (*Davidia involucreta*), so-called because each tiny reddish flower cluster has a pair of huge dangling pure white bracts that resemble handkerchiefs. In the slightest breeze the whole tree appears to be waving! One was planted 15 years ago by Ann Arnott at Court Bungalow. Roy remembers buying it at a nursery near Honiton and says they were inspired by a huge mature tree at Chevithorne Barton. The other village tree is in the Park (tunnel path) just beyond the folly and is well worth a visit.



The large cleared patch in the Park above the pond is also responding remarkably well to the kind winter, and the removal of suffocating laurel and brambles two winters ago. It is now glowing with buttercups and Red Campion, to which will be added very shortly thickets of Foxglove spikes, many of which, surprisingly, appear to be white. White Foxgloves are uncommon in the wild so these could have spread from a few that have been planted in the past. We made two more surveys of the plants emerging there in April and May and were excited to find several new ones. This brings the total to almost 60, not including 13 woody and tree species and a few unidentified herbs and grasses. We hope to find a few more over summer.

Sadly, we seem to have two avian absentees in the village this year; House Martins and Spotted Flycatchers. There is still time, just, for them to arrive and nest but it is getting very late. We are also down on the number of Swallows nesting as the only active nests I'm aware of are at Tim Britton's house and at the Stables and nearby walled garden. This is partly due to House Sparrows (Hayes Cottages) and possibly Wrens (Village Hall) usurping nests, but may also be due to decreasing numbers arriving from their wintering grounds in Africa.

I'm amused that our apparently unimaginative Chaffinches have at long last learned a new trick or two. For the last 13 years they have scratched around under the feeders, seemingly content with picking up morsels that the Sparrows and Thrushes chuck out, but this last winter they suddenly have started copying the tits and happily hang from the peanut feeder and join the Sparrows on the table. I wonder what prompted this? Also, I was very interested to see recently Yellow Hammers on Janet Ross's feeders at Westcombe Farm as I have never seen them in the village let alone around feeders and had assumed that they disliked habitation (except farms).

Sharp-eyed Tim Britton spotted a Stork over the village being mobbed by Buzzards on 14th April, probably a wanderer from the new flock building up in the Somerset levels. He also saw a Red Kite over Staplecross on the 18th April; these are doing so well now, thanks to the re-introduction programme and feeding stations, that it surely cannot be long before they are breeding here.

The date for our next meeting is Thursday 12th June, in the Village Hall as usual. All are welcome and the bar will be open.



HUNTSHAM SOCIETY
David Wall: ☎ 361310 or david-wall@lineone.net

- Footnote: A pair of Spotted Flycatchers is now nesting in my own garden. I am able to keep an eye on them through the window while lounging on the settee... Now that's what I call good bird watching!!

If you would like to submit news or highlight a village event, or receive the e-version of this newsletter, please contact me.

Deadline for August/September edition is 25th July.

Mrs Ed, Marian Webster