



# 5ALIVE!

July/August 2020



**News from  
Buckland Dinham, Chantry,  
Great Elm, Mells with Vobster and  
Whatley**

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## FROM THE EDITOR

ALMOST THERE – OR ARE WE? As I'm writing this we're waiting for the PM to tell us if the social distancing measure will be cut from two metres to one, the whatever it's called number has been reduced from four to three and Spain has relaxed its travel restrictions – and it looks like The Boss and I will still be going on holiday in July. YIPPEE!

And that's about it from me. Not much more to add as there's not much news from our villages, there are no church service schedules and so on. Hope you're all keeping safe and well – and do read the extract from the book on the history of Chantry David Rawlins is putting together. You'll find it on page 24. *Peter*

Meanwhile many thanks to Gwyneth Evans for our cover photo, which shows her and her neighbour Susannah on their regular Sunday afternoon distance socialising in the Elm Lane Distance Cafe. Passersby, Gwyneth adds, comment that the social distancing is a horizontal instruction rather than vertical!



Many thanks from me, too, to Karen and Nick at the Bell in Buckland Dinham who have let me run loose (under the control, of course, of my dad!) in their field during the lockdown. Dad says he and mum will be among the first to drop into the Bell once it's open again. *Bryher*

## FROM THE RECTORY

A TIME WHEN WE HAVE REALISED that we are not are strong, on our own, as we thought we were.

According to one survey, during the lockdown, a quarter of adults in the UK have watched or listened to a religious service and one in 20 has started praying. While the majority of people who contract Covid-19 survive, it reminds us that we are much more frail and weak than we like to think. As the prophet Isaiah says: *All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the*

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**Deadline** for September is August 14th (but do check)

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Mells with Vobster Jenny Waller 813852	Joy Book      300184
Whatley Mrs K Gay 836175	John Earl      812450 Joy Book      300184  Mrs J Butcher      837259 Joy Book      300184

### Roman Catholic Services

Mells: Sundays at 11.30am    Frome: Sundays at 9.30am and 5.30pm

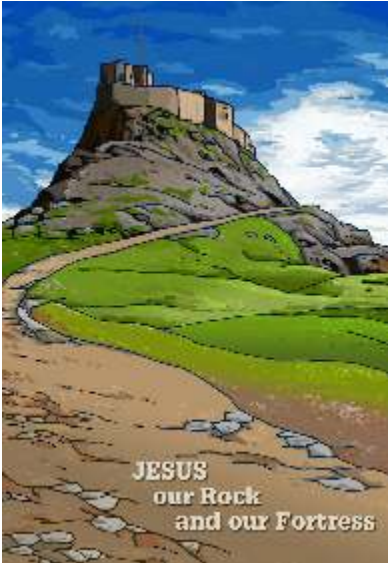
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**District Councillors** Buckland Dinham, Great Elm and Mells  
 (Ammerdown Ward) Alison Barkshire, 07432 003382,

[Cllr.Barkshire@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Barkshire@mendip.gov.uk)

Chantry and Whatley (Cranmore, Doultling and Nunney Ward)  
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field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.' (Isaiah 40:6-8).

Isaiah's words really resonate at this time. In more normal times we can avoid facing up to our vulnerability, but this pandemic has forced us to recognise our weakness and fragility.

However, this shouldn't lead us to despair or fear; rather it is an opportunity to pray, worship and praise for his constancy and care. In Peter's first letter to the early church he quotes this passage from Isaiah and says, 'For you have been born again, not of perishable seed,

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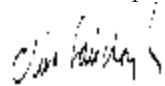
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*but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God' (1 Peter 1:23).* Peter contrasts our mortality with the eternal Word of God, which bring us new birth and life through the power of the Spirit. Jesus died for our sins and rose again to make us right with God, so that through faith journeying with him we have a glimpse of eternal life. We don't need to be afraid of our frailty today, for God through Christ is that dependable rock on which to build our lives and face the future. Like those rocks in the image above, on the way up the path of our journey, it may be helpful to reflect that, through these challenging uphill struggles, we are hewn and reshaped into an even better person.

When we reach the top, we see our world from a very different perspective

### **Keeping in Touch**

Friends, we all hope and pray that the situation will improve and we will be able to adapt, as restrictions ease, and that we can once again open our churches for everyone. We will keep everyone informed of any developments through both our own media channels and village Facebook pages. You are welcome to join us on Zoom for Sunday worship at 10.00am, and a contemplative service each Tuesday at 6.00pm. Just email the Rector to request the link: [cliveatmellsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:cliveatmellsgroup@gmail.com).



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More information is on [www.mellsgroup.church](http://www.mellsgroup.church) which has links to daily prayer, audio, video reflections and news, or follow us on social media, [Facebook.com/MellsGroup/](https://www.facebook.com/MellsGroup/) and [Twitter @ClivetheRev](https://twitter.com/ClivetheRev).

## **JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD**

WELL, HERE WE ARE IN JULY and I have been proved spectacularly wrong in my prediction that the churchyard would progress from blue to pink in its present lovely unmowed state. I had totally underrated the abundance and persistence of the dog daisies/moon daisies. As I write this in June the whole main area is a waving sea of white – breathtakingly beautiful and so unexpected. There have always been a few treasured dog daisies in odd unmowed corners but evidently the whole ground is carpeted in roots and plants of it just waiting their chance to erupt. For so many years we have spent money in quenching all this beauty. Personally I would regret the return to previous ways. Out of the lockdown has come not only a flowering of the goodness and generosity of humankind but also a flowering of nature in hedgerows, roadside banks and borders and “wilded” gardens. And also the various wildlife that benefits from it in nesting areas and habitats. Surely we can retain some of these benefits and learn to build them into our future lifestyle when we eventually return to “normal” life.

Underneath the churchyard cedar where the ravens nest I found last week the plucked feathers of a young magpie, feathers still partly sheathed so the young bird was only just fledged and beginning its life outside the nest. Magpies are much maligned for preying on the young of smaller garden birds but obviously they themselves form part of the larger food chain. They are one of our most beautiful birds, too. Seen close up their black areas are in fact

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a wonderfully iridescent greeny blue and I paused to admire the beauty of the feathers I stooped to gather under the cedar tree.

I have acquired an extra item of wildlife in one of my bird nesting boxes (unused this year by birds) – a small colony of bees. According to our Chantry bee-keeper, these are tree bees, a species of small bumble bee who live almost solitarily or in small groups in one space, like flat dwellers in one building.

Dear Jan shops for me and many others in the village, along with a small team of volunteers. I feel very grateful for such generous help. One thing which I have just added to my shopping list is anti-histamine cream in readiness for the arrival of the August Chantry bugs. I don't know what else to call these mysterious creatures. When we came to Somerset as a family in 1974 we gradually became familiar with several different kinds of insects and spiders we had rarely seen "back home". One was the long legged small bodied spiders which leave long trailing cobwebs around the house and the other was a species of woodlouse (known, we learned, locally as Granfer gravies) which did not rollup on being disturbed. Ours "back home" had rolled up neatly which made them easy to sweep up and put outside. Not so the Somerset ones which persistently ran away. But, the most mysterious – and still are, 46 years later – are the Chantry bugs. In August 1974 one by one each of the family suffered large, red, very itchy bumps (bites?) all over the body. Not on arms, legs or face, only on the body. As each one of us began to scratch we compared notes and eventually as each August came around we became resigned to the infestation or whatever it was. And so, as August approaches again I am



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prepared with anti-histamine cream to ease the discomfort. Has anyone a solution to the source of the problem? Does anyone suffer likewise? It began when we lived in Chantry Grange (for 23 years) and I did wonder whether it was specific to the house but it has followed me to Bird Shadows. Any ideas? In common with many of my friends in isolation I find that my achievements have fallen far short of my original goals. I started the projected twelve weeks with the intention of catching up on long neglected tasks with no risk of interruption and getting my whole house in perfect order by the end of the three months. But somehow the urge wore off quite soon and with the temptation of the wonderful weather my endeavours have been reduced to sorting files and boxes of paperwork which can be done sitting in the garden. And when that becomes tedious I am happy to sink into a shaggy somnolence – the dogs and I all in need of a haircut.

Well, who knows what September will bring but if Lin and Peter produce another 5 Alive I will see you then. Meanwhile, keep safe, keep well, keep smiling. *Hazell*

#### MELLS CAFE BACK IN BUSINESS

All being well on July 4th, Mells Café will open up for takeaways.

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We'll be using our Government grant to subsidise us so as to fulfil our pledge to serve the community.

Social distancing will be carefully observed but, whether you're walking in Mells or exploring Mells Valley, want a homemade cake for tea or just fancy a change, Jo will be on hand to provide you with takeaway tea, coffee and cold drinks and pre-prepared delicious cakes.

So please pass the word around: come July 4<sup>th</sup>, Mells Cafe is open for business and the more you support us the more likely we are to be able to keep the Café running in the long term.



### KEEPING OUT OF TROUBLE!

Richard Robbins and Margaret Gilmour have started up a small plant nursery at The Old Stables, Somerleaze, Murtry which, during lockdown, has kept them both busy and out of trouble! They are selling wild flowers and herbs and have been delivering plants locally in and around the Frome area under social distancing arrangements. Arrangements to

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## **MENDIP MEDICAL PRACTICE**

The surgery is continuing to see patients as it has throughout the pandemic so far. Most consultations can be dealt with either by telephone or video link. If the doctor or nurse feels that a patient needs to attend the surgery, they will organise this and will see the patient whilst wearing the required PPE. The patient will also be asked to wear a face mask, which is provided when they attend the surgery.

On Monday mornings we are holding a 'Restricted Surgery' for people who have been shielded. This means that the door is closed and we only allow in those who have a pre-arranged appointment.

The doors reopen to all other general enquiries again at 2.00pm. All morning, however, the reception telephone line remains open as normal.

At lunch time (between 1.00pm and 2.00pm) our phone lines remain open for urgent calls only. We would request patients call us back at 2.00pm if the matter is not of an urgent nature.

Please could we remind parishioners to inform their GP when they change their telephone numbers particularly mobile, email addresses or just move house as this will aid us greatly in making sure information gets to them in a timely fashion.

## **JACKDAWS READY TO FLY AGAIN!**

As with all leisure businesses and educational organisations, Jackdaws ceased offering any on site activity in Great Elm in March. It's been a long break but we are delighted that Jackdaws' participants have been able to take part in some on-line

activities during the last three months. Friday mornings have seen both piano and voice clubs attract enthusiastic participants, both locally and from further afield and we've also enabled young people to earn a Discover Award, as part of the Arts Award scheme, during lockdown.

As things begin to open more widely in July, we will be launching our new season with courses hopefully taking place on site from the end of August, although we will be able to move courses online if necessary. For local young people our Jacks Friday afternoon Music Club will be online during July and we are also offering the very popular Summer Production online for five days from July 27th when participants will work together to create a show based on the life of Mozart

We're really looking forward to being able to offer our usual wide-ranging programme onsite from September and are currently carrying out an extensive Risk Assessment to ensure all activities will be 'Covid Secure'.

In the meantime, we would like to thank all our B&B hosts, in and around Great Elm, for their support and enthusiastic response to re-opening the weekend music courses as soon as it is safe to do so.

Full details of the Summer Production and the new programme can be found at [www.jackdaws.org.uk](http://www.jackdaws.org.uk) or email us at [music@jackdaws.org](mailto:music@jackdaws.org).

### FROME OPEN ART TRAIL – JULY 2020

The Frome Open Art Trail is a celebration of around 50 local artists and makers which normally takes place alongside Frome Festival every year. This year, from July 4th to 12th due to Covid-19 restrictions, the event is now the Frome Virtual Open Art Trail and is available to view online.

**Frome Open Art Trail – Outer Frome** is a group of five artists living in surrounding villages and includes three from the 5Alive villages.

Our Group of five are:

Fiona Sharman (Beckington)

Ian Marlow (**Buckland Dinham**)

Jenny Barton (**Great Elm**)

Lorna Thomas (**Whatley**)

Caroline Williams (Rode)

All of whom will be showing a collection of work including paintings, drawings, ceramics and sculptures

Go to [frome-open-art-trail.co.uk](http://frome-open-art-trail.co.uk) for an interactive brochure! An image for each artist, contact details and a link to their website, Facebook or Instagram Galleries.



# BUCKLAND DINHAM

## THE GARDENERS HYMN

### BUCKLAND DINHAM W.I.

Can any member remember singing this at one of our meetings many years ago and who was clever enough to write it? Hopefully we can soon start up our meetings again but meantime please do keep in touch with one another. Best wishes to all. *Jill Wright*

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL, ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL  
ALL THINGS WISE AND WONDERFUL, THE LORD GOD MADE THEM ALL

BUT WHAT WE NEVER MENTION, THOUGH GARDENERS KNOW IT'S TRUE  
IS WHEN HE MADE THE GOODIES, HE MADE THE BADDIES TOO  
CHORUS

ALL THINGS SPRAY AND SWATTABLE, DISASTERS GREAT AND SMALL  
ALL THINGS PARQUATABLE, THE LORD GOD MADE THEM ALL

THE GREENFLY ON THE ROSES, THE MAGGOTS IN THE PEAS  
MANURE THAT FILLS OUR NOSES, HE ALSO GAVE US THESE  
CHORUS

THE FUNGUS ON THE GODSE-GODS, THE CLUB FOOT ON THE GREENS  
THE SLUGS THAT EAT THE LETTUCE, AND CHEW THE AUBERSINE  
CHORUS

THE DROUGHT THAT KILLS THE FUCHSIAS, THE FROST THAT NIPS THE BUDS  
THE RAIN THAT DROWNS THE SEEDLINGS, THE BLIGHT THAT HITS THE SPUDS  
CHORUS

THE MIDGES AND MOSQUITOES, THE NETTLES AND THE WEEDS  
THE PIGEONS IN THE GREEN STUFF, THE SPARROWS ON THE SEEDS  
CHORUS

THE FLY THAT GETS THE CARROTS, THE WASP THAT EATS THE PLUMS  
HOW BLACK THE GARDENERS OUTLOOK, THOUGH GREEN MAY BE HIS THUMB  
CHORUS

BUT STILL WE GARDENERS LAPOUR, MIDST VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS  
AND PRAY WHAT HITS OUR NEIGHBOURS, WILL SOMEHOW BYPASS OURS

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL, ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL  
ALL THINGS WISE AND WONDERFUL, THE LORD GOD MADE THEM ALL



### CHURCH NEWS

Although the news is that churches can open, unfortunately with the restrictions that have to be adhered to, it is impossible for St. Michael's to comply, so for the time being we shall have to keep the church closed. We are very grateful for all the things that have been achieved in the last two years by Suzanne Westlake as our churchwarden. We knew when she accepted the post that it would only be for two years and as most of you know she has now resigned, so the need is for a new person to come forward and volunteer for consideration. In the past we were lucky to have two churchwardens and it is obviously easier to share the job so if you and a friend would like to volunteer please get in touch with Father Clive or PCC Secretary Debbie Cary. We all send Suzanne our very best wishes for her to enjoy more time with her family, friends and hobbies.

Father Clive continues to take the Zoom service each Sunday at 10.00a.m. and we are very lucky that he and Rob Waller make this such an enjoyable experience, even to someone like me that often presses the wrong button! However to see the faces of friends from the other villages reminds me of how lucky we are that we can get together each week for this service.

At the time of writing these notes I have been lucky enough to have my first "bubble" and although I am fortunate that many friends have visited me in my garden for tea and cake, to have someone step inside the house has been very special. Hopefully things will continue to improve and we can all get together again for our monthly Coffee Mornings. Meantime, please continue to keep safe, phone and chat to each other and enjoy living in this friendly village, and a big thank you to Peter and Lin for keeping the 5Alive going.

*Jill Wright*

## **CHANTRY**

Not much to say this month as not much has been happening in Chantry. We all seem to be coping very well and everyone is still being very helpful and doing all they can to keep going. The pop up shop has been a great success with a very good selection of food, the strawberries and raspberries are delicious. They also have yoghurt, cheeses and a lot of salad foods the only trouble we have in Chantry is getting the paying machine to work as our broadband and mobile links are so bad it is quite amusing waiting for them to find a spot where the signal is OK. The church will not be open yet even for private prayer as there are not enough people to make sure that we can have a sterilising between visits, we hope that everyone understands but as soon as we are allowed things will go back to normal, whatever that may be, perhaps we will be able to celebrate Harvest or perhaps we might meet for Christmas, always look on the bright side. For now we hope you all keep safe.

## **GREAT ELM**

### **CHURCH YARD**

We haven't been able to have our annual work party to tidy the churchyard since lockdown. Will Starr and David Rideout have made a super job of mowing all the newer grave areas, but there are numerous other jobs that need attention. Are there a few people in the village who would love to spend an hour to weed, trim, prune etc? Bring your own tools - you'll be able to self distance. If you work quietly you are bound to see a family of goldfinches amongst the wild flower area; see how many wild birds there are. There's always a chance of a tea or coffee, should Judy or Jim notice anyone at work.



## THE GREEN

Well done to Brian Ely who on his annual visit cleared the small green (with oak tree). In a morning he had strimmed and carted away a trailer load of cow parsley.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The coronavirus outbreak is making us all think about changes which are bound to occur which will affect our daily lives. Already the BBC is introducing a series of programmes on these matters and presumably government think tanks are devising a whole raft of measures. Here in Great Elm, the Mutual Help WhatsApp group has certainly been instrumental in spreading awareness of needs throughout the village; with one additional benefit in that we have begun to know each other. Anyone - any thoughts about ideas for further change?

## MELLS WITH VOBSTER

### MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from meeting held via Zoom on June 9th 2020

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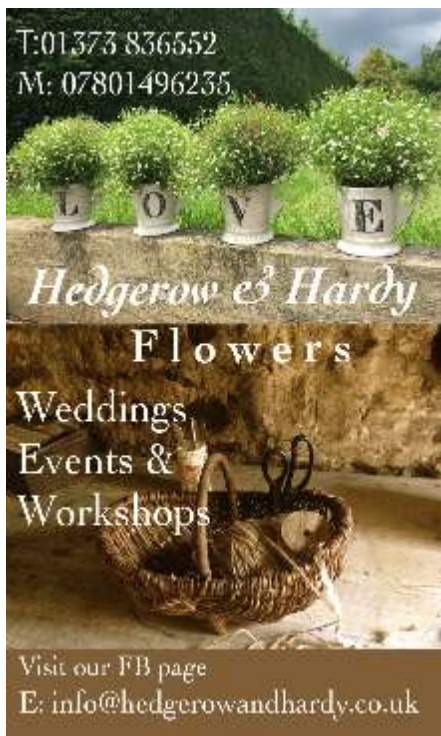
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**Improvement to aid social distancing whilst walking and cycling:** MDC is working with Somerset CC and other Somerset district councils, the police and the fire service to identify possible adjustments to roads and pavements to assist in keeping social distance and to facilitate more people walking and cycling to destinations. Somerset has an initial £120k from Government for this, primarily aimed at temporary measures for the short term. More information can be found via this link:

[somersetnewsroom.com/2020/06/05/120k-for-temporary-measures-to-encourage-walking-and-cycling/](http://somersetnewsroom.com/2020/06/05/120k-for-temporary-measures-to-encourage-walking-and-cycling/).

**Frome Town Council interactive map:** Frome TC has developed an interactive map where you can make suggestions /support existing suggestions [walkridefrome.commonplace.is/comments](http://walkridefrome.commonplace.is/comments).

**Bus routes:** MDC will be sending the Parish Council a survey regarding bus routes, asking what we already have, and what we would like to see, to improve transport links.

**Recycling centres:** These have reverted to normal opening hours and now take all materials that were previously being processed.

**Superfast broadband:** Truespeed would like to come to the village but the current situation is making it hard for them to progress. The sign up within

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Mells is still less than half of what is required. Cllrs Earl and Asquith and John MacDonald will meet to discuss how businesses can be approached.

**Old Telephone Exchange:** The paperwork is now with the legal department.

**Condition of Vobster churchyard and Velux windows:** The PCC has responded that they are aware of the problems and are currently asking the diocese for access to the Bill of Sale to understand the boundaries of the curtilage associated with the building and will make the owner/developer aware of their concerns.

The owner will also be asked for their cooperation to tape off the boundary and remove any materials from the rest of the graveyard. The Bill would also assist in clarifying the responsibilities for maintaining the wall. Planning permission for nine Velux windows was granted in 1987.

**Parking in the village:** Concerns have been raised about the amount of traffic and poor parking in the area opposite the river and by the entrance of the walk to the Iron Works. Parking which obstructs the road for other users is a police matter. Improvements to the area by the river are being looked into. Recently parking has increased to such an extent that it has encroached into Fairview. The good weather and people currently being furloughed with their children at home has exacerbated the problem.

**Litter bin for recreation ground:** The bin has recently been overflowing and has been temporarily removed as the contract was stopped in October 2019.

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The PC is considering taking on payment for the emptying service. Clerk to investigate best contract.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday July 14th 2020 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn unless COVID-19 restrictions remain in place.

Alternatively the meeting will be held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm.

Information on how to join the meeting will be posted on the agenda on the parish council website.

*Joy Book, Clerk, parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com, 07704 584953*

## **WHATLEY**

### **WHATLEY QUARRY AND WESTDOWN QUARRY**

The owners of these quarries, Hanson, have announced that they are applying to Somerset County Council to deepen Whatley Quarry and to re-open Westdown Quarry– to see the scoping reports for these please contact [Dawn.Carpenter@hanson.biz](mailto:Dawn.Carpenter@hanson.biz).



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## CHANTRY HISTORY REVEALED

**David Rawlins is putting together a history of Chantry and here's an extract from the chapter which looks at the life of one of the woodmen who were essential to the economy of the village and the surrounding area in late Victorian times.**

The woods and Asham Wood in particular provided a great source of occupation for the inhabitants of Chantry.

The woods - and Asham in particular, which was part of the Portman Estate and in Downhead Parish - were managed on an eight to 15 year rotation, and plots were auctioned every year, usually in lots of 20 square Lugs (a Lug is the equivalent of a Rod, Pole or Perch).

The auctions were held in alternate years at the White Horse, Chantry, and the Tadhil Inn, Downhead.

EW Hendy has written an account of James George, a Chantry woodman in his book 'Somerset bird and some other Folk' – Eyre and Spottiswoode 1943.

James (Jim) George was born 13.12.1859 to Henry (a wood dealer) and Hannah at Bull's Green. He married Emma Martin on 8.1.1882 and died living at Yew Tree Cottage on 4.1.1941 aged 82. Emma was baptised 29.12.1850, daughter of Tam and Mark, living at Bull's Green.

Their cottage was demolished in around 1955, when the council houses were built in Chantry. She does not appear in the 1871-81 census returns for Chantry.

### A MENDIP WOODMAN

There has lately died at the mellow age of 82 an old woodman who spent the whole of his useful life plying his craft on the Somerset Mendips. His death carries me back a long way, for I had known him for sixty years. He married my old nurse Emma, and I have always kept in touch with him and his family. I remember well, when I was a very small boy, how Jim used to come courting her at the garden gate of her mother's cottage, built of grey Mendip stone, which dated from 1750.

The hamlet in which Emma and her mother lived could hardly be called a village: it consisted of a few scattered cottages, one or two larger houses, a church, a diminutive chapel and two inns. There were no shops, but Emma thought- nothing of walking to a village some three miles distant, to do her shopping, or even to the nearest town, four or five miles away. There was only one carrier and of course no motor cars: when cottagers wanted things they had to walk and fetch them, nor in those days did it seem any hardship to have to do so.

In the early eighties Jim and Emma were married, and occasionally I used to spend part of my holidays in their first little -home amid fields rich with cowslips on the edge of the wood in which Jim worked. They were very poor at first. Jim once told me that he could then give Emma only ten shillings a week for household expenses! Such a sum, though it went further in the eighties than today, did not allow any luxuries. As was usual, in those days, they kept a pig. Jim made his living by making hazel-hurdles and the 'spicks' or 'spars' which are employed in thatching ricks and houses. At first he worked for a master: the rate of pay was sixpence for a bundle of a hundred spicks; as it took, even as quick a worker as Jim, half-an-hour to make and tie up a bundle it meant hard work to make both ends meet. The saplings and small timber in the wood were sold by auction every autumn. The first year after his marriage Jim tried with his small savings to buy a strip, but prices ranged too high, and he had to wait. However, at the next year's auction he succeeded in making his first purchase, and after that Jim was always his own master, making hurdles and spicks out of his own wood, or employing others to do so, and supplying them direct to farmers and builders.

They were a hard-working couple. Often Jim would start at daybreak for the clearing in the wood where Jim was cutting faggots: Emma would carry up his dinner to him later on, and when it had been eaten help him in his work, cutting twigs and knots off his 'gads' before they were tied up into faggots. Coming home in the evening they often carried heavy loads of firewood down to their cottage; their firing cost them little or nothing. From morn to night neither of them was idle.

When engaged on a job Jim rose at five or six in the morning; he took a frugal breakfast of tea and bread and butter, though there was plenty of bacon and fresh eggs from his own fowls if he wanted them. He would be busy with his hurdles or spicks till one o'clock when he made a good dinner of meat and vegetables, but never took any pudding and rarely touched ale or cider. But this meal took him only a few minutes – 'You won't mind if I do get back to my work' – and off he would go to ply his craft till teatime, bread and butter with a strawberry or two from his garden.

After tea, still more work, and in the cool of the evening a row of potatoes hoed or some small garden job. Bread and cheese, or perhaps a slice of cold meat for supper. Emma's day was quite as busy; besides helping Jim to 'shirp' knots off his gads she seemed always either to be preparing the next meal or clearing up the remnants of the last, for he never knew when his carting would bring him home and he usually arrived hungry. She swept out the cottage and dusted every article and innumerable china ornaments – 'a lot of little

'caddles', she called them – at least once a day, and in her spare time she and her daughter brushed and mended the men's clothes and did the household washing and ironing. By half-past nine all the family was in bed. A well-spent day for all of them.

At his own trade of hurdle-and spick-making Jim was an expert. I can see him now sitting at work in the little shanty in a corner of his garden, clothed in shirt and corduroys and thick boots, his face, neck, hands and arms tanned a rich brown by years of exposure to all weathers.

This primitive craft must be of great antiquity. Here, in a corner of England where in the course of centuries there had been less change than in more populated districts, there survived an industry that was carried on practically in the same way and with the same primitive implements as in the Middle Ages. The hook and the axe were the only steel tools that the woodman used and their shape has not changed materially for hundreds of years.

His only other implements were his strong quick hands, his stout arms, and, when hurdle-making, his boot-heel. Like all skilled trades it has its mysteries, handed down from generation to generation.

*Thanks for this, David. We look forward to seeing the finished book!*

## **...AND FINALLY**

### **WHAT IS A LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY AND WHY SHOULD I MAKE ONE?**

*Jane Healey, of the Frome office of Forrester Sylvester Mackett Solicitors, looks into these increasingly important legal documents*

Many of us know that it is important to write a Will, but fewer of us have considered making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA).

It is estimated by the Alzheimer's Society, that by 2025 more than 1 million people in the UK will have dementia, and currently one in five people over the age of 85 already suffers from it.

For those people who do not have an LPA, handling their financial affairs and making medical or care decisions on their behalf can become virtually impossible.

An LPA is a legal document in which you can appoint trusted individuals (such as your relatives, or friends) to make decisions on your behalf, known as your 'Attorneys'.

There are two different types of LPA,

- property and affairs and
- health and welfare

## **Property and Affairs**

This LPA will allow your Attorneys to help you manage your money, property and finances, for example. They can pay your bills and transfer or invest your money for you. You can tailor the LPA to give as much, or as little, power as you would like to.

## **Health and Welfare**

This LPA will allow your Attorneys to make decisions about your health and care; which may include what medical treatment you receive and where you live, etc. If you are capable of making those decisions yourself then your wishes will be paramount, and your Attorneys will be permitted to liaise with medical professionals etc. in relation to your needs.

Nowadays, care homes and medical professionals are enquiring whether residents and patients have these types of LPAs in place, as many now consider Health and Welfare LPAs equally as important as the Property and Affairs LPAs.

## **What will happen if I do not make an LPA and then lose mental capacity?**

If you do not have an LPA in place, and later become mentally incapable, your relatives must apply to the Court of Protection to obtain a Deputyship Order. This would allow them to take control of your assets and finances. However, the application for Deputyship is a very lengthy and stressful process and involves obtaining a medical report confirming loss of mental capacity, and few medical professionals nowadays are prepared to produce such reports.

In addition, an application for a Deputyship Order can be extremely costly, and the role of a Deputy very onerous, and Annual Accounts and Annual Bonds must be delivered.

## **I do not want to give up managing my affairs yet, should I hold-off making an LPA until I need it?**

Do not leave it until it is too late. As with writing a Will, you need to have sufficient mental capacity to make an LPA. Preparing a Lasting Power of Attorney does not mean you give up all of your rights.

Your Attorneys must allow you to make your own decisions for as long as you are able to do so, and whenever they make a decision for you, it must always be in your best interest.

There are strict rules to prevent Attorneys mishandling your money, or making gifts to themselves and others; therefore, careful consideration must be paid

when deciding who you appoint as your Attorneys, and whether they are actually capable of assisting you.

If you have more questions, please get in touch with Jane Healey, who has extensive experience in dealing with Lasting Powers of Attorney and Court of Protection matters, as well as Wills and Estates, and is also able to assist with Tax Planning matters.

If you would like to arrange an appointment to meet Jane and instruct her to prepare Lasting Powers of Attorney for you, then please contact Forrester Sylvester Mackett Solicitors on 01373 485485 or email Jane directly: janehealey@fmsolicitors.co.uk.



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