

THE STOURTON CAUNDLER

ISSUE NO. 91

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The Stourton Caundler team

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Please present all contributions for the next double issue to the Editor by 12 noon on 20 June 2011 by e-mail if possible. E mail address : thecaundler@hotmail.co.uk. Please use only "Word" document format (.doc) when sending contributions.

A day to remember

'On Friday 29 April 2011 Stourton Caundle celebrated the marriage of Prince William to Catherine Middleton. Although the weather wasn't at its best most of the villagers joined in and we all had a great time. A number of people organised delicious food, so we would like to say a big "Thank you" to them and those who organised this very special event. All ages were represented from tiny babies to elderly people. It was a day that we'll all remember long into the future'.

Emma Reynolds

This wonderful tea party held after the Royal Wedding showed very clearly the quality of the village community and spirit that we enjoy in Stourton Caundle. The turnout also showed what a thriving and varied community we are, with people of all ages enjoying the delicious cakes and other eatables as well as each others' company. It was a great way to catch up with our neighbours and to reminisce about a lovely event. Jane Colville and her team had done a wonderful job in making all the arrangements, the chaps had set it up, while the ladies provided and served it so that we could all eat and drink our fill of whatever took our fancy. Paul Lane's thank-you to the many helpers was an appropriate and heartfelt thanks from us all at the time.

The event also showed the wide range of the ages of those who live in the village. THE STOURTON CAUNDLER team has felt for some time that they are weighted a bit heavily towards the greyer end of the age spectrum; therefore we are delighted that Lorraine Goudge has agreed to join us, not only to reduce our average age significantly but more importantly to keep us in touch with what is going on lower down the age range and amongst the children. We are adamant that THE STOURTON CAUNDLER must reflect the village as a whole and we really welcome feed-back from you, our readers. Letters, e-mails, telephone calls and conversational comments are all most welcome – there is now a younger ear that you can bend!

Caroline Hughes has kindly agreed to return as Guest Editor for the next issue as I shall be away at the critical time. I am taking part in a challenge to raise money for wounded servicemen by helping organise the driving of a World War One replica horse-drawn ambulance from Land End's to John O' Groats non-stop, using nine pairs of horses in relays. Wounded servicemen, a number of them amputees from recent conflicts, will be helping with the driving and fund-raising en route. The Horses Help Heroes challenge will be passing the Podimore roundabout on the evening of Wednesday 22 June. A number of villagers have already expressed interest in coming to watch the ambulance pass and change horses in our version of a grand prix pit stop! All are very welcome and I will publish the detailed timings once they have been confirmed. In the meantime, if you wish to know more, or even make a donation, I have some leaflets or please visit the website at: <http://www.horseshelpheroes.org.uk/>.

So enjoy the summer and thank you Caroline for taking on a double issue (which will give you a chance to do all the things you meant to do when Editor but never found the time for!). I look forward to reporting on the challenge in the September issue.

Tim Villiers

Village Hall '100' Club monthly draw

The draw for May 2011 took place in The Trooper on 19 May. The winners were:

First Prize:	£15.00	No.88	Richard Miles
Second Prize:	£12.00	No.135	Jane Yandell
Third Prize:	£10.00	No.18	Gay Liversidge

The next monthly Draw will take place on Tuesday 14 June at The Trooper at about 9 pm.

National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens

(in aid of charities)

MANOR FARM

and

GRANGE COTTAGE

Sunday 5 June, 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Both gardens £7, children free. Teas available and plants for sale.

Paws in the Park 2011

Weldmar Hospice is holding a 3 mile sponsored dog walk in the grounds of Sherborne Castle on Saturday 11 June. Details from Amy Day 01305 261800

Naturally thinking

It's hard to see a nightingale. It's a secretive little brown bird, just a little larger than a robin, and it skulks about in thickets or impenetrable bushes. Only its song gives it away – a song richer and more melodious than any other bird. It doesn't stop singing during the day, though it's a little more difficult to pick it out when it's competing with the whole orchestra of other springtime birds. They're back on Lydlinch Common and, the grapevine tells me, on Alners Gorse too, where there are 6 or 7 pairs. A friend on the outskirts of the village told me of one that magically sang from a thick tree in her garden for about half an hour one day in early May.

The cuckoo is back too, cuckoo-ing its way across the village and the nearby Deer Park. The sun brought out a large grass snake to warm itself across a footpath near a hedge and a friend said she nearly trod on it, thinking it was an old bicycle tyre. There are the first reports of butterflies on the butterfly reserves at Lydlinch and Alners - Green Hairstreaks and Dingy Skippers and a Painted Lady. I think it's been a bit too chilly recently to tempt many others out apart from the more common varieties.

After years of not seeing them, we have bullfinches visiting us. They are beautiful little birds with their striking livery of pink and black, and I don't mind at all if they peck at our fruit buds. I don't think they are particularly rare but, like the nightingale, they are quite secretive little things so a really good view of them feeding on our Niger seeds on the apple tree is a rare treat.

Swallows and house martins are having trouble nesting this year because the ground is too hard for them to find soft mud. I have read that the thing to do is to fill a seed tray with earth, keep it well moistened and place it beside some sort of container of water so that the birds see their reflection in it and come down to investigate. Haven't tried it yet, but if they don't settle down soon, I might.

Meanwhile we have become a drop-in centre for blackbirds. Mr Bocelli and his wife seem to be in competition with another pair for space in our small garden. Mr B has had several run-ins with the other male and both wives are at war with each other. The youngsters don't seem to mind who does what to who as long as they get fed by one of them. One morning I watched as one of the chubby, speckled babies was given a lesson in weaning. It was studiously ignored by all four parents in spite of plaintive squeaks, until in desperation it began picking up minute things for itself. The next day it didn't bother any of the adults at all – just got on with the business of looking for things on its own. I knew it was the same one because it has a slightly lop-sided look, as though it's left leg is a bit longer than its right.

I see the Ermine moths are cloaking the hedges round here again. They wrap up the stems in large (sometimes massive) communal webs in which the caterpillars feed, occasionally in their thousands, which eventually change to small whiteish greyish moths with little black dots along their wings. I'd not seen this phenomenon until last year. I suppose they did so well that they're back to have another try. Even small lengths of hedge shrouded with these webs can look as though we're being invaded by extra-terrestrials, but they're fairly harmless and the vegetation that has been stripped usually recovers quite quickly. At least, so it seemed last year.

Today, however, I've seen a picture in *The Daily Telegraph* of a fully grown tree in a park in Bradford that has been stripped of its leaves and is entirely encased in these webs. From the picture it looks as though the aliens are here after all.

Margaret Waddingham

Garden Club

A visit to Castle Gardens (with discount!)

On Wednesday 11 May, 40 members of the Garden Club – nearly two thirds of the current membership – met at Castle Gardens in Sherborne, for the annual Gold Club event where all purchases attract a 25% discount. Following tea and coffee, Mike Burkes took great pleasure in showing us some of his current favourite plants – mainly in pairs to show the beauties of contrasting foliage colours (and the benefits of multiple buys!) – in an entertaining and informative short talk, which maybe ‘groomed’ certain of our members to make specific purchases later. He offered fascinating insights into the loss of so many evergreen shrubs during the last winter suggesting that it was the early and sudden cold (after a very warm autumn) that did the damage to the Bays, Pittosporums and even Hollies that so many people have lost. Mike was also quick to assure us that it didn’t matter if we failed to look after our plants as they always had plenty in stock!

Needless to say, much shopping followed (and in some cases, even preceded) the talk, and, of course, the more we spent, the more we saved! And, even better, many of our purchases were delivered by Jonathan on Thursday morning, before many club members were even out of bed. The benefits of the Garden Club’s Gold Club membership, and, therefore, membership of the Garden Club itself are indeed great!

Filthy Fingers

Garden tip

General advice is not to water in the sun, particularly hot sun. However, if plants are in serious need of a drink, give them a good soaking at the base. They may suffer a bit of foliage scorch, but you are unlikely to kill them, whilst leaving it until the sun has gone may well be too late.

Sturminster Newton

There is a campaign to save the Sturminster library from closure; the Splash Pool is now open again (Sarah 01258472796) and there is to be a public consultation on the development of the North Dorset Business Park at The Exchange on 9 June.

Homewatch

Among the messages issued by Dorset police over the last month were:

Break-ins at night in the Tarrant Valley; tools and electrical items were stolen - remember to lock up at night to deter and prevent burglary.

Requests for information on a Vauxhall Corsa car BG60 PMO, following a murder in Northamptonshire.

The need to protect elderly neighbours from distraction burglars and rogue traders; free locks are being fitted in the Bournemouth area by East Boro Housing Trust.

A warning that ‘Direct Response Security’, a firm which cold-calls by telephone are NOT part of Dorset Police.

Keith Murphy

Weather report for April

Rainfall	2011	2010	18-year average
	13 mm / 0.51 in	24 mm / 0.94 in	52.9 mm / 2.08 in

Temperature (°C)	Maximum		Minimum		Average
	High	Low	High	Low	
2011	23.6 (23 rd)	12.0 (13 th)	10.5 (25 th)	3.1 (28 th)	12.5
2010	21.7 (26 th)	8.2 (3 rd)	8.8 (25 th)	0.0 (21 st)	10.3

VILLAGERS' DAY

SUNDAY 12 JUNE

Exhibition
Arts & Crafts

Cakes

B B Q

Dog Show

Cream
Teas

Face Painting

Rounders
Competition

Belly Dancing

Books

Plants

Table Tennis

Raffle

Colouring
Competition

Songs of
Praise

Flower Festival
Quilts

Treasure
Hunt

Donations / Contributions required please:

Plants - on the day , please

Books- to Gerry at Griffin: for collection call 362001

Cakes - on day , please from 1.00 pm

Tombola - prizes / donations to be left at The Trooper

ROUNDERS. Teams of 6-15 players, any age; 50p per player. Hopefully 4 teams in a round-robin competition, so 3 matches per team.

TABLE TENNIS. Singles knock-out, any age 1 set to 21 points; 50p per player

Entries for both competitions to Pete Smith on 363514 or annandpete75@hotmail.co.uk

The allotments – The truth

I've been stung into writing following our Editor's comments in the last "Caundler" regarding the recent lack of information about what's been happening at the bottom of Brimble. (*Great to know that people actually read the editorial – Ed !*) I did explain to him, when he asked me to write an article, that such a course of action could well result in actions for libel against the magazine and him as its Editor, as well as against myself. However, it's obvious that the public's right to know overrules any other considerations, so here goes.

To backtrack a bit, the appeal for allotmenters some months ago proved successful, with the result that Linda Walters took on one allotment while Gerry Holdstock and Neil Gillard decided to share another, leaving three allotments to be shared between a dozen budding gardeners, whose experience ranged from zero to expert, with an age range stretching from youthful to not quite so young, and backgrounds as variable as can be imagined. If you take a moment to think about all this, you can see the potential for all sorts of human interaction, good and bad, and maybe understand my reluctance to put pen to paper.

An initial meeting was held to hammer out the details of how the scheme would work, and as a result we all coughed up some cash to cover costs – spray, rotavator hire, seeds, rent and water storage (harvesting the rainwater off the adjacent garages). We also agreed that there would be a rota for weeding and general maintenance, with groups of three people, each group doing one week in four.

One of our first jobs was to get a working party together to remove a year's worth of horse manure generously donated by Anna Oliver (more accurately, by her horse), and this revealed some differences in approach. While most of the team worked away at a steady pace, a certain local astronomer was going at it hammer and tongs, and we had to tell him the parable of the two bulls to slow him up a bit. I'm sure you've heard it – the old bull and the young bull surveying a field full of heifers, and the young bull says "let's run down there and have one of 'em". The old bull replies "No, let's *walk* down and have all of them".

Not long after that, we were planting potatoes and a well-known vehicle restorer and 'lounge bar' proprietor obviously felt that, while he enjoyed spuds, he wasn't so keen on the broad beans that were next to be planted, so didn't feel inclined to help. Realising that his motivation was a little too focused, and knowing he has an eye for the ladies, the answer was to put him in a team with one of our girls.

There's an educational aspect to all this, and we're fortunate to have the services of an engineer with a background in desalination and a penchant for precision and straight lines, who's ensured that most of our lines of veg are ramrod straight, rather than the haphazard meanderings that yours truly usually produces. This has, I'm sure been a good part of the reason that so many people have commented favourably on the way things look.

Personally, I'm enjoying watching the different approaches that our various people have to their bit of ground: we were all intrigued and impressed by the construction work that went into creating Linda's fruit cage and raised beds. It's all looking wonderful as the fruit bushes grow, and it's only jealousy that causes some people to call the fruit cage "Guantanamo Bay". Neil and Gerry's plot, neatly divided in half, shows two methods of working, and each makes occasional comments about the other, which of course I would never repeat, although I must say that Neil's approach to keeping birds off put me in mind of the radio masts over at Rampisham.

There are more tales I could tell, and I'm sure there'll be plenty more to talk about as time passes. In fact, a lady novelist who's part of the group told me she thought there could be a book (*or at least another article or two – Ed*) in it, so watch this space! One thing that's noticeable is that it's created a sense of camaraderie among those involved, and I don't suppose the allotments have ever been such a popular subject of village conversation before. There's even talk of an allotment holder's dinner sometime in the autumn. At least we ought to have some vegetables to put on the table.

John Waltham

A day to remember - 1



A day to remember - 2



Emma Reynolds



Richard Miles

Sky at night

On the evening of Wednesday 15 June there will be a total eclipse of the moon visible from here in the village. Shortly after 10.00pm if you look towards the south-eastern horizon, then provided the sky is clear, you should be able to make out a very dark-red moon rising whilst immersed in the earth's shadow. By about 10.10pm the left-hand side of the moon will have brightened as the edge of the shadow starts to cross the disk of our nearest neighbour in space. By 10.30pm the shadow will have crept halfway across and the appearance at this stage will be rather like that of 'last quarter' hanging in the sky some 7 degrees above the horizon. However, the moon will rapidly regain her brilliance as the missing portion shrinks further and further until the end of totality arrives at 11.04pm.



I am not sure whether or not I should wish you good luck with the weather on the night of the eclipse. The reason is that we have had many more clear nights than normal these past few months and clear nights are usually associated with sunny days and therefore no rain. So wishing for a clear sky at night is tantamount to wishing for no rain, a resource of which both farmers and gardeners are very short at the moment.

We have 18 years of rainfall measurements for the village thanks to Anthony and Sue Molesworth in Barrow Hill. Their records for all of March and April show that a mere 21mm of rain fell. During the period 1994-2009, the average rainfall was 126.6 mm for these two calendar months, so we have received just 17% of the usual quantity of the wet stuff. Last year was also quite a dry year with a total precipitation of 542 mm compared to a 1994-2009 average of 932 mm. Prospects for the coming few months aren't great with the Met Office forecasting average rainfall for most parts of the UK. Since the months of June and July are the driest of the year here in Stourton Caundle then it looks like we are in for another relatively dry and sunny summer.

Richard Miles

A visit to Woodrow Farm and Bilcombe Copse



In response to the kind invitation from Lizzie and Mark Fenwick, more than 50 villagers turned up at Woodrow Farm barn on the afternoon of Bank Holiday Monday (2 May) for a woodland walk around Bilcombe Copse and the surrounding countryside followed by tea and cakes in the refurbished barn. Small bands of walkers set out at irregular intervals to traverse the ancient wood assisted by a map with some illustrations of flora one might expect to find. Everyone kept to the narrow track through this Site of Nature Conservation Interest, as recognised by Dorset Wildlife Trust, taking care not to trample the bluebells and especially a small group of Early Purple Orchids almost on the path itself. The coppiced wood occupies the very same patch of land it occupied

back in 1709 and is surrounded by an old woodbank. On leaving the wood, the walkers continued down the hill towards the upper reaches of Stourton Caundle Brook near the banks of which used to stand the hamlet of Lower Woodrow. Returning up the farm track, we were rewarded by wonderful views across to Bulbarrow and Hambledon Hill before reaching the barn once more.

Having expended plenty of calories during the walk, most of us sampled some delicious cakes without too much of a guilty conscience. The cakes were washed down with plenty of tea served by Lizzie and her helpers. In all £222.50 was raised, the proceeds going to St Peter's Church. We all had a most enjoyable and fascinating afternoon – Thanks, Lizzie and Mark.

Richard Miles

Welcome Club

Every successful club depends on the organisational, and leadership, skills of its officers with the two key roles being that of the secretary and the treasurer. The members of the Welcome Club are fortunate in that both Helen and Margaret possess these skills in abundance, evident again for the 41 members and guests on the club outing to Bowood House, near Calne on Friday 20 May. The only disappointment of the day was that the flowering season for rhododendrons was virtually over, two weeks to three weeks earlier than normal, due to the warm dry weather during April.

Two days earlier 32 members and guests attended the monthly meeting of the Welcome Club. The guest speaker, Chris Skey, gave a talk on his life, family history, and his experiences as a folk singer, Morris dancer and an actor in Mummers plays.

The next outing is on 17 June to Poole, with an afternoon boat trip from Poole Harbour along the Jurassic Coast to Dancing Ledge. Non-members welcome please contact Helen for further details.

Phil Knott

Welcome Club June Outing 17 June coach trip to Poole

to include a boat trip along Dorset coastline to Dancing Ledge and back
to view Jurassic Cliffs

Non-members always welcome, please contact Helen on 362929

Recipe

Rigatoni alla Norcina - aka Sausage Pasta alla Yandell

500g penne rigate-pasta tubes	8fl oz heavy/double cream
large onion, peeled and finely chopped	2-3oz freshly grated parmesan
olive oil	salt and pepper
8-12 good pork sausages	
4-6 fl oz white wine	

Fry the onion slowly in a large pan in the olive oil - do not let it go brown.

Optional-remove sausage skins - I never bother !

Chop the sausages into small bite-size pieces - I use kitchen scissors, easier than a knife.

Add sausages to pan, cook for a few mins, add the wine - check it's good stuff first!

Fill large pan with slightly salted water, bring to the boil.

Cook sausage mixture very slowly for further 10-15 mins, add cream and simmer very gently for about 10 mins.

Pasta into salted, boiling water - simmer until just soft.

Test wine again, check sausage mixture and season to taste. Reduce heat.

Using a large warmed serving dish/pasta bowl, pour sausage mixture, then parmesan and the pasta - mix well to distribute the parmesan and serve.

'Bum Uppa Cheek' as my son would say - enjoy !

Jane Yandell

The return of Oscar the ostrich

As you may recall, some time ago Oscar the ostrich was sighted in the village having strayed from his home territory of Bishop's Caundle.

Oscar was arrested for speeding through the village after a stop at The Trooper, and that was the last we heard from Oscar until today, when I was reliably informed he had been sighted back in Bishop's Caundle.

So off I set to track him down and found him behind Mike Hann's garage waiting for his friend Reah to call. When I asked him what had happened to him he said he had been arrested and appeared before the "Beak" who sentenced him to 'six months' imprisonment in "Birdville", the high security prison on the Isle of Wight. I asked him about conditions in the prison and Oscar said it wasn't so bad as he had his own cage with a television and he also had access to the internet and was able to sign up to "Birdbook" and keep in touch with his friends.

Oscar said some of the inmates were scary as they included "Feathers Malone" the mobster and "Robin the Red" who insisted everyone joined the N.U.B. (National Union of Birds).

However "Eddie" his Legal Eagle, lodged an appeal and he was released from Birdville on condition he returned to Bishop's Caundle and wear a ring on his leg so his movements could be monitored.

So folks, just be careful when you drive round the lanes at the moment, as you never know when "Oscar" may overtake you.

Colin McKay

Nightingales

by Margaret Waddingham

Off the road where the traffic roars
and through the wooden gate,
onto a place where the orchids grow,
where rabbits hide and wild deer graze,
where tiny wild strawberries, wet with dew
are nibbled by mouse and vole and shrew -
this is where the nightingale sings,
from the depths of the bushes
his wild songs ring.

He sings through the evening
and short summer night,
and he sings with the dawning
and coming of light
and he sings on as the day begins
his own exultant, bravura hymns
And the traffic roars past on the nearby road
and none of the busy people know
that beyond the gate where the orchids bloom
there's a nightingale filling the air with tune.

Parish council

At the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 16 May, there were reports from the village organisations about their activities. (Full report next month.)

The A.G.M. followed and Clive Jones was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year and Alban Harris as Vice-Chairman.

Matters which are being followed up are the damage caused by the contractors installing new 'telegraph' poles and broadband provision for the village.

Thanks to everyone for their support and interest.

Sue Harris - Clerk