

ENMORE GREEN COMMUNITY NEWS

Autumn 2023

Welcome to our upgrade of Enmore Green News. First printed in May 1998, Enmore Green News has been produced three times a year and hand delivered to every household in Enmore Green. The Pandemic brought everything to a standstill for two years although a Spring 2023 newsletter was circulated.

There have been new arrivals in Enmore Green and we thought it was the right time to introduce the community groups that operate locally.

Who are 'We?' The Friends of St. John's support our local church with its maintenance as well as helping to keep our community informed.

Contributors to this newsletter are listed and we hope that they and members of our community will want to contribute to future newsletters. This is the Autumn issue and we plan a Winter issue which will cover events through December and into the New Year and then a Spring issue. Copy dates are at the end of this newsletter. We invite one of our Groups to write the Lead article next time. Please let the Editor know – see end of newsletter.

As a further communication tool, we now have our own website www.enmoregreencommunity and everyone can contribute to this particularly by giving details of any special events in the period between the Newsletters. As interest grows we can add pages where necessary.

Enmore Green used to supply Shaftesbury with water from its wells as back in medieval times it was a separate entity. What we want to do today is to share with Shaftesbury Town but to maintain our own community.

Roger Booth, Chairman, Friends of St. John's.

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Enmore Green Community Website

We now have our own community website courtesy of the Friends of St John's, who have paid the fees for the next three years. Go to <https://www.enmoregreencommunity.com/> and have a look. It's not much yet - just a few photos taken hurriedly on my phone, and some empty pages, but it can become whatever we wish it to be. If you have some images of Enmore Green, past or present that you would be happy for us to use, please send them to me at david.wynn-mackenzie@talk21.com with your permission to use. They must not be copyright unless consent for our use has been given.

Likewise if you have anything you would like to share about Enmore Green past, present or future, or anything you would like to open up for future discussion (subject to the usual rules of on-line courtesy), just let me know, and I will try to make use of it. Please help us fill those empty pages so they reflect the community that we live in.

By the way I am not very good on social media so if you can help in this respect then I will add links to the website.

David Wynn-Mackenzie

Enmore Green Community Field

The Field started life as the Playing Field for the Enmore Green Primary School which was on Church Hill. When the School closed the area became a community space.

The site belongs to Shaftesbury Town Council and in 1975 a committee was created to look after the Field. Membership has changed but all are keen to preserve this green space for the Community.

The pedestrian entrance is half way down Church Hill, through the Orchard. Further down the Hill, turn left at The Butts there are double gates to allow for vehicles when appropriate. A single gate is open at other times. Coming along Breach Lane, turn right at The Butts.

The Field is 90m x 50m approximately and has three bench/tables. There is one football post; only one because we did not want to give the impression that it was just a football field. It can be used for outdoor activities, Tai Chi Yoga or just somewhere for children to run about. Because it is securely fenced, it can also be hired for a private event. No dogs are allowed in the Field because it is scheduled as an Activity area.

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to run activities, especially for children. Contact Jo Churchill on 01747 850432 or jo.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk if you want to discuss using the Field.

The Allotments

Some of you may be familiar with our lovely allotment site nestling in the heart of Enmore Green behind St John's Church Hall and accessed via a gravel track on Church Hill (opposite the War Memorial). The area has been allotments for a long time and since 2000 the site has been managed by a committee of elected volunteers who are also plot holders. Prior to this it was managed by the Town Council who continue to manage the other allotment sites in Shaftesbury.

The site is divided into plots of various sizes and a joy of the site, alongside the fantastic views, is the mixture of styles our plot holders adopt for growing their own fruit and veg. The committee maintains a waiting list for when plots become available and anyone wishing to have their details added to the waiting list can contact a committee member. Contact details are: Chairman: Alan Hayden - 07943 398230, Treasurer: Jackie Hartung - 07870 919522 and Secretary: John Noraiika - 07855 557585.

Fields in Trust

The Donkey Field Orchard and the Enmore Green Community Field

Green spaces are important both for wild life and for people but in so many cases small pockets of land are bought for housing development and the local community has lost them for ever.

Shaftesbury Town Council own both the Orchard and the Field and the committees of both worked together to ask the Council to grant 'Field in Trust' status. This was granted in September 2019 and both are now protected through a Deed of Dedication under the aegis of the National Playing Fields Association. This means that neither can be built on and will remain as open spaces, free for the community.

If you know of a green spot that needs protecting this is the website to look at www.fieldsintrust.org The only criterion is that the area must be freely available for the public.

Friends of Breach Common

You have probably noticed a small band of volunteers heading in and out of the Common with a variety of tools over the last few years, invariably covered in mud with happy faces. This would be the Friends of Breach Common.

A report had been commissioned and carried out by Darwin Ecology with a view to re-establishing biodiversity on the Common, which had become overgrown, full of Himalayan Balsam and almost impassable.

Over these three years, the group has very nearly eradicated the very invasive balsam, opened up paths, established grassy open areas, coppiced hazel, laid some hedging and opened up areas of woodland floor to the light. We even gained funding through the Council's re-wilding budget to establish two new ponds and rejuvenate another.

Regular discussions with Darwin Ecology ensure that the Friends have a plan to work through each season. So far, so good. Extra hands are always welcome. We meet at the Lily Pond, Breach Lane on a Saturday morning at 10.30am.

We appreciate all the positive feedback we have received and will keep you informed of planned future projects and events.

Happy blackberry picking (now you can – get to them!)

Find us on Facebook – Friends of Breach Common

The Donkey Field Orchard

The history of the Orchard starts in the early 1990's and is a tale of people coming together to save and build a breathing space for us and for wildlife. The tale is worth telling but cannot be contained in this small newsletter. Instead, it will be placed the new Enmore Green website – www.enmoregreencommunity

Our Spring Wassail was a wonderful occasion and now we have another opportunity for a gathering. **Apple Day is on Sunday October 8, 2-5pm.**

Mulled cider, live music, Longest Apple Peeling competition, Morris Dancing on the Hill and much more. All Welcome.

Joe Hashman joekenshash@gmail.com

St. John the Evangelist, Enmore Green, Shaftesbury

St. John's was opened in 1843 and was originally linked to St. Mary's Motcombe (see the reference in the article on the War Memorial). It was then linked to St. James, Shaftesbury in 1933. It is Grade 2 listed and a full history and description are available in the church.

There is a service every Sunday morning at 11.15am

1st Sunday	Parish Communion	Priest led
2nd Sunday	Morning Prayer	Lay led
3rd Sunday	Morning Worship	Lay Worship Leader
4th Sunday	Morning Prayer –	Lay led

Open every day

The church is used for church and secular events as it has a very good acoustic, a single manual organ, a clavinova, small kitchen and toilet. Electric heating, single chairs.

Forthcoming Events:

Friday 6th October – Harvest Supper 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Shepherds Pie with vegetarian option, pudding soft drinks and coffee £12.00 per person.

Entertainment as part of the evening.

All welcome. To book contact Jo Churchill on 01747 850432 jo.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk

Sunday 8th October – Harvest Festival at 11.15am

Well known harvest hymns. Unlike previous times, we now collect non-perishable goods for Open House in Shaftesbury. Goods can be left in the church during the preceding week.

Sunday 15th October 2.30pm – What is an Antique? an Illustrated Talk by Matthew Lacey, Senior Valuer at Lawrences

See the Friends of St. John's page for booking details.

.St. John's Church Hall

The Hall sits almost at the top of Church Hill. It was originally a Store Room/ Garage and was purchased by St. John's Church in the early 1960's. A group of local parents converted it into a small Hall and used it for a self-run Play Group. A few years later, the small area of land to one side was also added. Mrs Eileen Tucker, a long-time resident of Enmore Green, remembers her husband, Gordon, and a friend, converting the compost toilet to one that flushed!

The Hall was used quite a lot in those days, for music practice and for birthday parties. Then it became an Early Learning Centre until that role was taken over by the Primary Schools.

In the Hall, there are now two toilets, a kitchen and a small Hall with an outside play area. It was never a robust building in the 1960's and the years have taken their toll. The main drawback in these modern times is that it is not suitable for the disabled with stairs from the entrance to the Hall. However, it still remains for hire at £10.00 per hour for a single booking.

It is still used by the Enmore Green Community with a Coffee Morning on the first Wednesday of each month; 10.00am to 12noon, £2.00 for coffee and biscuits with a foodie raffle.

Then on the third Wednesday of each month another coffee morning with a short talk entitled 'In conversation with.....' £2.00 for coffee and biscuits. 10.00am to 12noon

On 20th September, we will be in conversation with Angela Gray, a resident of Enmore Green **'Sew far so good, a life in the furnishing rag trade'**.

For Hall bookings, please contact Mrs Sue Hake. 851338

Are you a keen gardener looking for extra space but not as big as an Allotment? The rear garden has fruit trees and bushes but is now in need of restoration.

Please contact Sue Hake.

St. John's Churchyard

The Churchyard is large and on two levels. There is a small parking area which is accessed at the top level from The Butts.

The land is owned by the Diocese of Salisbury and is cared for by the District Church Committee of St. John's. The rules of the Diocese are that no artificial plants or flowers should be placed in the Churchyard. There is the presumption that artificial plants and flowers last longer; this is not true as within weeks they become torn and bedraggled and can be a danger to wildlife. Wreaths are accepted from 11th November until the end of February each year.

We strive to make our churchyard as environmentally pleasing as possible and in Spring 2023 practically the whole upper church yard was covered with primroses. The Shaftesbury Snowdrop Group plan to plant more snowdrops during the Autumn and we hope for a lovely display in January and February 2024.

A section of the churchyard has been left for wild life. A recent survey by DARN (Dorset Amphibian and Reptile Network) confirmed that there are various species of newts, grass snakes and slow worms throughout. We have visiting rabbits and foxes, plus some small deer who have a great liking for roses and chrysanthemums.

A seat has been provided by a former member of the church and it is a peaceful spot to rest a while.

Everyone living in the Enmore Green Parish is entitled to be buried in St. John's Churchyard, with or without a religious service.

The Friends of St. John's, Enmore Green

Who are the Friends?

People who may not wish to become a member of the church but who would like the church to remain as part of the community and to be there for life events in any family – Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

The Friends contribute to the maintenance of the Church building and upkeep of the churchyard.

Within living memory, the School, Shop and Pub in Enmore Green have all closed. Without a focus, Enmore Green could just be a suburb of Shaftesbury with no clear identity of its own.

The Friends have a small Committee and organise one or two social events each year. See below for our October event.

How much does it cost to join the Friends? The minimum subscription is £20.00 but amounts over this would be very welcome. In addition Gift Aided subscriptions bring in additional revenue with no extra cost to the giver.

Sunday 15 October – 2.30pm St John's Church

What is an Antique?

an Illustrated Talk by Matthew Lacey, Senior Valuer at Lawrences

Matthew will illustrate his talk with items brought along by members of the audience. To assist with the selection of items please email a brief description to jo.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk

Tickets: £10.00 to include Tea and Cakes.

If you would like to book a seat/s please send a cheque made out to the Friends of St. John's to 6 Long Cross, Shaftesbury SP7 8QP otherwise you can pay at the door.

The Enmore Green War Memorial

Many years ago, over 30(!) I thought why don't we use the War Memorial? I went to the Royal British Legion in Shaftesbury and collected a poppy wreath. I was a Cub Leader at the time so I put on my uniform and placed the wreath on the Memorial on my own. I then started collecting for the Poppy Appeal, taking over from Bessie Brickell (a local resident). I mentioned around the village while I was collecting what I was doing and, over the years, had quite a gathering on the day, always on 11th November at 11.00am. I then got help collecting from Mr and Mrs Arthur Hull, and Mr and Mrs Lionel Hake and Teresa Day collected at Long Cross. I made notices and put them up around the village and had 3-4 people come from Motcombe. We also had the resident Vicar of St James and St. John's come to read the prayers.

At that time, The Memorial just gave the initials of the names so I chased this up and now have the complete name which I think is more personal. During Lock Down, I still went ahead with the short service, no Vicar so did it all myself, and about 20 – 30 villagers were there.

When I started this, I asked my son Paul if he could come and play the Last Post as he was then playing for the Shaftesbury Town Band, but has since retired, through pressure of work. I remember he was working near Bournemouth Airport and came back to play and wherever he is working, he comes along, sometimes going to work later. I really appreciate this and so do the people who attend. Paul says 'it's a privilege to be able to do this since they died for the cause.' Over the years, we have had up to 50 people on the crossroads. The only time, Paul can't play is when Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday as it is a longstanding arrangement that he goes to Motcombe Church. Also I am committed to the Town Parade and Church Service.

Mr Trevor Alford weeds the ground around the Memorial. After talking to Shaftesbury Town Council, it was arranged for someone to come and straighten one of the bars around the Memorial, it was also repainted and a solar bulb put in the gas light. When the Enmore Green Memorial was erected in 1920, it was one of only a few memorials that had a light on it, and it served to shine across to Motcombe Church because, at that time, the Enmore Green Church, St. John's was linked to St. Mary's, Motcombe.

Our Memorial still shines each evening

Mrs Jo Slade, Enmore Green

The Weir Pulpit in St. John's Church

Those who have visited the Enmore Green War Memorial will see that three members of the same family are remembered there. A father and two sons, Graham, Nigel and John Weir.

At the end of the War, Mrs Mamie Weir wanted her husband and sons to be remembered in St. John's Church so she commissioned the beautiful carved wooden pulpit which bears their names and stands in the church today.

A booklet about the Weir Family and the Weir pulpit has been produced by Alex Wynter and Wendy Tindall Shepherd and is available to purchase. See details at the end of this newsletter.

The Queen Elizabeth Tree

About March 2022, I thought it would be good to plant a tree for the village as part of the Queen's Green Canopy Scheme. I went to the Town Council and they advised me to wait until September. September came and they had a tree for us which would be ready in October. Very sadly, we lost our beloved Queen, so changed the name to be 'In Memory' and decided to plant it on the 11 November 2022 at 10.40am just before we went to the War Memorial. I made notices around the village and had a few villagers there to watch, also local radio and our Team Rector, Donna. I then ordered a plaque and more notices, to ask if anyone would help by donating towards it. Three people from the village came forward, and another resident kindly planted the sign.

The tree is an Ornamental Pear – *Pyrus Calleryana* 'Chanticleer'

Mrs Jo Slade, Enmore Green

Fairtrade

Arthur Simmonds, who co-ordinates Fairtrade locally, has a Fairtrade outpost in Bimport. The e-mail address and telephone numbers are:
arthursimmonds303@icloud.com 01747 853182

The Search for Sally King: A story of Enmore Green. £8.50 per copy.

Available at our Coffee Mornings on the first Wednesday of each month from 10am to 12noon in St John's Church Hall at the top of Church Hill, Enmore Green.

St John's, Enmore Green and the Weir Family

£2.50 Contact Jo Churchill on 01747 850432/ jp.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk

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If you have any news or information you would like us to include in the Winter issue please contact

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By Friday 24th November 2023