

ENMORE GREEN COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring-Summer 2024

We are now in official Spring time, leaving the very soggy Winter behind. Let us hope for sunny days ahead.....and no drought

Our newsletter contains updates of our communities and details of events in Enmore Green and Shaftesbury.

Our newsletters have reached international status as we hear from a reader in New Zealand. Andrew Brickell's story is inside and makes fascinating reading. Andrew was particularly saddened by the closure of The Fountain Inn disclosing that his family owned and ran the Fountain Inn in the 1830's. This predates St. John's Church which was built in 1843.

Our website, www.enmoregreencommunity.com/ is building up and has photos from the Alfred Tyler Collection now in the Shaftesbury Museum. If you have events during the Summer months they can be uploaded to the website.

If you have any news or information you would like us to include in the Autumn 2024 issue (copy date Friday 2nd August 2024) please contact

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Thoughts of Enmore Green from New Zealand

I recently found copies of the “Enmore Green News” on the Internet and have read the content with interest, as also with some previous issues.

My family have had a long association with Enmore Green. My great, great grandfather Richard Brickell and his wife Mary Ann Goulden owned and ran the ‘Fountain Inn’ for some years, circa the 1830s. So, it was sad to hear of the Fountain Inn’s recent demise. My more recent ancestors emigrated to New Zealand mostly in the 1880s and family memories of Shaftesbury were gradually lost, until we researched them in the 1970s.

My wife Claire and I first visited Shaftesbury in 1991 when we temporarily lived in the UK, being based in Exeter for a couple of years, and then later in London. During that time, we re-discovered the ‘Fountain Inn’ and met some Shaftesbury ‘Brickell’ namesakes. Another visit in 1992 made contact with Bessie Brickell who was then quite elderly, I think in her early 90s, but still alert and most helpful in explaining bits of family history long forgotten by my NZ relations..

Bessie filled in a lot of gaps in family history detail for us, which most of the antipodean branches of the family seemed to have forgotten. So, she was the beginning of our interest in Shaftesbury and the importance of Enmore Green, which our family folklore had somehow lost track of during the 150 or so years, since my great grandparents had emigrated from London to Dunedin in the 1880s.

During the 1990s, my job as a consulting civil engineer had me undertaking audits of water company operations, and activities in Dorset, Devon and Cornwall enabled us to get familiar with other ancestral localities in Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. We stayed in Britain for nearly five years, 1991-96, a part of the reason for which was to give our son David the chance to earn a place at Oxford University, which he was successful at. My wife Claire taught at a range of primary schools in the South West, then later in London. Our son David now still lives in Oxford, with his wife Francesca and young family.

I suspect it may have been the ‘two-stage emigration’ of my great-grandfather Thomas Goulden Brickell (1851-99), firstly from Shaftesbury to Fulham, London circa 1872 (where he worked as a builder), and then circa 1879 when he brought his young family to Dunedin, NZ, which caused their reminiscences of Shaftesbury and the Fountain Inn to be lost. Three or four generations later in

the 1990s, we enjoyed researching to reconstruct all of that, and Bessie Brickell was the 'missing link' that allowed us to understand the history, by making a start.

Later in the 1990s, we met a few other Shaftesbury Brickells, closer to our own age, but none were quite as helpful as Bessie had been in helping us explain the historical context of my family's origins. She was a wonderful bridge between the generations.

When we returned to New Zealand in 2003, we purchased a rural property north west of Auckland and named it **Enmore Green** in recognition of those ancestral roots and its tree-scape.

Andrew Brickell

Shaftesbury Home Grown Community Farm

We're a community group who grow food as naturally and sustainably as we can. At our 4-acre field on the edge of town, our volunteers help with farm tasks, learn new skills and enjoy good company!

Do you want to:

- Grow Food with a lively bunch of like-minded people, free of the hassles of running an allotment all on your own
- Learn More about growing food, laying hedges or looking after hens, bees or sheep
- Enjoy Joining Us for our tea-break and a good chat at eleven - round a fire in winter!
- Taste Fresh Produce - members get a discount - seasonal fruit and veg from parsnips to strawberries, salad, sweet corn and fresh eggs

Come along and give us a try!

When? Wednesday, Friday or Sunday. Drop in anytime from 10am - 1pm

Where? Breach Lane SP7 8LF - between Enmore Green and St James

Contact: Helen English 07789 845498

St. John the Evangelist, Enmore Green

Your Church on the Hill

The Church is open every day

There is a service in the Church every week at 11.15am

1st Sunday Parish Communion

2nd Sunday Morning Prayer

3rd Sunday Morning Worship

4th Sunday Morning Prayer

To hire the building please contact Jo Churchill on 01747 850432 or
jo.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk

We have a single manual organ, a clavinova, small kitchen and a toilet. Electric heating, single chairs

Forthcoming Events

St. John's in the Town Hall - Saturday 27th April

10.00am to 2.00pm. Coffee, cakes and bacon butties. Live Music

With Raffle/Tombola, Plants

Thursday 9th May 6.30pm for 7.00pm

ITALIAN EVENING

Glass of prosecco on arrival

Lasagne, Salad, Garlic Bread (with vegetarian option), Tiramisu, Coffee

Bring your own wine

£12.00

All Welcome

To book your place please ring Jean Parker on 0748 5580472

St. John's Churchyard

Our Hazel Hedge

At the time of writing, I have a short length of the hazel hedge in St John's Churchyard left to coppice, and am hoping to find time enough to get this job completed before months end. Using hand tools only, no power saws, it's been a journey! At the start I did wonder if I'd bitten off too much, but by nibbling away an hour here and an hour there has been the secret. It's been an absolute pleasure spending quiet, thoughtful time winking out brambles, cutting stems and making stick piles. Although I've undertaken this job free of charge, I'm grateful to the St John's congregation for allowing me to do so and make good use of the arising and future sticks, poles and wood. There are now St John's stakes and binders in hedges and fedges from St James to Milton-on-Stour!

You may notice that I've made a dead-hedge of twiggy sticks on top of the hedge line. New shoots will push up though this within the first season and subsequently. The dead hedge will slowly break up and rot down, all the while providing superb habitat for small creatures, fungi and plants. Personally, I'm very excited to make this hedge work for its living again.

Joe Hashman

We are very grateful to Joe for all his work on the hedge. It was a mammoth task for one person and it will be such a pleasure to see the hedge growing over the coming years.

Many people do walk through our churchyard and again have commented on the magnificent display of primroses that have established themselves as a living carpet over grave space and paths. We now wait for the blossoming of our lovely cherry tree.

A piece of sad news. We do have deer and we grew to love one little one who pranced along with the dog walkers and showed no fear. Unfortunately, it was knocked down on Church Hill and a hind leg broken. One of our congregation found it and went to get help of some sort. When she returned, it was gone. We searched all round the church, The Butts, under bushes and hedges to no avail.

St. John's Church Hall (top of Church Hill)

Coffee Mornings in the Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month

10.00am to 12noon £2.00

Special Wednesdays

Wednesday 17th April

In Conversation with..... Helen Lanchberry

Looking back at Burning the Candle at both ends

Wednesday 19th June

In Conversation with.....Janet Lowe

Three Times the Shaftesbury Mayor

Saturday 29th June

A 'Nineties' Afternoon Tea

2.30pm to 5.00pm

Not featuring the nineties decade but we are inviting three members of our St. John's Community who become 90 years old in 2024 to Afternoon Tea in the Hall. Is there anyone else in Enmore Green who achieves this special age? Then you too are invited to join us.

We then invite everyone else to join them with a ticket price of £6.00

Please phone Jean Parker on 0748 5580472 a) if you have a 90th birthday or b) you wish to book tickets.

In Conversation with.....

We are always looking for volunteers for this slot on the 3rd Wednesdays. You may have a hobby or a story to tell; just a chat for about 20 minutes, and to display any artefacts you might have. Contact Jo Churchill on 01747 850432 or email jo.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk

The Hall is available for hire: please contact Mrs Sue Hake – 851338.

Friends of Breach Common

We recently had our bi-annual get together to discuss works undertaken and plans for our Spring/Summer efforts. Coffee and cakes were included to keep us focussed.

We have been removing non-fruiting branches to open up more ground which will encourage more plant species to thrive. Previous removal has provided sites for primroses, bluebells, snowdrops, foxgloves plus others. These are now easy to see and enjoy. Some have grown from seeds we collected locally but many have sprung up as if by magic!

A very large oak tree by the new pond at the bottom of the Common, we call it the Hazel Pond, was damaged in the storms. We decided to leave the broken boughs in situ and make a barrier to encourage walking around it rather than under it.

In the same pond, we were dismayed to find Azolla, a non-native pond weed, that will choke a pond if left unchecked. It is highly invasive so worth keeping an eye on your own ponds for it. We netted out as much as we could and buried it deep. We built another barrier around the pond to discourage dog swimming etc. and under-planted with native honeysuckle transplanted from the areas. Azolla spreads by sporlets in the water and these are easily transferred to other ponds by wild life, dogs and even wellies. We will keep netting until it disappears.

On a lighter note, we are feeling positive, and somewhat smug, that we are within touching distance of eradicating the Himalayan Balsam. We will continue our efforts and may well spread out to other areas such as Castle Hill. If you see us please feel free to stop and chat or help. We really appreciate those who pull Balsam as they see it when walking. It is such a help.

We also plan to make and put up bat and owl boxes. So before long you will need to look up to see the joys of rejuvenation on the Common as well as down.

We would love to know what you see or hear on the Common. Please pop a message on our Facebook page or just stop for a chat, even if it's just to tell us where the litter has been dropped! My favourite finds this month were frog and toad spawn in the Slide Pond and a plethora of Scarlet Elf cups in the area surrounding it.

Although we have lots of nesting sites; if you have an unwanted nest box or are

a woodwork genius who can make one, please feel free to drop in to me at 7 Breach Lane and we will place it in a suitable spot on the Common. If you pop your name on it, we can let you know where it is and we can thank you properly. I'm good with faces but truly awful with names so this will help me.

Speaking of names, I was asked recently if I was 'The Common Lady'. This could have many connotations but as I recognised the face, I decided it was in no way meant as an insult. Hence my answer was, Yes, I'm really hoping I haven't let myself down.

As Ogden Nash penned.....

'The Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies iz'

Enjoy

Fran.

OPEN HOUSE

Longmead Estate Shaftesbury

A safe place in an hour of need. Resources and support for the most vulnerable individuals in our community. Within a friendly 'coffee shop' environment, a number of services will be offered, including but not limited to:

Emergency Food Aid

Benefit Adviser

Housing Adviser

Budgeting

Support

All services are free and confidential

The Search for Sally King

David Godden, the author of the book, has gathered more information about the history of Enmore Green and is now updating a new version. We hope this will be published by the beginning of April. More details will be on the website .

Friends of St. John's

Being a Friend of St. John does mean you are helping the Church with the maintenance of the building and upkeep of the Churchyard. But it also means helping out in other, behind the scenes, ways. We are grateful to Shaftesbury Council for putting up the Christmas Tree on the Green but it is the Friends who actually pay for the Tree and purchase and put up the lights. They also help with the singing of carols and shaking the bucket for the Collection. In 2023 we collected £115.00 shared between St. John's and the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

And then at the Church's special day at the top of the town –

St. John's in the Town Hall – Saturday 27th April –

the Friends will be providing refreshments from 10.00am to 2.00pm

And the Friends support and pay for the Enmore Green Community News.

Our application form is on the website; your help would be appreciated. Want to know more? Why not come along and meet the Committee at our Annual General Meeting

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St. John's to be held

on Sunday 21st April at 6.00pm

In St. John's Church Hall, Church Hill, Enmore Green

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of meeting held on 29.3.2023
3. Matters Arising.
4. Financial Report.
5. Annual Report.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Any other business connected with the AGM

Enmore Green Community Field

Throughout this winter, the community field has defied the cold temperatures to remain a hub of activity for its regular users. Despite the absence of any actual bears roaming the grounds, vigilant residents keep a keen lookout, maintaining a lighthearted tradition. The field's pristine condition stands as a testament to the community's commitment to cleanliness, with dogs asked to refrain from entering the area. Even in the face of a wet winter, the field has managed to escape the clutches of excess mud and flooding, providing a reliable space for residents to enjoy outdoor activities. The untouched grass, yet to succumb to the blades of a mower, adds an untamed charm to the landscape, fostering a connection to nature amid the winter chill.

With quite high temperatures for this time of the year the single football goal is getting enough use to possibly require a coat of paint this time around - we expect it to remain White although suggestions are of course welcome.

The community field benches remain well placed for fine views of the Blackmore Vale, but users need to bring their own sandwiches and hot beverages.

Jeffrey Smith – Committee member

We would love to hear from anyone who might like to run events and/or activities. The Field can be hired for private use and is securely fenced with vehicle access if necessary.

Contact: Jo Churchill, 01747 850432 or jo.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk

Motcombe United Charities

In the middle of the 19th century, the Reverend Deane of St. Mary's, Motcombe built several churches in the Blackmore Vale, including St. John's, Enmore Green. St. John's was built in 1843 and as a District Church was joined to St. Mary's Motcombe. During this time, the Charity was established. Then during the 20th century, St. John's became affiliated to St. James in Shaftesbury. However, the link with Motcombe remains and anyone living in Enmore Green is entitled to ask the Charity for assistance.

Motcombe United Charities exists to provide small grants for the relief of poverty in children, young people, the elderly or disabled living in Motcombe or Enmore Green. Please contact Liz Pocock on 01747 852647 or jepocock@uwclub.net

Donkey Field Orchard

In the Donkey Field, more space has been created for future planting of fruit trees. As ever, thanks to Andrew Flitcroft (Shaftesbury Town Council Groundsman) for his efforts in this department.

The hazel hedge which fronts the Community Orchard along Church Hill has been coppiced. We've been meaning to do this for a couple of years and decided to actually get on with it after a portion was chopped by workers keeping overhead lines clear. Subsequently it looked really lop-sided and that was the nudge we needed! Don't worry. Coppicing (cutting down to almost ground level) looks drastic but many species, and most especially hazel, thrive on this treatment every eight to ten years.

There was no public Wassailing in January. Our Committee agreed unanimously that conditions were too wet and slippery. Apologies to those who missed this New Year tradition. Hopefully the orchard spirits will be understanding and there'll be no ill effects on the 2024 harvest.

Between now and Apple Day in October we have no specific events planned, save the standing open invite to all to enjoy this working open space cum nature reserve. Blossom time will soon be upon us and is a particularly beautiful few short weeks.

Joe Hashman

Every little helps

We used to collect bottle tops years ago, like Green shield stamps, but both came to an end.

We learn that milk bottle tops are being collected once again and profit from them will be for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. St. John's church members are collecting so if anyone wants to join in, they can be left in the church at any time.

Enmore Green Allotments

There is a waiting List for Allotment spaces but if you would like to be on the list please contact Jackie Hartung 07870 919522

The Commercial Slot

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/ jo.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk

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Alastair Humphries – Interior Design

For a consultation please contact Mobile: 074743 60077 or email: hello@alastairhumphries.com

Daisy Graphic design and print

01747 852747 / info@daisygraphic.co.uk

Shaftesbury Team of Churches:

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Copy date for Autumn issue Friday 18 August 2024