

Our 'Spring Big Breakfast' took place on Saturday 7 May, served from 9 am until about 12 noon. The catering team were kept busy with a nice steady flow of hungry customers coming to enjoy the best fayre from our friends at Little Angus butchers at Grimstone.

Then, on Saturday 21 May the first of a new series of 'Coffee Mornings' was held. These are run by Dawn



Potter, Helen Hart and Jackie Wilcox. This first event was not overly well attended but those who did come along

enjoyed a friendly chat between 10 am and 12 noon. The next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 20 July, so do come along if you can. Later dates will be found in your FVN.

Over the weekend of our 'Village Fete' there will be 'Skittles' in the Hall on the evening of Saturday 2 July. More news will appear elsewhere in this copy of your FVN.

As you will have read in your last FVN, our 33rd 'Flowers in August' will take place on Saturday 6 August from 2 until 5pm. You will find more details of this event in this current issue of your FVN.

Just a timely reminder that if you wish to book a table at our 'Grand Christmas Craft Fair' on Saturday 19 November, do not leave it until later as they are already selling well! Our contact is Val Ghose <a href="mailto:val.ghose@btinternet.com">val.ghose@btinternet.com</a> or phone 07788 140 965.

That's all for now, so do enjoy your summer.

Colin Pook.



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www.wessexcarpentryandbuilders.co.uk ● shaun@wessexcarpentry.com 1 Mill Street, Dorchester DT1 1LN The month of May showcases the English countryside at its best, with many ancient woods carpeted by bluebells, while the lanes and hedgerows are transformed into a frothy white spectacle of cow parsley and hawthorn blossom. Metlands Wood also is stunning with its carpet of **white ramsons** (wild garlic); along with bluebells this plant is an indicator species of ancient woodland.

A walk to the bluebell woods on Hampton Hill is a local delight and standing amongst them, enjoying

their perfume, I could see occasional whitebells - just evenly single stems distributed through the blue, approximately 10 metres apart. The white version is the result of a genetic mutation which occasionally occurs, with 1 white plant for every 10,000 blue. It was my puppy's first trip to these woods and, in true doggy style, while my attention was diverted, he something found much smellier to enjoy!

Whiter than any of these flowers are our magnificent **mute swans** on the River Frome. Many villagers will have seen them with their fantastic brood of 5 fluffy grey cygnets which is possibly a record for Frampton, unless anyone can remember more?

They nested on the island at Peacock bridge, and can now be seen regularly near the Green. I saw them for the first time on 27 May from Samways Bridge, tiny cygnets catching an occasional lift with their mum.

Most birds are very secretive when sitting on eggs and feeding young, likewise the mistle thrushes which nested in our yew tree. These birds should win a prize for parenting – their presence is apparent only when a predatory bird arrives, when they shoot vertically up several metres cackling loudly and then mobbing the intruder – usually a jackdaw or magpie.

But I was most impressed when I saw them chasing away a sparrowhawk, and even more impressed when they chased away an enormous black bird – I am 90% certain it was a raven! I hope their vigilance was successful, but I have not seen fledglings. I have read that chaffinches often nest close by, protected by their fearlessness.

Another secretive bird hopefully nesting in the vicinity of Rural Lane is the **bullfinch** – Peter Emery photographed the male which has been regularly

collecting seeds from his garden. It is brightly coloured, as if a dull grey bird was dipped first in pinkish-red paint, and then black for the top of its head; the female has a duller breast. I am always excited to see them, usually as a pair (it is believed the pair stays together all year), and I would love to attract them more regularly to my garden, despite their appetite for fruit tree buds in the spring!







a pair (it is believed the pair stays together all year), and I would love to attract them more regularly to my garden, despite their appetite for fruit tree buds in the spring!

The **smooth newts** in our thickly vegetated pond have been very active, the bright spotted males closely following the duller females. In breeding plumage the

males have a crest along their

backs with a separate crest on

their tails and they are

covered in dark spots with orange bellies. The female lays eggs singly and wraps each in pond weed for protection. Sometimes we find newtlets in the pond between April and July – tiny newts with feathery externals gills just behind their heads – they look like miniature Dr Who monsters! They are much harder to spot than the more numerous tadpoles, and will lose the gills before leaving the pond in later summer.

I would love to receive observations or photos of our local wildlife. My email is mrs.kate.davidson@gmail.com



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- 1) Which Knight of the Round Table found the Holy Grail?
- a] Galahad b] Lancelot c] Percival
- 2) Name the Archipelago of 120 islands north-west of Scotland?
- a] Orkneys b] Shetlands c] Outer Hebrides
- 3) What is the name of the Marmalade cat in a series of children's books by Kathleen Hale?
  - a] Ketzel b] Orlando c] Splat the cat
- SORIAS, SPRING 4) The \_\_\_\_ of Bill Hubbard; the first track on Roger Water's 1992 album, Amused to Death.
  - a] Ballad b] Death c] Trials
- 5) The Pen name of the novelist who wrote "Miss Brooke had that kind of beauty which seems to be thrown into relief by poor dress?
- a] Jane Austin b] George Eliot c] Emily Bronte
- 6) The English naturalist who was one of the founders of zoogeography?
- a] Attenborough b] Wallace c] Durrell
- 7) One of the key ingredients of the traditional dishes Colcannon and Rumbledethumps?
  - a] Carrots b] Parsnips c] Cabbage
- 8) —— Rocks; a pair of chalk stacks separating Studland from Swanage Bay in Dorset?
  - a] Sail b] Old Harry c] Haystack
- 9) A Roy Orbison song that featured in the "Only fools and horses" episode "Stage Fright"?
  - a] Only the lonely b] In dreams c] Crying
- 10) The UK's heaviest but fastest-flying species of duck?
  - a] Eider b] Shelduck c] Mallard



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**BON APPETIT!** 

## Apricot Crumble Cheesecake

For the base:
150 g sweet oaty biscuits, crushed
60 g butter or margarine, melted
50 g roasted hazelnuts, finely chopped
1 tsp cinnamon
Half tsp nutmeg

For the topping:
400 g Philadelphia cheese, softened
150 caster sugar
1 x 11 g sachet of gelatine
2 tbsp lemon juice
250 ml double cream, lightly whipped
410 g can apricot halves in fruit juice,
drained and halved



#### **METHOD**

Combine the biscuit crumbs, butter, hazelnuts and spices.

Divide in half (saving the other half) and press into the base of a 20 cm springform cake tin. Chill until firm.

Beat together the Philadelphia and sugar until smooth.

Dissolve the gelatine in 3 tablespoons (or 75 ml) of water over a pan of hot water.

Beat the gelatine and lemon juice into the cheese mixture until well blended.

Fold in the whipped cream and apricots.

Pour the mixture over the biscuit crumbs in the tin.

Top the cheesescake with the remaining crumb mixture. Chill for 2 hours or until set.

Serve straight from the fridge.

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**Police contacts:** 

Inspector 1824 Want

Sergeant 1373 Whetham

PC 2617 Diffey

PCSO 5410 Sarah Pilcher

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> Dorchester Police has a Facebook page which is regularly updated.

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