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The Mosaic

Hinton St. Mary

August 2020



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What's On – Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue	Co-ordinator	Contact
16th Aug-11th Sept.	British Museum Dig	See Article	Alice Fox-Pitt	473420
12th Sept.	Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride.	See Article	Kevin Peto-Bostick	475469

From the Editors

As we previously announced, this will be the last edition of "The Mosaic" that we will be editing. We are very happy to pass over the baton to Jo, Nigel and Janet. (New contact details below). There is no doubt that they will make a great success of this and am sure, over time, they will bring a new look to this little publication and hope they will enjoy the same level of support and interest that we have received from so many villagers over the years.

In this high speed digital age of "Whats Up", "Tic Tac" , "YouToob" and "Twitterface" it is still nice to receive something in print popped through your letterbox to keep up to date with our very local news and events and to share stories. Our sincere thanks to you all!

Pauline Sherwood & John Harding



Your New Editors:

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Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride.

12th September



Every year this Trust organises a day in which cyclists, horse riders and walkers visit churches to raise money for maintenance. The trust, which covers 300 churches, makes annual grants of £100,000 and in the past St Peter's has benefitted from these. As in previous years, on behalf of St Peter's, David Dunning will be visiting a range of local churches by bicycle and all monies raised by him will be shared between St Peter's and the Trust.

If you are interested in joining with him or sponsoring him please look at <http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hsm-rideandstride2020>. Monies raised for St Peter's will go towards maintenance projects including repairs to the water-damaged timber vestry floor and safer access to the bell tower.

Kevin Peto-Bostick 475469

Free door, buyer to collect

2' 3" wide x 6' 6" high, solid pine internal door.

John Sherwood

01258 471843



A clown held a door open for me the other day. I thought, "what a nice jester".

When asked why he had painted his front door yellow, Sherlock Holmes replied "Lemon Entry, my dear Watson".

I woke up this morning with a tap on the door. The plumber thinks he's funny.

I'm writing a song about getting my door lock replaced. There's a key change at the end.

(... sorry John S., we just couldn't resist ! [Ed.s])

When time stood still

When time stood still and then moved on
a restful pause filled the day
with silent streets and quiet roads,
blue skies above and flower filled lanes.

A lonely time, a sad time,
A peaceful time, a joyous time,
Time to think and feel and see,
To simply sit or walk.

And then the car filled roads returned
The planes began to fly,
The shops re-opened, work began
and busy people rushing by forgot to pause.

Crowded streets now filled with noise
are what some people want,
but to hear the singing birds again
and look up at a clear blue sky
must surely be a special time,

When time stands still.



Lin Adams
3 White Horse Lane

Dorset writer Roger Guttridge

...will be making his second appearance on BBC1's award-winning Murder, Mystery and My Family on August 6, when series four re-examines the tragic case of Martha Brown.

Martha was the last woman to be publicly hanged in Dorchester after murdering her husband John Brown at Birdsmoorgate, near Broadwindsor, in 1856. A 16-year-old Thomas Hardy was among the 3,000 who watched the execution and was undoubtedly affected by the experience.

It is thought to have influenced his decision to have his Marnhull-born heroine Tess Durbeyfield executed in Tess of the D'Urbervilles.

'The Hardy connection is one of the things I'll be talking about along with the trial itself and whether Martha had a raw deal given what she'd had to put up with from her husband,' says Roger, who was brought up at Sturminster Newton.

Roger and novelist Rosemary Ellerbeck, who also lived at Stur for many years, appeared together in an earlier programme on Martha, screened by HTV 20 years ago.

Under her main pen-name Nicola Thorne, Rosemary also wrote My Name is Martha Brown, a novel based on the story.

Roger also appeared on the very first Murder, Mystery programme in 2018, which re-examined Charlotte Bryant's murder of husband Fred at Sherborne, and will also feature in series five, to be screened later this year.

Series four starts on Monday July 27 and the Martha Brown episode will be screened at 10am on Thursday August 6.

Jacqui Wragg
sturbiz18@gmail.com



British Museum Dig

16th Aug-11th September.

Most of you are of course aware that in 1963 a mosaic was discovered in Hinton. It was an incredible find that was described at number 44 on radio 4's series A History of the World in 100 objects. It is a large almost complete roman mosaic thought to depict a bust of Jesus Christ at its centre.

The mosaic covered two rooms, joined by a small decorated threshold. It is largely red, yellow and cream in colouring. On stylistic grounds it has been dated to the 4th century and is attributed to the mosaic workshop of Durnovaria (modern Dorchester). It is currently in storage at the British Museum, although the central medallion is on display there.

The panel in the larger room is 17 by 15 feet (5.2 by 4.6 m). A central circle surrounds a portrait bust of a man in a white pallium standing before a Christian chi-rho symbol flanked by two pomegranates. He is generally identified as Christ, although the Emperor Constantine I has also been suggested. On each side of this are four lunettes, each featuring conventional forest and hunting vignettes, mostly of a dog and a deer. In the corners are four quarter circles containing portrait busts, either representing the winds or the seasons.

The mosaic was discovered on 12 September 1963 by the local blacksmith, Walter John White in the paddock that now belongs to Katie Scorgie at the top of Wood Lane. It was cleared by the Dorset County Museum² and lifted for preservation by the British Museum³ although none of the rest of the building has been examined. It is generally assumed to have been a villa. The layout of the mosaic room certainly resembles a Roman triclinium or dining room. However, it might easily be a church or other Christian complex. There were no finds dated earlier than c. 270.

The amazing news is that the British Museum want to conduct a dig this year.

The motivation is that it is hoped and the planning has begun to bring the mosaic back to Dorset.

Clearly it is very challenging to organise a dig in these time's of Covid. That said there has been huge energy and positivity from everyone involved.

The provisional plan is to have a team of 15-20 archaeologists camping behind the tractor yard. Chris Hardiman and the village hall committee have been wonderful in helping to make it possible for the team to use the village hall despite restrictions. Mr and Mrs Pitt Rivers have very generously offered the tithe barn for the team to use as a refectory in the evening.

I hope everyone agrees that it is a wonderful opportunity for the village and the set up has meant that government social distancing guidelines can be carefully adhered to. The team will be a 'bubble' and remain self contained.

If anyone has any questions please don't hesitate to contact me:

**Alice Fox-Pitt
473420**

