

# The Squeaker



**September 2023**

**Number 164**

**The village magazine of Langrish and Ramsdean in  
Hampshire**



4th ANNUAL

# KEN HALL TROPHY SCRAMBLE

(INCORPORATING THE ST. PAUL'S TROPHY)



**MONDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER, 1969**

**MANOR FARM, LANGRISH, HANTS**

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Permit No. U61

T.T.C. No. 578

**FIRST RACE 1.30 p.m.**

**Official Programme 1/-**

**Website: [www.squeaker.org.uk](http://www.squeaker.org.uk)**

**Issues on first day of September, December, March and June.**

**Deadline for major copy, one month before issue!**

**Information for the Websites:**

Squeaker website: - Please contact: *ian.c.wesley@gmail.com*

Parish Council news: Please contact: *langrishparishcouncil@gmail.com*

Church news: Please contact: *iblackwell1@outlook.com*

**Editor      Ian Wesley**

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## EDITORIAL

I hope you all like the frontispiece. In spite of all the tribulations the village had over scrambling, I do miss the annual Ken Hall event which was always held at this time of year. It was one of the few events that really put Langrish on the map! It was last staged in 2016 and it's very unlikely that it will ever be held again.

On a more serious note, I believe that we are now coming to the natural end for the publication of The Squeaker. With the Church closing in the New Year and far fewer Friends events, there just isn't enough material to justify a quarterly publication. We have a village email list, which is used for communication by the Friends and the Parish Council, a Friends Facebook Group and a Squeaker website so we can still effectively communicate village events without publishing a quarterly Squeaker.

I inherited a vast amount of material on the history of The Squeaker from Rosemary Hopewell. I also have a paper copy of every single edition published since the first edition in 1980. I intend to deposit the paper copies at the Hampshire Records office where they can be properly looked after. I will also investigate how I can make the electronic copies of The Squeaker, which start in 2000, available online.

If anyone believes strongly that The Squeaker should continue in its current form and would like to take over as editor, please get in touch. In the meantime, I plan to make the December edition the final edition of The Squeaker.

**Ian Wesley September 2023**

Our thanks to the following contributors: -

### **Articles and Suggestions**

Julie Blackwell, David Butcher, David Mowlam, Ian Wesley.

### **Pictures**

Ian Wesley, David Mowlam

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at The Cow Shed - Barrow Hill Barns

### **Footpaths and Rights of Way**

Continue to be an important part of the Council's discussion. Robert Bewes, the Council Footpath and Bye-ways Officer monitors all footpaths and byways and produces a report for the Council and HCC Rangers on a quarterly basis. Photographs help monitor damage done by users and is a useful tool for the work of our lengths man.

The Drain at Ham Lane on the C28 has been reported to HCC with a request that it be unblocked. Work to improve the flow of water to the culvert should not take place until the drain has been unblocked.

Debbie Luff has become a member of the Hampshire Local Access Form, which advises HCC on access to the countryside, including byways and footpaths. The byways will be closed to motorised users again from 1<sup>st</sup> October to the end of March 2024.

### **Reeds Meadow**

The future of Reeds Meadow has been discussed by the Council and it was considered that the costs associated with running the meadow and playground were disproportionate to expenditure elsewhere in the Parish. Change of use for the Meadow was discussed and the Council agreed that a survey should be sent to all residents to test the requirement for a playground and to ascertain what the preferred use would be for the area. This will be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the Parish Council, as above, and comments before and attendance at the meeting are welcome.

### **Planning**

The two planning applications for Barrow Hill Farm remain under discussion.

Huw Evans' application to demolish Lower Hill Farm, Ramsdean and replace it with a new house and barn has been approved.

The proposal to create a new opening within a curtilage wall to create a new access to Bordean Nursery has been refused.

**Debbie Luff**



## RECENT EVENTS

### Village Walk/Tea: 17 June 2023

Due to the hot weather a decision was taken to cancel the village walk, however about 20 people did attend the afternoon tea at the Old Hop Kiln in Langrish, very kindly hosted by Marjorie Day. The sun shone and the tea, cakes and savouries were enjoyed by all. The early arrivals even got a tour of Marjorie's lovely annex that is available as a B&B.



The walk will be rearranged for 2024 when hopefully the weather will not be too hot (or wet!).

### Visit to Butser Ancient Farm: 22 July 2023

Dave Butcher and Karen Hill hosted 11 visitors from Langrish and Ramsdean on a tour of Butser Ancient Farm. Dave and Karen are Iron Age re-enactors at the Farm, and Karen is now also a member of the education team (who host school visits) there.



The Farm contains re-constructions of buildings including Stone Age shelters and house, Bronze Age and Iron Age roundhouses, a Roman villa and Saxon halls, covering a period of over 5,000 years.





As well as Dave and Karen, other staff and re-enactors were on site to give additional information on the buildings, items within them and how people lived in the past. Unfortunately, the Saxon combat displays were cancelled due to bad weather!

#### Butser Ancient Farm tour – a view from Anna Hodgkinson



Optimistically Luke, Henry and I stepped out of our car and headed towards the Butser Ancient Farm meeting point – although rain was forecasted, we were not going to miss the opportunity for a personalised tour of the ancient farm. Not long after we arrived our Iron Age re-enactors Dave and Karen appeared. Although, I must admit, the thought of wearing thin leather shoes didn't appeal with the uneven/gravel paths, their costumes were outstanding specifically the handmade brass

jewellery and woman's purse. I should mention that I did learn later on that Karen actually had insoles in her shoes and there may have been a mobile phone tucked away in her purse.

What I didn't realise about Butser Ancient Farm is that the buildings are trials and best guesses as to what they would have looked like and so when you walk into a building you may have two walls that are constructed differently. Dave, having worked on some of the buildings, was able to give great insight into how these were all constructed. The wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm of Dave and Karen meant that our tour group quickly became popular and soon grew to include other members of the public!



Unfortunately, the heavens did open up and it rained and rained with no end in sight. This certainly didn't dampen our spirits especially as a Saxon re-enactor played various musical instruments and the Roman re-enactor discussed their armour (boy are they heavy!).

We will certainly be back – hopefully on a sunnier day – as to what better way to teach our son about the past then seeing how our ancestors possibly lived.

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

The Friends committee has had to revise the programme of events for the autumn since the last Squeaker. Having already had the very successful Coronation Tea in May, it has been decided not to hold a village lunch or BBQ in September. Next year, however, we expect to return to the usual August/September village lunch that was an annual event until Covid, Church anniversary, Jubilee and Coronation got in the way!

#### **Talk on Soroptimist International: 19 October 2023**

A talk (with nibbles) on Soroptimist International, a women's global voluntary organisation with consultative status at the United Nations with Julie Blackwell of Soroptimist International Winchester - website link:

<https://sigbi.org/winchester-and-district/>.

#### **Quiz Night: 11 November 2023**

Following last year's very successful quiz night we will be hosting another quiz night. Following the successful involvement of Northern Slice (pizza) last year, food options for November are being explored (small business / local suggestions welcome!).

#### **Christmas Meal: December 2023**

Although we no longer have access to Langrish House we did have an excellent meal at the Seven Stars in Stroud last year and will be looking to arrange something similar this year.

### **Langrish & Ramsdean Friends**

## CHURCH NEWS

In the last Squeaker I explained that the PCC had written to the diocese asking that the church be closed on 1 January 2024, that Langrish Parish be re-integrated with East Meon and that the churchyard remain open for burials. I also described the process that the Church of England would follow to reach a decision and the likely outcome as I saw it at that time.

To be honest we are not much further ahead except that the process has started. The new Archdeacon, the Ven. Kathryn Percival, was installed in early July and almost immediately had meetings with members of the PCC and with the wider Upper Meon Benefice. She has alerted the Church Commissioners and done as much as she could before but the 'dead season' of August intervened. I think she is now fully aware of the situation and is ready to brief the bishop. There is a Bishop's Council meeting on 13 September, and I am hoping 'Langrish Closure' will be on the agenda.

The Ven. Kathryn has however given us some hope that a new incumbent might be appointed to the Upper Meon Benefice (Langrish, E Meon, W Meon & Warnford). The idea is that an interim Priest in Charge be appointed for a three-year period only but with some hope of extension. This person would be tasked with exploring, with the four PCCs and with the neighbouring churches and communities, what would be the best future structure for our four parishes. The encouraging aspect of this is that Bishop John appears to have noticed the plight of rural parishes with small congregations and is minded to do something about it.

In the meantime, we continue to hold two services a month in our church. There will be the usual Harvest Festival service at 10.30am on Sunday 24 September taken by Rev. Terry Loudon and we are looking at holding our traditional Christmas services. We have, what may be our last, concert in the church on 22 September.

**David Mowlam**

## DOSH STONEMAN

Cliff, Elaine and Philip would like to thank everybody who contributed to Dosh's funeral in any way.

**May 2023 – Murder before Evensong by Rev Richard Coles**

Canon Daniel Clement is Rector of Champton, where he lives alongside his widowed mother – opinionated, fearless, ever so slightly annoying Audrey – and his two dachshunds Cosmo and Hilda.

When Daniel announces a plan to install a lavatory in the church, the parish is suddenly (and unexpectedly) divided; as lines are drawn, long buried secrets come dangerously close to destroying the apparent calm of the village. And then Anthony Bowness – cousin to Bernard de Floures, patron of Champton – is found dead at the back of the church.

As the police move in and the bodies start piling up, Daniel is the only one who can try and keep his community together...and catch a killer.

We enjoyed this engaging book, though maybe too many characters and of course it threw up obvious comparisons to our own church issues!

**June – The Herd by Emily Edwards**

Personal freedoms versus public health. You should never judge how people choose to vaccinate their children. It's an emotional rollercoaster of a novel with real-life resonance and family at its heart. Exploring both sides of the child vaccination debate through two women, its themes and heated scenarios chime with current vaccination debates and conflicts. Namely, how societies and individuals navigate and reconcile public health needs with personal beliefs and fears.

Super organised and methodical Elizabeth and bohemian Byony are close friends and now neighbours, godmothers to each other's daughters. They've found a way to balance each of their differences, except on one big issue – vaccinating their daughters. The unraveling of their friendship begins with a birthday party and ends up with tragic consequences, explosive public showdowns and unexpected revelations. Powerful, pertinent stuff.

A good story for discussion and debate, and on the whole a positive response.

## **July – The Skylark's Secret by Fiona Valpy**

Loch Ewe 1940. Gamekeeper's daughter Flora's remote highland village finds itself the base for the Royal Navy's Arctic Fleet. In defiance of his disapproving father, the laird's son falls in love with Flora, and as tensions build in their disrupted home, any chance of their happiness seems doomed. Decades later, Flora's daughter, singer Lexie Gordon, is forced to return to the village and to the tiny cottage where she grew up. Having long ago escaped to the bright lights of the West End, London never really felt like home. Now back, with a daughter of her own, Lexie learns that her mother – and the hostile seeming village itself – have long been hiding secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew. As she pieces together the fragments of her parents' story, Lexie discovers the courageous devastating sacrifices made in her name. It's too late to rekindle her relationship with her mother, but can Lexie find it in her heart to forgive the past, to grieve for all that is lost, and finally find her place in the world?

An enjoyable and fast paced story, given that it is told in two parts i.e. 1940 and the present. It was heartbreaking at times. It showed the impact of the war and the anguish of those waiting for the ships to return and the inevitability of conflict.

**The book for August is All the Broken Places by John Boyne**

**Julie Blackwell**



## THE COPPER BEECH TREES AND THE GREENWOOD FAMILY OF BROCKWOOD

*This article first appeared in the Upper Itchen Benefice magazine in 2020.*

Of all the villages within the Upper Itchen Benefice, both Bramdean and Hinton Ampner are particularly distinguished. Hinton Ampner is part of the large Dutton Estate (now in the care of the National Trust.) Bramdean remains a linear settlement, dominated by the busy A272 trunk road, which, when entered upon from the east, is framed by a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century avenue of copper beech trees.



The village (nicknamed “The Copper Beech Country”) still retains much of its charm, just as it had in the past few centuries. In those times, the surrounding land was dominated by various estates, the largest of which was Brockwood Park. The house dates predominantly from 1769- when it came into the hands of Richard Smith (a director of the East India Trading

Company). Various proprietors followed, including James Harris, the first Earl of Malmesbury, who, in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century gained a significant portion of the surrounding land when it was left to him by Edward Hooper of Hurn Court in Christchurch.

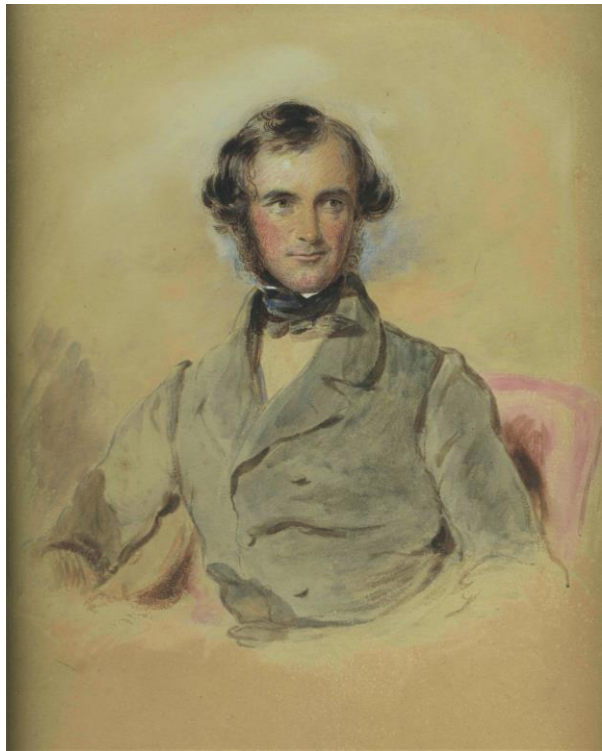


BROCKWOOD PARK 1829

The earl split the estate in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Bramdean House was sold, as well as Woodcote (in 1809.) In about 1807, Brockwood was sold to Mr William Greenwood, who eventually re-purchased Woodcote in 1816. Although they were in possession of two of the largest houses in the parish,

Brockwood remained the Greenwood’s main residence and Woodcote was used as the Dower House.





Of all of the Greenwood children, it was George (b.1799) who had the most significant impact on the surrounding landscape. Whilst growing up at Brockwood, he gained an interest in the land there and took to conducting various experiments with trees and plants. He joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> life guards in 1817, and later became Major and Lieutenant Colonel. In 1831, when he became Major and Lieutenant Colonel, it is said that William IV was fond of sending all the “restive and insubordinate horses that the neighbourhood contained” as it was his view that Greenwood would be able to subjugate them with ease.

In 1844, he published his book “The Tree Lifter” which explained his method of transplanting trees from one spot to another. The book was inspired by his own creation (of the same name) which allowed one to transport mature trees from place to place. Between 1844 and 1875, Col George planted the great many copper beech trees that are such a venerable feature of the estate with the Tree



Lifter. He also gained the reputation of being a distinguished horseman and received recognition from Queen Victoria (whose coronation he attended in 1838). In 1839, he published his guide to becoming a fine horse rider- called “Hints on Horsemanship”. George was described as being “the best breaker in of horses of his day” and his publication was

described as “the best book on the subject ever done”.





In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Mr Greenwood's brother's favourite horse 'Whimsey' needed to be shot due to age. It was buried where it was killed- at the foot of the hill to Brockwood. Following this, George erected a large mound of common field flints over the grave, he wheeled them to the site by hand, and was, for a short time, assisted by his cousin Roger Tichborne

(who was a frequent visitor to Brockwood). The original height of the mound was 14 feet, but over the past century or so this has massively decreased.

On the opposing side of the road, he also erected an intriguing stone circle, built from various large grey weather sandstones. These were brought from both East Tisted and Froxfield, and subsequently arranged in a position in the Dean which Col George believed would look quite fanciful. It is probable that he used the stones to demonstrate the power of the Tree Lifter.



In a bizarre final twist, the descendants of the Meinertzhagen family, who had owned the estate after the Greenwood's, erected their own gravestone at the base of the pile of flints. The stone stated that it was the grave of their ancestor, Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen's horse, Melksham. This is completely untrue.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the land at Brockwood Dean was much more open than it is now; it was described as being reminiscent of a parkland (with the wide verges and specimen trees). The redwoods, beeches, pines and manmade features such as the circle of stones or the pile of flints remain a lasting memorial to the endeavours of Col George. The copper beeches, although now slowly decreasing in numbers, have reached their full maturity and have since gained the village its fame.

Although many will not have known the story of Mr Greenwood (who died in 1875), it is an important chapter in the history of the parish. The Greenwoods were buried at Hinton Ampner Church, where George's gravestone was a large grey weather sandstone, one of the most intriguing memorials in the parish.

**Thomas Carpenter**



## COMINGS AND GOINGS



We welcome Ben and Andrea Rogers and their three children to the Old Vicarage.



We welcome Richard and Milly Webb and their son Ellis to Church Farm.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Police

101 (non 999 emergencies) or 01962 841534 (faster!)

### East Meon Care Group

Provides transport to surgeries and hospital outpatients for the elderly and disabled. Call 03300434823

### Citizens Advice Bureau

03444 111306 / 0300 3300650



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## VILLAGE CALENDAR

**Trumpet Concert: 6:00 pm, Friday 22 September**

St Johns, Langrish

**Harvest Festival service: 10.30am, Sunday 24 September**

Rev. Terry Loudon, St Johns, Langrish

**Parish Council Meeting: 7:30pm, Wednesday 27 September**

The Cowshed, Barrowhill Barns, Ramsdean

**Friends Meeting: 7:30pm, Thursday 19 October**

Julie Blackwell, Soroptimist International

The Cowshed, Barrowhill Barns, Ramsdean

**Friends Quiz Night: 7:30 pm, Saturday 11 November**

The Cowshed, Barrowhill Barns, Ramsdean

**Parish Council Meeting: 7:30pm, Monday 13 November**

The Cowshed, Barrowhill Barns, Ramsdean



## WHO'S WHO

### Parish Council

Mrs Debbie Luff ( <i>Chair</i> )	823550
Mr Roger Hetherington ( <i>Vice Chair, Planning</i> )	263458
Mr Ian Blackwell ( <i>Roads</i> )	263972
Mr Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby ( <i>Tree Warden</i> )	266941
Mr Robert Bewes ( <i>Footpaths</i> )	07775952608
Mrs Cheryl Walder	
Mrs Helen Marsh ( <i>Clerk</i> )	823352 <a href="mailto:langrishparishcouncil@gmail.com">langrishparishcouncil@gmail.com</a>

### County & District Councillor

Cllr Rob Mocatta	<a href="mailto:robert.mocatta@easthants.gov.uk">robert.mocatta@easthants.gov.uk</a>
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### Parochial Church Council

#### Councillors

Mr Jon Allen ( <i>Hon. Treasurer</i> )
Mrs Julie Blackwell
Mrs Charlotte Denby ( <i>organist rota</i> )
Cdre David Mowlam ( <i>Secretary &amp; Electoral Roll Officer, Open/Close Rota, Mowing Rota</i> )
Mrs Susan Ricketts ( <i>Deanery Synod Rep</i> )
Mrs Joy Sang ( <i>Deanery Synod Rep, Verger and Sidesman/Reader Rota,</i> )
Mr Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby

#### Helpers

Alison Meggeson	<i>Flower Rota and 'Holy Washing'</i>
Cheryl Walder	<i>Altar Frontal Care and Changing</i>
Sue Ricketts	<i>Refreshments</i>
Betty Wesley	<i>Cleaning Rota</i>

### Secretary to the United Benefice (Langrish, E & W Meon and Warnford)

Emily Rich	<a href="mailto:beneficeuppemeon@gmail.com">beneficeuppemeon@gmail.com</a>
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## Langrish and Ramsdean Friends

David Butcher ( <i>Chairman</i> )	823053	<a href="mailto:davidbutcher560@btinternet.com">davidbutcher560@btinternet.com</a>
Charlotte Hetherington ( <i>Secretary</i> )	263458	<a href="mailto:charlottehetherington@hotmail.com">charlottehetherington@hotmail.com</a>
Jane Smith ( <i>Treasurer</i> )	07740764618	
Louise Collins	07803 782556	
Julie Blackwell	263972	
Jan Mallett	261201	
Luke Hodgkinson	601875	
Caz Nicholls	07568 451989	

## Langrish Primary School Governors 263883

Mr James Greenwood - Chair of Governors

Ms Julie Gray - Vice Chair

Mr Phil Shaw

Mrs Paula Oppenheimer

Mr Ray Dudman

Mr Mike Capon

Mr Richard Pelling

Mr Hitesh Mistry

Miss Heather Jones

Mrs Sarah Wright - Head Teacher

Mrs Catherine Madden -Clerk to Governing Body



