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Bisterne Village Hall

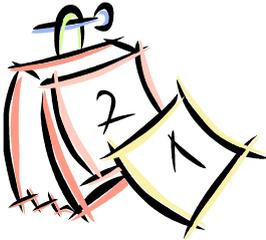
Bisterne Village Hall
Charity Number 301747

Bisterne newsletter

Many thanks to Thomas London Day
Schools for sponsoring the Newsletter.

Issue 60

June 2017



*Dates for
Diaries:*

BARN DANCE

10 June

OPEN FARM SUNDAY

11 June

DRIVING FOR THE DIS- ABLED II

4 July

NEW FOREST SHOW

25-27 July

15TH ANNIVERSARY

SCARECROW FESTIVAL

13-28 August

AV YFC 70th ANNIVER- SARY

12 August

DRIVING FOR THE DIS- ABLED III

22 August



The Annual Bisterne Barn Dance

SATURDAY 10 JUNE 2017

7PM—11PM

£10 per adult, £5 per child

(under 5s free)

Includes BBQ and cakes

Bar and Ice Creams available

For more information please call 01425 837498



*Calling all Bisterne
residents:
Its Scarecrow time!!
15th Anniversary of
the popular
Festival
Check inside for entry
form*



15 YEARS OF BISTERNE SCARECROWS!!

Can you believe that this extremely popular festival is 15 years old! Where does the time go?

All the money raised from this wonderful event is used for the upkeep and maintenance of the village hall so it is really important to us. But it is because of the wonderful and imaginative residents of Bisterne and Kingston who spend hours perfecting their entries that this festival can happen resulting in the visitors flock in their thousands and leaving their generous donations, so **Thank You** to all who take part.

With such a special year we want to make sure that this year's festival is the biggest and best. So we need just as many (hopefully more) entries

so please, please get your thinking caps on and your entry forms in nice and early. The more we have the better the festival will be so even if you can only muster something small please do enter, we do appreciate your support.



Entry forms are attached at the back of this newsletter, please get these back in to us before **Sunday 30th July** so that we have plenty of time to produce the maps.

As usual Tea's and Coffee's will be served in the hall during the festival, so please come and visit us and enjoy the delightful cakes that we make to serve with your cuppa.

If you have any questions regarding the Scarecrow Festival please contact Tina on 01425 471701.



If you enjoy being in the countryside, want to get closer to nature then join us for this fun 6k Woodland Walk steeped in history based on the legendary 'Bisterne Dragon'.

This rare guided tour is led by Hallam Mills DL who will take you on this fascinating journey through part of the Bisterne estate. The cost is £10, children under 14 free.

Sponsorship forms are available if you wish to raise more funds for us. After your walk, enjoy a delicious cream tea in the court-

yard at The Stables. More details from Tracey Hickford on 01425 485081 or email traceyhickford@sfht.org.uk

Other dates for your diary –

Saturday 29th July – 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. – SFHT Country Summer Fayre

Saturday 9th September - September Soul in the garden at The Stables – Starts 1 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you at some of our events over the coming months.

Marion Davies – Head of Fundraising & Marketing

01425 485090 or email mariondavies@sfht.org.uk,

My Marathon Journey by Karen Brooks

After many years of trying to successfully get a ballot place in the London Marathon, last June I finally received confirmation that I had secured a 'Good for Age' place and on Sunday the 23rd April 2017, I joined the thousands of runners and hit the streets of London.

As many of you are aware I have a passion for running (no doubt seen me running the local lanes of Kingston and Bisterne) and it's been a life long dream of mine to run London.

With months of training behind me I was as ready as I was ever going to be. I cannot begin to say what an overwhelming, amazing experience

it was. The streets of London were lined with huge crowds for the whole of the 26.2 mile route. Let alone the whole sightseeing trip on route.

Everything I'd worked for in training fell into place and it all went better than I could ever have imagined (don't get me wrong it was tough).

I managed to complete and finish with a time of 3 hours and 19 minutes which I was totally blown away with.

I have to say during our weekend in London I went through every emotion possible and it really gives you

an insight into how inspiring people are and how every individual had their own reasons for being there and completing the run.

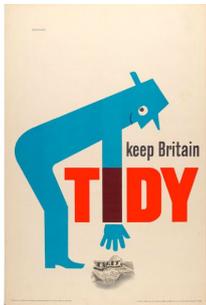
A well deserved medal !

Thank you to all who wave and toot as you see me out on my runs, it really does help.

What's next, who knows ?



Please help to keep your Countryside Tidy



We are very lucky to live in the beautiful New Forest and countryside but unfortunately there are still people out there who chose to

litter or dump household waste.

If the litter is from fast food out-

lets such as McDonalds then you can call and make a complaint.

Litter picks do take place but if you see any rubbish on the roadside outside where you live please would you collect it and put it out with your weekly rubbish. I know that it is frustrating that thoughtless people caused this mess but if the residents pick up what they see then it all helps to keep our

corner of the countryside beautiful



Confirmed – there are Ghosts at Bisterne Manor!

We recently hosted a visit from 50 members of the Irish Georgian Society London Chapter and The 20 Ghost Club. They arrived in 10 pre-1939 Rolls Royces which purred up the drive and made a stately entrance in front of the house. The members were on a Tour of some historic houses in Hampshire. Sadly their schedule

was too tight to allow us much time for inspection but they did look very handsome all lined up.



Minutes from the inaugural meeting of The Bisterne Ratters Club committee meeting

In attendance: 18 brave souls, 4 Jack Russells, 2 Lurchers, and some rats

Date: Easter Bank Holiday Monday, 2017

Meeting held at: Brixey's Farm

Minutes taken by: Leo Mills

Meeting Minutes:

9am - Leo Mills thanked everyone for coming to Brixey's Farm and asked everyone to lay out their various tools for the day ahead.

9.01am - Two cricket bats, 4 spades, a hockey stick, a smoke machine, some plastic drain rods, and an effeminate terrier called Hobbes Mills, are produced.

9.10 am - The committee assemble by the eastern-end shed, and start digging through the hay in the corner. Several committee members remark on the heat of the day, weighed against the effort of digging. By coincidence, it is decided to push forward a coffee and biscuits break to 11am.

9.32 am - Four small rats suddenly break from the corner of the shed, and are immediately devoured by

Tom Gould's terrier. The committee note the calm reactions of Leo, Joss and Jack, who start yelling and jumping up and down on the spot in excitement, waving cricket bats.

10.10am - The Bisterne Ratters Club move to the "silage pits", an exotic location known for its glut of rats underneath the concrete. Immediately, 10 more rats are delicately nailed. The committee noted the quick reaction of Ryan, who ably squashes a rat with a drain cleaner, to the delight of a strong crowd

10.20 am Sam Mitchell produces some stirring work with the tractor, uplifting the astro turf piles, to send 13 more rats scurrying for cover. All are hit to the boundary for six, or caught by the dogs.

10.45 am - The committee move to the western shed, where a manure pile is slowly unearthed. The tension is unbearable as a rat breaks every two minutes for cover, never quite making it through the Irish Firing Squad, the circle of combatants all surrounding the manure pile.

11.30 am - with a tally of 34 rats, the committee call it a day, and

break for coffee and biscuits, where a short prize giving is handed out, for best dog, best hit with a cricket bat, and best enthusiasm.

The winners were Bill King's lurcher, Ryan, and Sam Mitchell. Everyone agreed that despite difficulty in getting to the rats, the day had been worth it. The 34 dead rats were stacked in a container, where they were stored as potential fox bait. Leo thanked everyone for coming, then went to find his dog, who had chased a field mouse into a copse, about a mile away.

The Next Committee Meeting "Good Cricket Bat Maintenance", is scheduled for April 2018.

Leo Mills



News from Avon Valley Young Farmers

As well as organising the Steam Rally which took place on the 27th May, the Young Farmers have recently taken part in the County Stockjudging competition, had a guest speaker from RABI, hosted a farm safety workshop led by the National Federation chairman and

have been busy planning their summer programme of activities – including their 70th anniversary celebration dinner dance.

We would like to invite all "old young farmers", "young farmers" and friends to join us in celebrating this milestone: any Avon Valley

YFC (or Bisterne YFC as it was originally named) memorabilia would also be very welcome as it would be great if we could get a really good selection of old photos to put up.



Young Farmers 70th Anniversary Dinner Dance

All welcome, old members, friends and new members

12th August 2017
7pm-midnight
Tyrells Ford Hotel

Tickets: £22 includes a drink and hot buffet

Dress code: black tie or lounge suit

Please contact Harry or Paula Button on 01425 477910 for tickets

WILD ENTERTAINMENT

1ST February 2017 – We had our first Camelia flower in full bloom.

Through the month of February we had 2 pairs of Thrushes around most of the time, there was a bit of squabbling going on with the more resident Blackbirds.

3 visits from the Red Kite! One of those lasted for about an hour, it seemed very interested in our neighbour's garden.

17th February 2017 – First Daffodil fully opened up. We had Daffodil, Violets and Snowdrops all together in outback garden. Celandines made a carpet of yellow under the trees. A Green Woodpecker was spotted in the paddock.

7th March 2017 – I found a Long Tail Tits nest being built in the brambles in the back garden.

11th March 2017 – A male Siskin arrived at the feeding station and after a few days was joined by a female.

25th March 2017 - Heard my first Chiff Chaff of 2017.

Yellow Brimstone Butterflies arrived to join the Comma's, Peacocks and Orange Tips in abundance.

Found 2 Thrush and 1 Blackbird nests both sitting.



29th March 2017 – Black Caps arrived and first sighting of Swallows.

5th April 2017 – Pair of Whitethroats out in the back garden.

Found a pair of Chiff Chaff building their nest, also Jenny Wrens building in the framework of garden umbrella.

Baby Robins in 1 nest and found 3 other Robins nests. 2 Goldfinch nests, 1 in the bamboo and 1 in the conifer.

Mid to Late April – Mayflies everywhere. Had reports of the cuckoo on the 18th and 19th.

27th April 2017 – I saw a stoat running around in the paddock, and we heard our first Cuckoo call!

May 2017 – this month has been a flurry of activity, we have had a record year for nests, both pairs of Thrushes had 3 young ones.

Young Robins are all over the place, we have as yet not seen any young Goldfinches. Blue tits & Great tits are still feeding in some boxes.

Eileen Gowen.

Editor—I am so envious of Eileen's garden visits and am desperately trying to make my garden appealing to our abundant wildlife

Scarecrow Trivia Questions

1. What is a scarecrow?

- A. A device to scare birds
- B. A device to keep farmers company
- C. A device to motivate gardeners
- D. A device to entertain visitors

2. Why is it a scarecrow instead of a scarebird?

- A. Crows are more easily frightened
- B. Crows are not easily frightened
- C. Crows are the biggest problem bird
- D. Crows are the least problem bird

3. What other types of "scares" do gardeners and farmers use to repel crows?

- A. Reflective ribbons
- B. Noise guns
- C. Dead crows
- D. Pictures of cats
- E. A, B, and C

4. How are crows a problem?

- A. Eat recently cast seed
- B. Pull up recently sprouted corn and other plants
- C. Return to the same place nightly
- D. Gather in a group of 20 to 30
- E. All of the above

5. According to L. Frank Baum, author of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz", the scarecrow wanted what more than anything?

- A. A home
- B. A brain
- C. A heart
- D. Courage



6. In the United Kingdom, where the use of scarecrows as a protector of crops goes back to times immemorial, and where dialects were rife, there are a wide range of alternative names. Which is not another name for scarecrow?

- A. Mommet
- B. Murmet
- C. Hodmedod
- D. Tattie bogle
- E. They are all scarecrow names

7. One of the oldest designs of bird scarer is the scarecrow in the shape of a human figure, but humans have created many different forms of bird scarers. Which is a real bird scarer?

- A. Bubbles
- B. Balloons
- C. Kites
- D. B and C

8. Are there any living scarecrows outside of the Wizard of Oz?

- A. Humans
- B. Dogs
- C. Cats
- D. Birds
- E. B and D

9. What "toy" is often used to scare birds?

- A. Squirt gun
- B. Model airplane
- C. Bicycle
- D. Baseball bat

10. Ultrasonic scarers are electronic devices that produce what kind of sound?

- A. Too high a pitch for people to hear
- B. Too low a pitch for people to hear
- C. Too bass a pitch for people to hear
- D. Too treble a pitch for people to hear

Answers on the next page

**DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER
ISSUE**

**18TH AUGUST.
ANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO:**

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Bisterne Village Hall Charity No 301747

The Hall is available for private parties, clubs, meetings and organized functions. It has an entertainment license for 100 people and is the ideal venue for a number of events at a reasonable price. For viewing and booking, please telephone 01425 476703

Answers to Scarecrow Trivia Questions Q7 D. B and C

Q1 A. A device to scare birds

Q2 C. Crows are the biggest problem bird Crows are large and eat a lot plus they are smart and tend to congregate in large groups.

Q3 E. A, B, and C Modern scarecrows seldom take a human shape.

Q4 E. All of the above Crows can be a problem in Spring gardens. They can work down a row pulling up recently sprouted corn to eat the remaining seed/seedlings.

Q5 B. A brain

Q6 E. They are all scarecrow names It is the Mommet in Somerset, the Murremet in Devon, the Hodmedod in Berkshire, and the Tattie bogle in Scotland.

Q8 E. B and D The control of birds by trained border collies has been used at aerodromes, golf courses and agricultural land. Falcons and hawks have also been used successfully to control not only birds but rodent populations.

Q9 B. Model airplane

Q10 A. Too high a pitch for people to hear Ultrasonic scarers are electronic devices that produce high volume ultrasound. The sound is designed to be too high pitched for people to hear, but audible to most birds. This has the advantage to preventing disturbance to neighbouring households.



A Brief History of Scarecrows

Scarecrow genealogy is rooted in a rural life style. The Egyptians used the first scarecrows in recorded history to use to protect wheat fields along the Nile River from flocks of quail. Egyptian farmers installed wooden frames in their fields and covered them with nets. Then they hid in the fields, scared the quail into the nets and took them home to eat for dinner.

Greek farmers in 2,500 B.C. carved wooden scarecrows to look like Priapus, the son of the god Dionysus and the goddess Aphrodite, who supposedly was ugly enough to scare birds away from the vineyards and ensure good harvests. They painted their wooden scarecrows purple and put a club in one hand to scare away the birds and a sickle in the other for a good harvest.

The Romans copied the Greek scarecrow custom and when Roman armies marched through the Europe they introduced Priapus scarecrows to the people there. Almost simultaneously with the Greeks and Romans, Japanese farmers made scarecrows to protect their rice fields. They made scarecrows called kakashis, shaped like people. They dressed the kakashis in a raincoat and a round straw hat and often added bows and arrows to make them look more threatening. Kojiki, the oldest surviving Japanese book compiled in the year 712, features a scarecrow known as Kuebiko who appears as a deity who can't walk yet knows everything about the world..

In Germany, scarecrows were wooden and shaped to look like witches. Witch scarecrows were supposed to hasten the coming of spring. In medieval Britain, young boys and girls were used as live scarecrows or "bird scarers." They would patrol the fields of crops and scare away birds by waving their arms or throwing stones. In later times, farmers stuffed sacks of straw, made faces of gourds, and leaned the straw man against pole to scare away birds.