



Edmund Park Newsletter November 2019

Well it's countdown to Christmas now. Personally I have done nothing to prepare except try to remember what decorations I have in the loft. Last year we asked our granddaughter to come and dress our tree only to discover that we no longer had one, having got rid of it in the move!

There will be another edition at the end of November so if anyone has any fool proof ideas for an enjoyable time at Christmas do share them with us. In this month's newsletter we have a couple of simple decorations for you to make. I hope that you like them.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Our neighbour Terri held a Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 20th September which was a huge success. There were enormous slices of delicious cake (wish I hadn't had breakfast) and copious mugs full of hot drinks.

There was lots of fun with the tombola, some guests being determined to win come what may – which was all good for raising money. There were some great prizes and, speaking as someone who won 2, I was well pleased.

15 people came to the actual event and there was lots of cake left over but Terri's tenacity meant that she continued selling cake and hot drinks to the tradesmen around the estate. An impressive £157.60 was raised.

Congratulations to everyone involved, especially Terri who went to great lengths for such a deserving charity.

RAILWAY STATION

2 meetings have now been held at the Town Hall and Friends of Frome Station is on its way! Everyone is keen to get cracking to improve the look of the station and already the Bee Friendly Trust have received permission from GWR to put planters outside the front of the station and to paint a mural in the waiting room and work is already underway. Cllr Steve Tanner has had very positive meetings with GWR and other local stations which have Friends groups and is putting together a constitution to be approved and formalised. (Yes I

know it's bureaucratic, but for legal purposes necessary). Initial ideas include planting, improving signage and cleaning up the area, with more ambitious ideas for the future. Another meeting is planned for Tuesday 12th November at the Town Hall at 6pm. If you're interested please come along. The more the merrier.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE – some of it to drink



Frome businesses have been quick to get on board the national Refill scheme. The idea is to ditch plastic and encourage people to refill their reusable water bottles. Some of the same businesses have also joined the community toilet scheme which allows the public to use their toilet facilities without making a purchase. Full list at: www.discoverfrome.co.uk



RECOMMENDATION

I want some electric in the garden so can anyone recommend an electrician who is used to installing outdoor electrics?

Can anyone recommend a kitchen fitter?

If you're short of ideas for presents I can recommend "Frome Unzipped" by Crysse Morrison. Her book is a definitive and enormously entertaining story about the town's history, heritage, the people that have made it what it is and its passionate non-conformist creativity which comes in many shapes and sizes. Frome Unzipped is a brilliant distillation of what it is to be Frome and how we got here.

WHERE AM I?



A different way of looking at Frome

Answer on last page

WHAT'S ON?

Frome Fireworks Saturday 2nd November Old Showfield 7:30pm for firework explosion.
FREE.



Frome Walking Festival 8th -10th November. From humble beginnings to offering twenty walks over three days, Frome's Walking Festival 2019 is suitable for all abilities. There are children's walks, a treasure trail, town walks including the Singer's Trail and a popular comedy walk. There are also accessible buggy walks, pub walks, tree and woodland walks and of course a few serious rambles as the Saxon Kings Way is launched.

Teatime concert Rook Lane Chapel Sunday 10th November 4pm Fair Oriana and Sunday 24th November 4pm Solovey Ensemble. £10 to include tea and biscuits served from 3:15. For more information and to book tickets www.fromeconcertsgroup.org

East Woodlands Village Hall Lots going on here in November

Soup & Pud on Saturday 9th November. 12.00 - 2.00pm £5.00

Quiz night - Friday 22nd November. £12.00 per table. 7.45pm for 8pm start. Book with Glynn on 01373 462963

Christmas table top sale - Saturday 23rd November. 10.00 am to 12 noon. Variety of tables with goodies for Christmas. If wanting a table to sell items - £10. Coffee, tea and cakes!!! Contact Sharon at sr210662@gmail.com

Coffee morning - Tuesday 26th November 10.00 to 12 noon

Chocolate Festival – yes you read that correctly. **Sunday 17th November 10:00 – 4:00. Cheese and Grain.** £2 per adult. The Lip Smacking Festival team will be hosting a magnificent celebration of all things chocolatey with new and exciting stalls and well established companies returning.



Charity quiz night at the Cheese and Grain at 7:30pm on Thursday 21st November in aid of Children's Hospice South West. £10 per team for up to 5 people. Food will be served 6pm - 9pm.

A group of us went to the last one - we didn't win anything, but we had a great time! For more information, or if you'd like to get together with others to form a team, get in touch with Susan at Gatgirl21@me.com

You can also book direct with the Cheese and Grain - it was very busy last time, so booking in advance might be a good plan.

RAIL WORKS

Only one weekend will be affected this month. 23rd -24th November and hopefully that will be that.



We held the book club meeting on 26th September, where we discussed our latest book: *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin, which we couldn't wait to read, as it sounded like it would create a lot of discussion with the blurb asking us: If you knew the date of your death, how would you live?

It follows the lives of four siblings who find out the exact date of their deaths and how this affects the lives they choose to live.

It certainly created a lot of discussion around the topic, but none of us were really gripped by the book and didn't feel it was one we would recommend - but why don't you try it and see if you disagree with us?! It will certainly make you think about what you would do if you were given that information.

Our next book is *The Return of Captain John Emmett*, by Elizabeth Speller.

Although our group is full now I'm happy to help anyone else start their own group. Just get in touch

Susan Gatward
gatgirl21@me.com

CINEMA VISIT



5 of us went to see *Downton Abbey* at our local cinema in September. It had everything you would expect from the makers of the TV series. A gentle storyline with nothing to frighten the horses and love prevailed. The costumes were sumptuous as were the locations. Lacock featured as the village where the parade took place. For those of you who don't know it Lacock is a National Trust owned village which often features in period dramas. It is about 20 miles NE of Frome and well worth a visit.

As is the cinema. The Westway cinema, in Cork Street, is a little gem. It is an independent family run cinema which was transformed 2 years ago into a three screen theatre. It might not look much from the outside but it punches well above its weight. We get the latest films and all for £4 per ticket. How amazing is that? At the time of writing the cinema is showing *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, *Judy*, *Downton Abbey*, *Abominable*, *Joker*, *Terminator: Dark*

Fate, Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon, and The Addams Family, The auditoria are quite small (c60 seats) so booking tickets is advised. You can do this online at <https://westwaycinema.co.uk> (there is a small booking fee) or pop in to the cinema. The cinema has a fully licensed bar and the usual snacks and popcorn are also available, plus an ice cream cart brought out in the intermission between the trailers and the main event. Why bother to go to Trowbridge or Bath and pay their prices when we have this on our doorstep?

If you want to join us next time we go let me know and I'll get in touch when we arrange an outing. edmund.park.frome@outlook.com

GARDEN GROUP

The famous 4 hit Highgrove

The clouds threatened, the instructions were clear. You have to find your destination without signage, you have to arrive on time, you must have ID and No, repeat NO cameras. All phones to be switched off AT ALL TIMES. Sounds like an SAS mission? Not quite. But it certainly doesn't sound like a garden trip to Highgrove. Yes, Highgrove, to those of you not in the know, the garden of HRH Prince Charles aka Chaz.

So was it worth the trip? It's around 36 miles and just over an hour's drive. Thanks to John our driver for the day and Liz our navigator, Nina and I were lolling about in the back. Cost 27 smackers, which all go into the coffers of The Princes Trust, a worthy charity.

No sign on the road to let us know we had arrived, but Google maps came to our rescue and got us to our destination. A gent in a wax coat with a posh accent, (you couldn't make it up) checked our ID (pointless actually), while a very threatening copper glared at us from the gatehouse. Actually he was putting his feet up and having a cuppa. Good to see our hard-earned cash is being spent well Chaz #royalprotectionpoliceforce #cushynumber



A squadron of well-to-do ladies and gents ushered us in (no diversity here Chaz), offering cake, tea and raffle tickets (the most expensive I have seen at £2 per 1 ticket, Liz nearly fell off her well-appointed chair) all proceeds to the Princes Trust (Natch). Brollies, FREE, good grief they missed a trick, it was about to lash down.

The gardens. Okay, so we didn't choose the right time of year, late summer, rather sad flowers, too early for autumn colour. But there were areas of stunning colour in the courtyard garden next to the grand Georgian House. And a beautiful Moroccan garden, transplanted from Chelsea from way back, was immaculate.

A bevy of gardeners were hard at work lopping and chopping and generally making a racket. We were told to stay with the group or the Rozzers would be after us and probably hurl us off the property. Lord Posh (I'm convinced all the volunteers who show people around are from the landed gentry, did I just say that?) and he (Lord Posh) spent most of the tour exclaiming how much Chaz owned, pots and pots from every kingdom in Europe and the rest of the world come to that. Tree houses, busts (the head type) Doesn't all this really belong to us? Oh well, they wouldn't fit in John's motor-mobile.

It was two hours, I could have done without Lord Posh, who just got right up my nose. And you need sturdy shoes and a mac and brolly at this time of year. The highlight was lunch. Nina and I pushed the boat out and had a cream tea. Only one scone, I moaned. But it was the biggest scone ever and was delicious. J and L opted for a more sensible smoked salmon pate, with bread and crudite (crudites to you and me). We all enjoyed it.

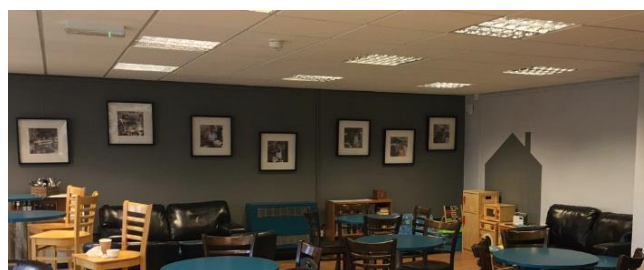
Would I go again, probably not? But, I really do think it's worth going in late Spring when the tulips are flowering or a bit later when the wildflower meadow is in full swing.

Food 8/10
Garden 6/10
Tour guide 2/10
Company priceless :)

Lynn Keddie

FOODY SPOT

For those who like something a bit different and to support a cause try **Longfellow's** – a bit further away but worth the trip. Situated on the campus of Fosseyway School at Westfield, near Radstock, it's a small café which offers training opportunities for students who have a variety of needs and which, for some, has led to employment in the catering industry.



The café is open to the public from 8am to 3:30 pm Monday to Friday during term time. It is to the left of the main school building and is accessed by pushing the button on the right of the café door. There is a comprehensive menu of drinks, light lunches and cakes – don't expect chips and regular meals but the soup is good and deciding the choice of sandwich filling can be a challenge. I recommend coronation chicken on granary. All meals are freshly prepared and ingredients sourced locally – even from the school garden which was a real treat to see on my last visit. Breakfasts available until 11am.

It can be a bit of a problem to find parking on the main road.

Thanks to our Mystery Reviewer

BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER FROME

You might remember that a while back I mentioned the idea that a foot bridge may be built between our estate and the old Butler, Tanner and Dennis site which is over the other side of the river. Planning permission has been approved, with conditions, for 157 houses. I have recently been approached by the Chair of Friends of the River Frome to discuss this idea further. The group is currently revising a strategic plan for the river to forward to the Town Council and one of the projects is to provide access and links between proposed housing sites such as Edmund Park and Caxton Road (old B, T and D site). A feasibility study has been commissioned to consider the various options and is almost complete and as part of the consultation process The Friends would like to meet with representatives from Edmund Park to get our views and to generally discuss the possibilities. They have suggested a meeting sometime in November. No venue or date has been fixed yet but if you think that this is something you would like to get involved with, or to make a comment about, please let me know and I will inform you as soon as I hear anything.

MEET A NEIGHBOUR

No "Meet a neighbour" this month. I think we're all too busy. This piece will be reinstated in 2020.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

This one is easy enough to do with children

Glitter paper trees



Materials

Oasis block, Terracotta plant pot, Wooden skewers, Paper – old music sheets, maps, Silver Glitter

Tools

Craft Knife, Small Paintbrush, White Craft Glue (PVA), Star Cookie Cutter, Pencil, Clothes Pin

Method

Cut piece of oasis from the block and fit snugly into pot. Push skewer vertically into centre of oasis, with pointed end at the top.

Take paper in bunches of three or four pages and rip or cut into squares of varying sizes. Push onto skewer, largest first and turn pot as you add pages so the edges are not all lined up evenly. Decrease size of paper so it resembles shape of a tree.

Use paintbrush to brush glue onto edges of paper and then sprinkle with glitter.

Using cookie cutter, or free hand, cut out 2 star shapes and glue together, with the tip of the skewer in between. Use clothes peg to hold together until glue is dry. Paint star with glue and add more glitter.

Wreaths

If you don't have the time or inclination to make your own door wreath try putting a personal twist to a shop bought one.



Twist in real sprigs such as eucalyptus, holly, ivy or spruce. Make sure foliage is fully hydrated by snipping the ends and standing in a vase of water overnight.



Add decorations such as birds, berries, toy soldiers, fruit, cinnamon sticks



Weave in battery operated fairy lights and tie in a large ribbon

If you have some simple decorating ideas to share let me know and I'll include them next month.

LANERN PARADE AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

This will all be happening on Friday 29th November but before then a number of workshops have been set up to help build your own lantern. Dates are:

- Saturday 2nd November 10:00 – 12:00. Frome Library
- Thursday 7th November 4:00 – 7:00. Welshmill Hub
- Sunday 17th November 10:00 – 12:30, and 1:30 – 4:00. Welshmill Hub
- Wednesday 26th November 4:00 – 7:00. Frome Town Hall

WHERE WAS I?



This is the statue of Sgt. Charlie Robbins in front of the Memorial Theatre In Christchurch Street West.

Charlie served in the 2/5th Battalion Gloucester Regiment during WWI. Before enlisting he had worked at JW Singer Foundry in Frome and returned after the war, and carried on working there until he retired in 1960.

A bronze cast was made of him and stood outside the Singer factory, where it remained for many years. It wasn't until 2014, to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI, that the statue was moved from the old Singer building on the Marston Trading Estate to the Frome Memorial Garden outside the Memorial Theatre. The

theatre had been built to commemorate those who died during the War and inside the theatre, in the foyer, are two plaques, installed by JW Singer, naming those who died and the theatre is now the focal point for Remembrance Day Services in November.

Deadline for items for December's newsletter is Saturday November 23rd

edmund.park.frome@outlook.com

www.edmundparkfrome.com