

THE LYPMPSTONE HERALD



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PARISH CHURCH

The Church seeks to provide support to the community this winter when all are feeling the cold, the effects of inflation and the fuel crisis.

Winter Warmth Initiative 1. A Free Soup and roll at the Swan.

In the months of January and February people who are struggling, or a friend or neighbour on their behalf, may obtain from us vouchers to use on weekday lunch times at The Swan Inn. In addition to the warmth of the Inn, the voucher will pay for soup of the day with crusty bread and water to drink. People can obtain vouchers for themselves or for friends or neighbours in need in a number of ways:

- by requesting and collecting them in church on a Sunday,
- by asking church going friends to collect them,
- or by calling a number to ask for them to be delivered.

The Swan will collect the vouchers and the church will pay the bill. As you may imagine we are still working on this and transport may be available to get you to the pub! Look for more details on lympstonechurch.com

Initiative 2. Somewhere warm to meet.

As outlined in the last Lympstone Herald, we are joining with others from the village to provide a host for each

Monday afternoon in January and February in support of the warm space scheme to give anyone who needs a warm up, a welcome in the Village Hall, a cuppa (and possibly some toast) and a chat.

Initiative 3. The Food Bank.

We will maintain a table of 'Food Bank' produce available, on a 'help yourself' basis, for people in financial difficulty. We will also provide a basket near the table to collect items for the Exmouth Food Bank.

Initiative 4. Another warm place to meet.

As we heat the church every Wednesday for an 11.30 quiet time or Communion, in January and February we will keep the heating on until 2.30pm to provide a warm space both for those who wish to stay behind afterwards but also for anyone who likes to drop in for warmth and a chat from 12.30. At the time of writing this report we are still preparing this particular initiative. Tea and coffee may be available.

For all these plans look for more information on notices, in church and under the railway arch.

Dates for the New Year Sun 1 New Year's Day

8 am Morning prayer with Demelza
9:30 am Morning Prayer with songs
Demelza & Joan

Sun 8 Jan Epiphany

8 am Morning Prayer Basil Strickland

9:30 am Common worship Communion.

Wed 11 Jan 11:30 am Quiet prayer time. Demelza

Sun 15 Jan

8 am Communion

9:30 am The Journey

Brian Mather

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

The winner of the November lottery draw was R Gwilliam and the two December winners were J Walker and Holly Ball. Thank you for all your continued support.

Penny Lupton; Treasurer



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We refurbish secondhand bikes to get more people cycling in an affordable and sustainable way, which is made possible thanks to your help.

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MONTHLY COMMUNITY HUB LUNCHES

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped us serve and deliver the monthly hot 2-course Sunday Lunches, especially in December when a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served!

We will continue to provide these lunches at home and in the Village Hall in 2023. The next lunches will be on

Sunday 29 January and Sunday 26 February

Beyond this, meals are usually provided on the last Sunday of the month but may have to change if our volunteer cooks are unavailable. As the Herald is likely to be suspended over the next few months, we will advertise any changes on the village website and will contact our regular lunchers direct.

If you are interested in joining us for these meals, or would like further details about future lunches next year, please contact Linda Lyon at malcandlinda@aol.com

Thank you to all the volunteers who have come forward to offer their support in the New Year. If you would like to be involved, in helping to cook and/or deliver these meals, please contact Linda Lyon. If you have an hour or so to spare on the (usually) last Sunday of

the month, this would only be for 2 or 3 times each year.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year!

Linda Lyon



little ducklings
nursery devon ltd

Based in the Village Hall Community Room on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8am – 6pm All year around. We work with Lympstone Preschool and feed directly to them.

Any questions regarding recruitment or enrolment for childcare please email Donna on littleducklingstopsham@gmail.com or call 07592 249478.

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WARM SPACES, Winter 2023

everyone welcome
at
the Meeting Room
Lympstone Village Hall

Every Monday in
January and February
2pm - 5pm



Extra warmth, tea and company
during the colder months

A CHRISTMAS CAROL FOR OUR TIME



*Heather Redding as Scrooge
and Grace Packman as
Marley's Ghost*

photo by Ben Simpson

The Lympstone Players' beautifully-staged production of Dickens' still-loved story, *A Christmas Carol*, was a well-chosen play for our time. The Director, Sharon Wayland, used the thrust stage format to good effect, creating thoughtful groupings when the scene was full of actors, whose sense of ensemble carried the action to the audience around them.

Heather Redding gave us a subtle interpretation of Scrooge as a capitalist business man rather than just a heartless skinflint. He could have walked straight into a Tory cabinet.

This was no caricature, but a fine piece of acting, with the eyes and the body as well as the voice, effortlessly commanding the stage. It also proved the case for gender-blind casting – there was never any doubt that we were watching Scrooge. Grace Packman as Marley's Ghost was just as convincing, clanking around in chains and boots and a wild wig, acting as a morbid master of ceremonies, dispensing advice to his former partner in doom-laden tones.

If the script sacrificed Dickens' own language for everyday modern English, the actors did much to restore the

spirit of the original with characterful performances. Andrew Minter as both the Ghost of Christmas Present and as Mr Fezziwig brought a Pickwickian ebullience to the proceedings, much needed in a story that doesn't shrink from the darker side of human nature, as well as the poverty and hunger that haunted Victorian times, and haunt us again.

Thomasin Manley Frost, the Ghost of Christmas Past, delivered her homilies with the confident authority of a child prodigy, wraith-like but upright., a strict guide to Scrooge's memories. Tim Askew brought the smack of dominant male to his typically Dickensian headmaster, and to his foreboding Ghost of Christmas Future.

It is this Ghost who introduces two characters borrowed by the adapter, not from Dickens but from mediaeval Morality Plays. The production bursts into dramatic life, as Ignorance and Want (Hannah Billington and Katherine Manley Frost) torment Scrooge with all his deadly sins, in rapid-fire dialogue of short monosyllabic lines. This was ferocious and agile physical theatre by all three actors, as the two vices viciously darted and thrust to threaten the hapless miser, who twisted and turned in agonies of remorse and shame. The audience froze at the sight, and children hid their eyes.

Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's ill-paid clerk, cheerily played by Bruce Ellis, has his family Christmas enriched by his master's change of heart. A large white goose is delivered, and the scene-stealing children, Hetty and Huey Robarts-Arnold and Andrew Wadhams, show us how appealing and convincing natural young actors can be. Our Christmas has been saved.

The production was all of a piece, with atmospheric lighting (by Mai Welton and Hester Walshaw), some good sound effects (by L Campbell), and a trio of musicians – Graham Banks, John Welton and Sue Harmes. The large impressionistic backcloth (inspired by Wordsworth's 'On Westminster Bridge'?) was designed and painted by Judy Stutchbury, who was also responsible for props. Jenny Moxom worked her usual magic with make up, and Judy Eaton assembled the splendid costumes.

After a decade in which Lympstone was known for its Pantomimes (most notably those directed by Shirley Wilkes), it was nostalgic to see a straight Christmas play once more, taking us back to the period when Clive Wilson directed several. Sharon's splendid production has shown us again how potent such dramas can be.

Harland Walshaw

SIGN UP FOR DRUMBEAT

Give yourself a free Christmas present by signing up for Drumbeat, the e-zine produced by Lymptone Entertainments which periodically drops into your inbox. To be in the know, go to lympstone-entertainments.net, click on Drumbeat and ask to be added to our mailing list. And that's it - your village entertainment for years to come - sorted.

In the meantime, here is the list of events for 2023 which Lymptone Entertainments has arranged so far:

Lymptone Entertainments 2023

Saturday 4 February

Air Swimming

A Cygnet Theatre company production
Lymptone Village Hall

Saturday 25 February

The Village Concert

More stellar than ever
Lymptone Village Hall

Friday 5 May and Sunday 7 May

The Hollow Crown

An Entertainment by and about the Kings and Queens of England
Joint production with Lymptone Players
Lymptone Village Hall

Saturday 13 May

ISCA

East Devon's Chamber Orchestra
Lymptone Parish Church

Sunday 22 October

Budapest Café Orchestra

A blistering barrage of Balkan brilliance
Lymptone Village Hall

Harland Walshaw

THE VILLAGE CONCERT

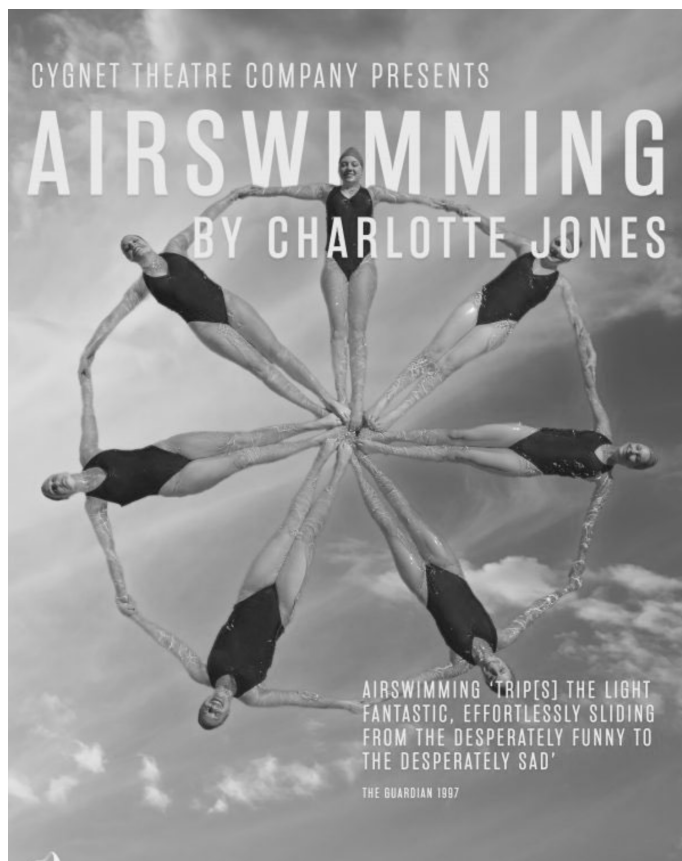
The entertainment highlight of the year, Lymptone Entertainments' annual Village Concert, returns to its usual February spot this year, on Saturday 25th February. Several exciting new acts have already signed up, and will join some of your favourite performers to make it an evening to remember.

Tickets are £12, and are available from 4th February in person from Susannah's Tea Room or online from lympstone-entertainments.net

BOOK EARLY AND BOOK OFTEN, to avoid disappointment

Harland Walshaw

THE RETURN OF CYGNET THEATRE



LYMPSTONE VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 7.30 pm

In 1924 Persephone and Dora meet in St Dymphna's Hospital for the Criminally Insane.

Neither of them quite know why they are there.

And quite why their families won't let them come out! As they search for some

meaning to their lives, Doris Day, the patron saint of all that is wholesome, perfect, and feminine, becomes their guide and saviour.

Presented by Lymptone Entertainments
Tickets £12 from Susannah's Tea Room,
or online from
lympstone-entertainments.net

Harland Walshaw

THE HERALD HISTORY SPOT

Living in a Devon Coastal Village in the late 1500's: Part 4 The Life of a Farm Servant - produced by Lymptone History Society

I adopt the style of talking history in the present tense.

Most villagers work on the land at some stage in their lives. Boys often go and live on farms outside the village, working and living there as farm servants for a few years before possibly coming back to their village to acquire a wife and cottage with their own land.

A typical house belonging to a yeoman farmer would be a cob thatched longhouse. This would have a central door with accommodation for humans on one side and animals on the other side. In the houses of the farm owners, there

is often glass in some of the windows, instead of horn or wood shutters. To have glass is a matter of pride. Unlike the cottagers' dwellings, these buildings have a ceiling and therefore an upper floor. Animals may be accommodated on one side of the building to provide warmth in the upper floor, however at this time it is becoming usual to move the animals out of the house and into barns where farm servants and domestic workers live on a floor above the animals. Because there is now no central hearth in the houses, fireplaces are located on the outside walls with associated chimneys at either end of the house. There are often bread ovens



built into the chimneys and at least one hearth will provide the fire for cooking purposes.

The farm servants work on jobs around the farm, while several female domestic servants work in the house and are responsible for some jobs such as milking and processing milk into cheese and butter. They tend to be managed by the farmer's wife. The servants get up early and have a breakfast of bread and butter maybe flavoured with sage, and they have cider to drink. Their main meal is served in the late afternoon. It is not unusual for servants working on farms to be better fed than at home, especially if their strength is valued. They often eat fresh meat in the summer. This might be from animals from the farm, doves or netted birds. In the winter the meat is preserved in brine. Fish or non-meat food is served on the two meat-free days a week.

Lambing is one of the important events in the early part of the year. Farm servants might then take the sheep and their lambs to the common grazing land nearby. Later the farmland fields are tilled with ox-drawn ploughs and wheat, rye, oats or barley is sown. In the farm garden, peas, beans, artichokes, kale, turnips and parsnips are sown and weeded. Later in the year there is the important activity of sheep shearing. There are other animals. Pigs are often allowed to roam in the woods

particularly when acorns are on the ground. There are chickens, geese and ducks to be managed too.

Then there is harvest time with all hands to the work of processing the grain and sending it to mills for grinding to make flour. In the autumn there is the job of slaughtering the animals that are not to be kept (and fed) during the winter. Following the slaughter, meat is cut into slabs and put into barrels of brine. Each week the slabs are taken out and the brine is stirred. There may be a smoking house to preserve some of the meat by smoking and drying. Flitches of bacon are hung indoors around the hearth.

Then there is the cider making from apples in the orchard. Drink flows more freely at this time. The apples are collected and crushed then the juice is put into barrels to ferment. The farmer's wife oversees these processes.

As winter comes on there are hedges to be tidied, there is firewood to be collected and woodlands to be coppiced to provide suitable wood for fencing and other structures.

Jenny Moon (Extracted from 'Devon Boy, 1590: a story of village life and fishing in Newfoundland' published by Lympstone History Society - contact: gthbanks@gmail.com)



Isn't it time to get the **elephant** out of the room?

...and just talk about later life planning?

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LYMPSTONE FILM SOCIETY - FRIDAY 13th JANUARY 2023

Missing the World Cup. Or a good romance? This brilliant recent film tells the story of Bert Trautmann, a German paratrooper in the war, who became an English hero in the Cup Final of 1956.

"A heartfelt blend of romance and football," said one critic. Although the film is about an athlete, it is not primarily a sports film, but a drama. Starring German actor David Kross, the film had its premiere at the Zurich Film Festival in 2018, and has won many awards since.

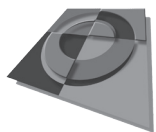
"A great story of love in adversity, handsomely told."

ON THE BIG FILM SOC SCREEN AT
LYMPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

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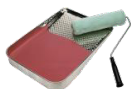
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Example: 5 lines or less	£5	£25	£45
Example: 7 lines or less	£7	£35	£63
Example: 10 lines	£10	£50	£90

Copies of the Lympstone Herald are delivered free to every household in Lympstone (approx 1100) every month with further copies being sold through the village shops. Please send your enquiries to Steve Morgan : sjmorgan222@gmail.com

DISCLAIMER This news letter is compiled from emails sent to the editors by numerous people and very little of the information is checked before publishing which is done in good faith. *Rob and Claire Hilton, Editors*

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