

South Hill Connection



**Issue 12
December 2009**

**A Newsletter produced by and for the
Parish of South Hill, Callington,
Cornwall**

**Find us online at:
www.south-hill.co.uk/newsletter**

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Welcome to the latest edition of the South Hill Connection newsletter



DECEMBER EDITION

Christmas is coming – but when ?

Ask anyone why we celebrate Christmas on December the 25th, and you are likely to be told that it's because Jesus was born on that day. Do a little calculation with a modern computer, taking account of the Julian and the Gregorian calendar corrections, and you will find that the 25th December 2009 years ago was a Sunday. Very convenient, but was it really the day that Jesus was born?

Scholars have argued about this for centuries, and the only consensus of opinion is that we really do not know. The early Christians did not celebrate Christmas, but by the latter part of the 4th century, it was being celebrated on a variety of dates including May 20th, April 18th, March 28th, January 6th, and December 25th, and others. In the Roman Julian calendar, adopted in 45BC, December the 25th was the date of the winter solstice. This was the day on which the days began to lengthen, and not surprisingly the ancient Sun worshippers celebrated this day as 'Natalis Sol Invicti' (the birthday of the unconquered sun). Most modern scholars think that this is the most likely reason for choosing that date as the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.

So why does the winter solstice now fall on December the 21st or 22nd and not Christmas day ?

The Julian calendar divided the year into 365 days, with a leap year every fourth year. The astronomical year is slightly shorter than this, resulting in an error of about 11 minutes per year, or one day in every 128 years.

Pope Gregory XIII introduced our modern calendar in 1582. He also **added 10 days** to correct the errors that had accumulated since the first Council of Nicaea in AD325, the date was set for the Easter celebration. In the 370 years since the introduction of the Julian calendar, an error of about 3 days had crept in. **But no-one seems to have suggested shifting Christmas back to December 21st!**

Some Orthodox churches have never accepted the Gregorian calendar, and celebrate Christmas on January the 7th.

Finally, did you know that in 1644 the Puritans passed a law making it *illegal* to celebrate Christmas? The good news is that it was repealed in 1660, so you won't be arrested for eating that mince pie, or turkey.

Whatever date you celebrate on, all of us from the Connection team wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Geoff (editor@south-hill.co.uk or telephone 363623)

Messages from "out there"...

The arrival of occasional messages from the old Golberdon website has prompted us to get our own Guest Book attached to the South Hill Connection.



South Hill Connection Guestbook

Go on - check it out and leave a Christmas greeting for the Parish...

The new Guest Book is hosted by 123Guestbook.com. Messages are moderated and do not appear until they have been checked.

Parish Broadband Survey

We are at present conducting a survey of broadband provision in South Hill Parish.



You may have seen Internet Service Providers (ISPs) advertising broadband speeds of up to 10Mbps!

However, the reality here in South Hill is disappointing to say the least. Not only is our broadband often less than a tenth of the speed advertised, there is also a huge variation in speeds, even between next door neighbours.

South Hill Parish is served by three British Telecom exchanges, indicated by numbers beginning with 36, 37 and 38. So we are at the end of the line, whichever way you turn! Copper-wire telephone lines reach us via overhead cables, but this is not the only limitation. There is also variation between different ISPs, and it is often not clear how to improve the situation.

We are hoping that if we can gather information from households, we can analyse the results and perhaps find out how we can **improve access in the parish**

Members of our email list have already been invited to take part. If you haven't been invited but would like to contribute, check out the newsletter on the website.

We do hope for a good response to this survey. The more information we have, the more meaningful the results will be.

Thank you.

South Hill Parish Hall



Parish Hall Committee Report

A meeting was held on 16th October at 7.30pm with a good attendance..

Feedback on the Fun Day and the Harvest Supper both of which were successful and helped with our fundraising.

Andrea Hill had managed to find someone to repair the floor in front of the Fire door, where it had rotted away due to water ingress. This was completed in time for the Horticultural Show and Fun day.

There was feedback from the South East Cornwall Community Halls Network (note name change due to Caradon no longer existing).

1. Our name has been added to the list of the Carn to Cove group but we do not seem to have been chosen to hold any events for next year but will keep hoping.
2. The AGM of the SECCHN was held in South Hill Parish Hall with refreshments supplied by Peta Emmerson. A large number of people attended and all were very impressed with the Hall and hopefully we will get further bookings from this.
3. Photovoltaic cells seem to be the way forward for Village Halls to augment their electricity costs. Several halls in Cornwall already have them installed and there is a good chance of getting 100% funding for their cost and installation. Charlie Tyas will follow up on the feasibility of our having a set of cells.
4. Hearing loops are also on the agenda for Halls wishing to be used for a variety of events. It was considered by the committee, that £1000+ was probably a lot to pay for a full installation but it is possible to get a portable one for about £100, so we might go down that road, unless anyone has any other suggestions.
5. The Western Morning News has launched the 150 years Appeal Fund raising money to help older people living in Cornwall, during next year. A suggestion has been made by the SECCHN to try and get 150 Halls in Cornwall to host bring and buy events in January 2010, selling unwanted Christmas presents or similar goods and the monies raised going to the Appeal. A fundraising pack is available and further information is on the Western morning News web site. Is there anybody in the parish who would be interested in arranging this? If so contact Pat Moren.

An Adult education class (a sewing class) has been running on a Monday morning in the Hall, for the term from September and will continue until the end of the school year. This is a welcome addition to the hall use.

There is also a Yoga class being held on a Monday afternoon.

It is good to see more use being made of the Hall during the day. Long may it continue.

Date of next meeting Monday 18th January 2010

Parish Hall Contacts:

Pat Moren (Chairperson)

parishhall@south-hill.co.uk Tel. 363440

Wendy Trewin (Secretary)

hallsecretary@south-hill.co.uk Tel.370460

Peta Emmerson (Bookings Secretary)

hallbooking@south-hill.co.uk Tel. 382841

Hall Hire rates (please note these were revised in 2008):

- Regular users: £12 per session
- Other users: £20 per session
- Commercial use: £50 per session
- Evening party: £30 + £10 setting up or clearing up time
- Wedding packages £150 (includes Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning)
- Short bookings: £5 per hour
- If rubbish is not removed, there will be a £5 surcharge
- There are three sessions a day, morning; afternoon; evening.

Does your club or organisation need somewhere to meet?

We have a pleasant, well equipped village hall available for hire.

For more information contact: **Peta Emmerson on 382841**
or email hallbooking@south-hill.co.uk

Feeling The Pinch?

Cornwall Strategic Partnership has worked with partners including the NHS, Cornwall Council, Citizens Advice Bureau and Inclusion Cornwall, to develop a leaflet to guide and signpost people who may be experiencing financial difficulties due to the recession.

The current economic situation is affecting companies in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly. This can lead to increased levels of stress and anxiety for individuals and families because of debt, loss of work, job security, short time working and loss of wages, unemployment and the risk of losing your home. If you are affected by any of these concerns, this leaflet offers advice and details of where to go for services that may be able to help.

Feeling the Pinch?

Direct Gov for general money, tax and benefits advice www.direct.gov.uk

National Debtline - offer free, confidential and independent help over the phone for people in England, Scotland and Wales. You can call their helpline and also download publications from their website.
0808 808 4000 www.nationaldebtline.co.uk

Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) - has a helpline, providing free, independent and impartial advice to people who have debt problems.
0800 917 7823 www.cccs.co.uk

Payplan - provides free advice on debt and budgeting, including debt management plans and Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs)
0800 917 7823 www.payplan.com

Community Legal Advice (CLA) - offers free, confidential help with debt, welfare benefits, tax credits, housing, education and employment problems call on
0845 345 4345 www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk

Financial Services Authority (FSA) - produces guides on how to manage your money. These are available on their website
0845 606 1234 www.moneyadeclear.fsa.gov.uk

Advice UK - is a network of independent advice centres.
020 7469 5700. www.adviceuk.org.uk

Fuel, water and energy advice

Energy Savings Trust Advice Centre - offers advice on energy efficiency, grants and help for people to reduce their fuel and water bills.
0800 512 012 www.energysavingstrust.co.uk

Community Energy Plus - can advise on a range of specific grants for loft and cavity wall insulation.
0800 954 1956. www.cep.org.uk

Health advice

NHS Direct - Health advice and information, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
0845 4647 www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

NHS Credit Crunch Stressline - Are your worries about the credit crunch interfering with your life? Get some help.
0300 123 2000 www.iapt.nhs.uk

NHS Cornwall & Isles of Scilly - is responsible for all local healthcare, including main hospitals, acute hospitals and community hospitals, buying in services such as ambulances, learning disability and mental health. The NHS offers a range of options such as GPs, dentists, opticians and pharmacies.
0845 170 8000 www.cornwallandislesofscilly.nhs.uk

Save money and quit smoking - saving money can be a great incentive and you could save £162 a month by quitting. The Stop Smoking Service can help.
01209 215666 www.cornwallandislesofscilly.nhs.uk

There are also a range of new therapies for people who are experiencing stress, depression or anxiety available through your GP. For information about these therapies
01208 871414 www.outlooksw.co.uk

Samaritans - is a confidential emotional support service for anyone. The service is available 24 hours a day for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair.
08457 909090 www.samaritans.org

Please ask if you would like to receive this information in large print, Braille, on CD or in any other languages. **01872 355128**

Cornwall Strategic Partnership

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

NHS

CORNWALL COUNCIL

the charity for your community

Citizens Advice Bureau

Inclusion Cornwall

Cornwall is working together to help everyone

The current economic situation is affecting companies in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly. This can lead to increased levels of stress and anxiety for individuals and families because of debt, loss of work, job security, short time working and loss of wages, unemployment and the risk of losing your home.

If you are affected by any of these concerns, this leaflet offers advice and where to go for services that may be able to help.

Looking after yourself, family and friends

Stress and worry can affect your physical and mental health, but you can:

- **talk** to family, friends and colleagues
- **seek help and support**, this acts as a buffer against negative stress and worries.
- **look after yourself**.
- find a **support group** and **ask for help** from people in similar circumstances.
- **eat healthy food**
- **keep active** - Physical activity stimulates production of endorphins, the body's natural antidepressants.
- **ask for help**. If coping is getting hard, please contact your GP, talk to a counsellor.
- **drink responsibly** too much alcohol is an expensive way to deal with difficult feelings. It doesn't solve problems, it creates them.

-- Advertisement --

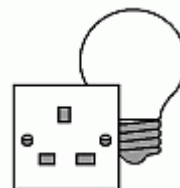
David Skelton - Electrical Contractor

For all your domestic, commercial and agricultural electrical needs. Free advice and estimates.

For general information on electrical safety have a look at the [Electrical Safety Council](http://www.electricalsafetycouncil.org) website.

All my work complies with the current national technical standard. I am an approved contractor registered with the [NICEIC](http://www.niceic.org) who regularly inspect my work. Most new domestic electrical work has to comply with part P of the building regulations now. You can either get building regs approval yourself and pay a fee to your District Council for the inspection, or use an electrician like me who can self-certify their own work.

Please phone 01579 382397 or email dave@pencashna.com



HAVE YOU HEARD THE SCHOOL WHISTLE IN THE LYNHER VALLEY?

Carolyn and Ivan Callanan are often heard blowing a whistle. It's not for the end of school playtime but for the start of food time for their pigs!



They have trained them to come to the whistle and sit and beg for their food. The sheep they run with have not yet learned to run with the whistle but do come running when they see the bucket.

These pigs are not an ordinary English breed, but **kune-kune**. (pronounced cue knee cue knee). They were originally bred by the Maori in New Zealand. But as New Zealand has no indigenous mammals other than bats, scientists think they may have been brought via the Polynesian Islands from China. They were bred for meat but in particular for their docile nature. At the moment there are seven kune-kune blood lines in the world.

The Callanans have two females, born last March from different mothers but the same father. They look very different. The larger sow is called **Ebryl, Cornish for April**, and the smaller is known as **Tegen, which is Cornish for pretty little thing**. In about 18 months Ivan and Carolyn hope to take the sows to a boar and hope to be able to sell the progeny! These pigs are not for meat.

As livestock they are subject to all the restrictions and are registered with DEFRA and the Kune-kune Society. But they do behave like pets and have kept all the visitors to **Berrio Mill Cottages** amused.

The pigs have their own ark for shelter and sleeping quarters but love to escape when they see an opportunity. This is a no-win situation for their owners but the pigs are on to a winner! They love to get to the compost heap, where there is all the apple waste from the Callanans' chutney-making business. To get them back into the field the pigs have to be bribed with food, so food if escaping and food to go back - what a life. You know the saying "as happy as a pig in s***"? But in this case it is "at Berrio Mill!!!"



-- Advertisement --

Berrio Mill Farm Holiday Cottages

These two holiday cottages are a conversion of an old stone built shippen in the grounds of Berrio Mill (click on the picture to enlarge)

Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the undiscovered Lynher valley. For those who really want to escape from it all or just visit friends and family here in Cornwall.

For more details please go to www.berriomill.co.uk or call 01579 363252



NOTICES

For full details of what is happening in the Parish, please visit www.south-hill.co.uk/events. This is kept as up-to-date as possible...

Events

East Cornwall Bach Choir - an evening of Baroque German Christmas Music from the 16th Century

Saturday 12th December 2009

at St Petroc's Church, Bodmin
7:30pm

Tickets £12

If you would like a ticket please contact Bodmin Tourist Information on 01208 76616 or for tickets and choir information contact Kate Geall on 01579 383139

St Sampson's Church Services

Services are held in St Sampson's Church, South Hill every **Sunday at 11:15am**. All are welcome.



St Sampson's Presents:

Carols and Supper Evening

Saturday 19th December 2008

7:30pm in the Parish Hall.

Tickets £5 (children £3)

Golberdon Christian Fellowship Meetings

The Fellowship meet in the Parish Hall every **Sunday at 6:00pm**. All are welcome.

Download the latest list of speakers from the South Hill Connection website

-- Advertisement --

Oakleaf Joinery and Design

With over 20 years experience, we undertake a complete range of bespoke joinery projects including; kitchens, doors, staircases, handcrafted furniture & property renovations.

Affiliated with 'Made In Cornwall', CCC Trading Standards

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Phone 01579 363791 / 07796534843

e-mail enquiries@oakleafjoinery.co.uk

website www.oakleafjoinery.co.uk

New Year's Eve Party Thursday 31st December 2009

in the Parish Hall

The theme is **black & white**, or **red!**

Bring drink for the communal bar, a plate of food and a single firework

Quiz, games, music and dancing
Sorry no children

Tickets from **Steve Moir 01579 383202** or Colin Hill

Or email steve@thedowns.me.uk

Parish Council News

The Parish Council has been awarded a grant of £1500 to part fund the improvements to the play area in the recreation field in Golberdon. Other sources of funding are also being investigated.

A grant is also available to improve the area around the War Memorial. Quotes are being obtained to replace the paving.

Sale of cottage at Lansugle

You may be aware that the cottage at Lansugle has been empty for some time. It is owned by Cornwall Council. Due to its unsuitability as a Council House because of its location and the cost of improvements needed, it has been decided that the property should be sold. South Hill Parish Council would like the housing needs of local people taken into consideration.

The property will be marketed with a **local needs restriction** but it will not be designated as an "affordable home". The property will be restricted to purchasers who live in the parishes of **South Hill, St. Ive, Linkinhorne, Callington and Stoke Climsland**. The restriction will forever be on the property so someone wishing to purchase it and sell it on to a wider market will be unable to do so. It is for Cornwall Council to decide that any prospective purchaser resides locally in the above parishes, not the agent. The agent will be **David Burt and Partners in Liskeard**.

The method of marketing has not been decided yet, but could be auction (unlikely), informal tender or private treaty. The property will have a "For Sale" board and will be **advertised in the local press and on the Think Property website**. Sale particulars should be available shortly from the agent.

THE HAWKINS TRUST

George Hawkins is buried in the churchyard at South Hill. The inscription on his tombstone says that he gave £5 each year to the poor of the parish. His legacy and other donations were used to buy 14 acres of land. The rental income from this land was distributed to the poor of the parish on Lady Day. The land was sold in 1966 and the proceeds invested.

The Trust's original established principle was that the income would be distributed to the "**labouring poor of the Parish**". At that time, in South Hill Parish, the labouring poor would have been agricultural workers. However, changes in agriculture over the last century have meant that we have far fewer farm workers. In recent years the income has been distributed to selected **pensioners**. It has also been the intention of the Trustees to keep a small fund available to help **any parishoner who has had a serious personal tragedy**.

The recent financial crisis and lower interest rates has meant that the income received from the investment is less than in recent years. Hopefully that situation won't continue for too long and maybe the Parish will one day have another benefactor with the generosity of George Hawkins.

From our Cornwall Council Representative

With the recent stormy weather and the darker nights thoughts turn towards Christmas and a new year. Travelling to Truro is less attractive at this time although the work of the new **Unitary Council** goes on apace and the reorganisation continues to see many changes.

Many will feel sad that the close relationship we all had at local level when Caradon existed has gone but steps are being taken to try and ensure that the voice of **communities in South East Cornwall** is not lost. The new **Community Network Areas** are evolving which will give an opportunity for the **Parish Council** to have a say in decisions which will affect you and to put forward initiatives which will be of benefit to South Hill.

The **Ofsted report** which was highly critical of the children's safeguarding issues is being addressed. The education standards improved overall but there were other matters which caused concern and there is a focus on improvement driven by a newly appointed, albeit temporary interim manager.

The **budget for next year** is being drawn up and a tightening of belts is going to be the order of the day. I will be looking to make sure that front line services which affect the most vulnerable are not prejudiced however. The continuing reduction in staff is producing the projected **savings** together with the reorganisation of services across the County.

My work on the **Waste Management Advisory Panel** continues to occupy a lot of time but is very interesting. A planning appeal against refusal of the single incinerator plant will be heard next March but the decision will not be made by the Secretary of State until much later in the year. It is vital that an alternative to landfill is developed if Cornwall is to avoid punitive taxes on dealing with our waste so alternative technologies are being examined.

May I wish you all a happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Cllr. John Turner

South Hill History Group

The history group has had a quiet few months due to other commitments on the part of our small group of members, but we are still beaver away in the background finding out about and recording details of the history of our parish. In the New Year it is hoped to begin work on **compiling a local archive** listing the documentary and other evidence available, with transcripts wherever possible. This will be an enormous and ongoing task and anyone who thinks they might be interested would be very welcome to join us. **If you would like further information you can contact me via the website or on 382863.**

We are still working on recording **parish memories**, so if you haven't given us yours yet, please contact me.

Miranda Lawrance-Owen

A Medieval Christmas in South Hill

If you had lived in South Hill during the late fifteenth century, how would you have celebrated Christmas?



Almost everyone would have gone to midnight mass at St Sampson's, some trudging through the dark and muddy lanes for over a mile or more. What would the church have been like then? It had recently been enlarged by the addition of the south aisle and porch and its overall shape and size would have been much as we know it today. But as you entered the porch for the midnight mass on Christmas eve there would be no warm heating to welcome you in, no organ music and above all, of course, no electric lights. At Christmas, however, there would be more candles than usual and the church would be glowing with candlelight. It would have been full of Christmas scents too - greenery from the hedgerows: **holly, ivy and box** mingling with the usual scent of **incense and candles** - and probably helping to mask the more unpleasant smells which would have permeated the world of our medieval predecessors.

You might have had to stand throughout the service – we do not know when benches first appeared in St Sampson's, but it was probably towards the end of the fifteenth or early in the sixteenth century. Whether standing or sitting, the service itself would have been very different from services today. **Medieval mass required little or no contribution from the congregation**, who were largely spectators, separated from the priest and his clerk by an ornate wooden rood screen dividing the chancel from the nave. (St Sampson's rood screen probably disappeared about a hundred years later during the reformation) Instead of receiving communion you would have kissed the 'pax', a small ivory or metal disk engraved with a Christian symbol, which was brought round the congregation by the clerk. Apart from the extra candles and the greenery, Christmas Midnight Mass would have had no special features. Perhaps most strangely to us, there would have been **no carol singing in church**, either by priest or congregation. Although some of our traditional Christmas Carols were already in use at that time, such as '**On Christmas Night all Christians Sing**', the '**Coventry Carol**' or '**The Holly and the Ivy**' (and its variant the traditional **Cornish 'Sans Day' or St Day Carol**), carols in the fifteenth century weren't particularly religious songs and their singing was frequently accompanied by dancing, drunkenness and general merrymaking.

We can only make a guess about how the medieval folk of South Hill would have celebrated once back in their own homes and hamlets. Although the **Yule boar** was supposedly a common feature of medieval Christmas feasts, South Hill had no lord of the manor or 'Big House' and it is unlikely that large communal feasting would have taken place here. There might perhaps have been **carolling and dancing** in the various communities – there would probably have been a number of 'alehouses', but no Golberdon parish hall then (there probably wasn't much in Golberdon at all at that time). We don't know whether families would have celebrated together - presents weren't given until New Year's Day, and then usually only between certain people such as by a landlord to his tenants. The most important aspect of a medieval Christmas was probably "**Misrule**", an endless cycle of **tricks and jokes, drunkenness, promiscuity and gambling** which in some areas continued until **Twelfth Night** on 6th January. No doubt the folk of South Hill had their own versions of this, so if you find yourself grumping about some of the worst excesses of Christmas in the twenty first century, just be glad you're not living five hundred years ago.

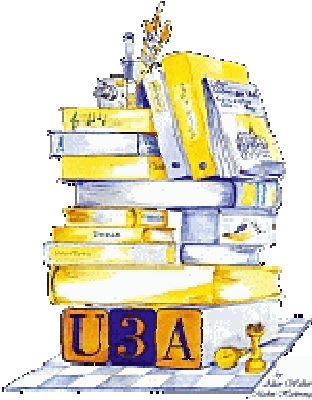


Happy Christmas 2009

ARE YOU OVER 55 AND RETIRED OR WORK PART TIME?

Callington might have the organisation for you.

CALLINGTON U3A



The Universities of the Third Age [U3A] in the United Kingdom are autonomous, self-help groups run by the voluntary efforts of their members.

All U3As are members of the **Third Age Trust** [a Registered Charity], which is their national support and advisory body. The word 'university' is used in its original sense of people coming together to share and pursue learning in all its forms

You are welcome to come along to one of our meetings and see what it's all about.

The Organisation meets at the **Town Hall in Callington from 10am on the first Monday of each month**. There is usually a talk and a brief business meeting. Coffee and tea are available with lots of chatting! A small annual subscription covers the cost

As well as this meeting, members organise **small group meetings and activities** for like minded people and these groups meet at least once a month at various times. If you joined every small group I think you could be out every day as there are **over 25 small groups**. The focus of interest is very diverse for these groups from table tennis to yoga, scrabble to play reading, bridge to allotment sharing, walking to family history research, French to jazz appreciation. **If you cannot find a group on your hobby then you can start one of your own**. To find out more about Callington U3A go to www.callingtonu3a.org.uk. I would recommend a trial visit as a guest one Monday to get to know what is on offer. There are over 100 members so the chances of extending your social groups and perhaps learning something new are great.

I belong to a few of the groups, which include walking, bird watching, local history, table tennis and researching my family history. On the last bird watching trip to Wadebridge we were overlooking the Camel Estuary on the opposite side to the Camel Trail looking at fantastic views of a kingfisher when we saw an otter! The warden of the Reserve came into the hide and started taking photographs. To see what we were watching go to www.adrianlangdon.com - the views of the otter are fantastic!



Jenny Poole

-- Advertisement --

Keadeen - Bed and Breakfast

A warm welcome awaits you at our home, situated on the outskirts of the village of Golberdon. The following facilities are offered to make your stay with us a comfortable and pleasant one:

- Ensuite room with TV and tea-making facilities
- Pleasant lounge with TV for relaxation
- Breakfast room with view of surrounding countryside
- Home cooking
- Child-friendly environment (Cot and high-chair available)

Roger & Geraldine Parkyn : Tel 01579 384197
e-mail gparkyn@tiscali.co.uk, website www.keadeen.co.uk



Wildlife In The Garden (Not the Beast of Bodmin!)



No garden is too small to provide for animal or plant needs. Wildlife gardening is one of the most rewarding things we can do, and it's a joy to see the birds awaiting their turn on the feeders, or the buddleia full of fluttering butterflies. My pampas grass attracted twenty or thirty **goldfinches** this year, all feeding off the seeds. I had never seen so many all at once. So I have been looking at the garden to see how I can improve things for wildlife.

We have to create a **rich habitat of trees and shrubs**, both evergreen and deciduous, and also flowers to provide insects, fruits, and seeds that the **birds** will eat. Trees that birds find appealing are: **crab apple, rowans, holly, and hawthorn** to name but a few, if you are lucky enough to have a large garden you could put in a **cedar, larch, willow, or oak**. The shrubs are all ones we know quite well: **berberis**, a thick prickly intruder proof hedge that attracts **butterflies and bees**; the berries are also a valuable winter food for the birds. Prickly hedges make excellent nest sites. The sweet scent of **pyracantha or honeysuckle** is irresistible to **butterflies**, and the red berries attract the birds. **Buddleia** is the best flowering plant for butterflies, and it attracts insect eating birds as well. **Ivy** provides dense cover for nesting birds, and they also eat the berries. **Dogwoods** are a rich source of nectar for bees, and fruit for the birds. **Lilac** provides cover for caterpillars and butterflies, it's also a good nesting shrub for the song birds.

If we feed the birds and make our gardens a good place to be, they in turn will eat some of our pests. I think that's a fair exchange! We can also help to attract **hedgehogs, toads, and frogs**, who in turn will eat the slugs and snails. Leave a pile of logs in a shady spot, where it remains cool and damp, add some dead leaves to it, and you are providing an excellent home for small mammals and insects. Hedgehogs are valuable as pest control, eating, earthworms, beetles, earwigs, slugs, millipedes and caterpillars. Toads on average eat 50-100 insects every night, and a frog will also eat insects and snails, so it is worth trying to do are best for them.



Consider turning over a small part of your garden to wild flowers. Even a small strip of lawn left uncut and planted with field scabious, moon daisies, lady smock, cowslips and ragged robin. There are lots of other to choose from. This would encourage the butterflies, the finches and linnets will feed off the seed, and other birds and bats will feed on the insects which fly above the wild flowers. Butterflies love candytuft, clover, cornflower, ladysmock, nicotiana, scabious, and teasel; the list is endless. Did you know butterflies smell and taste through their feet, and are the favourite food of wasps ?

To attract hoverfly, lacewings, and ladybirds, plant astrantia major, eryngium, anthemis tincture, cosmos white sensation, helianthus maximiliani, tagetes, coriander, dill, fennel, sedum, english lavender and ajuga reptans.

Hopefully we can all live with a little untidiness in the garden if it helps the wildlife. Don't cut all the seed heads off, leave some for the birds, and sweep some of the leaves under the hedge or leave them in a little corner of the garden. It will be helping small animals to stay alive, and they in turn will help keep the pests down, and make your garden a more interesting place to be.



B.J.Clemerson

-- Advertisement --

Seasons & Celebrations - Florist

Beautiful arrangements of flowers for any special occasion including:

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South Hill Connection Christmas Wordsearch

Below is a fiendishly difficult puzzle to distract you from your Christmas preparations!

There are 12 words hidden in the grid - 6 relating to Christmas festivities and 6 names of hamlets within the Parish of South Hill. They may be horizontal, diagonal or vertical, forwards or backwards!

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F U D T F O U O N K L T R D V A D B H P
Q B B G S I X F V Y I O M H X U U U W P
L P E R K S U V R E S I R S A N T A A X
S C X T Z F W W P J W H O A V M U N M P
C W V S T R E V I G R O B A C L W I I L
J P R Y J K O T R F N X H Q N I Y C N D
C E X T X M T S A C E Z M T B Q I Z C A
K Y B I N X E Y R E Q P D U R D V Y E H
K Y D A J I T E Q N L Q Z G A R L Q P O
B Z O O F P S W Q G L L K N Y Y C F I L
U B A J K M I U K C Y P Q H S I S H E L
J Q O G M Z Z N R C U X L V H L X G T Y
S R E D A M G L I D I S J V O M S V T Z
H P S T Y K H W D X N N Q A P E Z O M M
L O G K N W J I J R M N R J V K Z Y P J
U P K R W O N O H H V Z F O U D T F O U
O N T P Y G E K T R D V A D M B H P Q B
T R E W O O D L O E B G Y E K R U T S I
X F V Y I M H X U U U W P L P E R K S U
V R E S I A X S C X T Z F W W P J W H O
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Seasons Greetings from all at South Hill Connection!

