

## Time to say goodbye



Following their last service at St Mary's before leaving the Island, the members of the Bagg family, Marcus, Emily and Lydia, were presented with gifts from the congregations of St Mary's and St Olave's, Gatcombe. See story on page 5.

# Help needed...Help needed...Help needed

As life begins to move towards a new normal, we at the Parish News would like to be able to return to our usual delivery routine each month. However, there are some of those who have been regular delivery volunteers who are no longer able to help us. Some of those individuals have been delivering for us since Carisbrooke Parish News started in its current form, 17 years ago, and to those we are truly grateful, but the current situation means that we need to recruit new volunteers to take over some deliveries.

Could you help us?

Rounds take approximately 1 hour to complete at the end of each month for 10 months of the year (no delivery in July or December). More details can be obtained from our Delivery Coordinator, Anne Hewitt, on 528374 or by email to [carisbrookedonkey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carisbrookedonkey@hotmail.co.uk). Thank you!

## Invitation to pick free apples

AGAIN this year the owners of the Priory Farm, Bonnie and Tommy Thompson, have offered those living in the village the opportunity to pick apples from

the farm orchard. On weekends through September parish residents are invited to help themselves to apples, with the proviso, of course, that no damage

is caused to the trees or the ground around them. No special permission is required for these visits.

Bonnie and Tommy are always happy to give their apples away, but would

rather not have people wandering into the orchard without permission. If you live locally and wish to pick at a time other than those above, please knock on the door of the Farm House to ask before picking.

Over the past year work by the team led by Claire Draper from 'The Plant Shop' has carried on as the orchard is returned to its former glory. Claire has devised a 2-3 year programme of pruning for the fruit trees and plans for new hedges and fencing are underway.

As well as the work on the orchard Bonnie and Tommy are arranging for Claire and her team to clear the patch next to it, gradually bringing it to life as a wildflower meadow. We can all look forward to the results of this over the next few years!



The orchard has become more open as a result of the work done on it.

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# Thought for the month

Now that the parish of St Mary's Carisbrooke has ceased to exist and we officially have no clergy associated with us, our 'Thought for the Month' will be written by various members of the old parish. This month we hear from Richard Smout, one of the readers from St Mary's church. Readers are licensed by the Bishop of Portsmouth to preach, teach and lead worship as members of the laity, not ordained clergy, and the role is a voluntary one.

IF you look at school log books a century ago they are full of references to the pupils getting half days off school to go blackberrying. Extraordinary quantities of fruit were collected to help with the nation's health. They are still a treat that we look forward to each year. However, even when we have successfully avoided the thorns, the blackberries are surprisingly varied: some are exactly how we remembered from our childhood, full of flavour and a real treat. Others seem curiously bland and scarcely worth the effort. With other fruit we need to be careful, especially with the windfalls. What looks magnificent on top can be rotten below, or may already have been partially devoured by a wasp.

Jesus warned his followers to be on their guard about things that are not what they seem. It is not how people dress themselves up that matters. It is how they live their lives. "Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? .... A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit."

"The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of the evil treasure produces evil." The implication is that we should not take what we are told at face-value; we need to see whether it is borne out by people's actions and how they live their lives.

However, Christ does not give up on us. He does not give up on anyone. He chose to spend his time on earth with the flawed, not with the perfect, a lesson for all of us. We don't find him in some sort of holy self-righteous huddle. He tells us to look for him among those who have got things wrong and want to change. "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." So, if we want to find Christ, we are going to have to move out of our comfort zone.

*Richard Smout*

#### Contact details for the vicarage :

Carisbrooke Vicarage,  
56 Castle Road, Newport,  
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Tel: 718908

[www.carisbrookestmary.org.uk](http://www.carisbrookestmary.org.uk)



## St Mary's Church Carisbrooke

The Church of England is again allowing services to take place in church buildings with strict covid-safe measures in place.

At St Mary's these will take place at 9.30am on each Sunday morning in September. On 6th September this will be a communion service led by our Archdeacon, Peter Leonard, who is also interim team rector for the new parish of Newport and Carisbrooke. On other weeks the service will be non-eucharistic and will be led by Hannah Barraclough, curate to the new parish, Richard Smout and Ethne Whitlock.

Numbers at these services are restricted by social distancing requirements, and we have to keep a record of those who attend, so if you wish to attend please ring 07919 096838 in advance or email [carisbrookestmarys@gmail.com](mailto:carisbrookestmarys@gmail.com)

*St Mary's is open on Wednesday evenings from 5 to 5.30pm for private prayer and 5.30 to 6pm for evening prayer. No reservations are needed for this.*

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# Still a sense of community in Gunville

WE said last time that a lack of events doesn't mean the community ceases to exist. Restrictions can be very annoying, but can also bring a greater sense of appreciation of neighbours and those who provide services. As the traffic increases and we go out more, let's not forget those personal touches.



The flower tubs and baskets near the Methodist church are still looking colourful, but help with watering them would be greatly appreciated.

**Meetings and events:** The Methodist church plans to reopen for simplified services during September. At the time of writing, it is not clear when community activities may begin again: the regulations for places of worship and community facilities almost rival 'War and Peace' for length and complexity. We will keep you informed via this paper and our community notice boards.

**Nellie's:** Ursula Gray has been organising our coffee and chat afternoons for about 17 years, and also our annual lunches, but now needs to step down. We thank her for all her hard work and care for people in our community (and her cakes), and wish her all the best in her 'retirement'. Discussions are going on about the future of Nellie's or something similar, and we will let you know.

**Bench:** The bench commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE Day has been in place for a while now, and people have been using it and finding it comfortable as well as colourful. Thanks again to Councillor Terry Martin for getting it installed.

**Flowers:** The flowers and tubs around the Methodist church area have been thirsty during the hot spell. Thanks to the several people who have kept up the watering.

**Ash Lane:** Despite mixed local opinions, the new houses at the end of Ash Lane are progressing fast. The footpath is open while this continues, and the many local walking routes still await you.

Martin Cooper

## Mixed weather for June and July

### JUNE

After May's near-drought, June's rainfall was somewhat better, totalling 38mm for the month with 17 dry days, 10 wet days and 3 with just enough rain to measure. There were four wet spells, nearly equally spaced, the wettest being on 27th with 9mm and 30th with 8mm.

Afternoon temperatures were in the range 16C to 22C for most of the month except for two very warm spells, with 26C on the 1st and 2nd

and 26C, 29C and 30C on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th. Night-time temperatures gradually increased from 8C at the beginning of the month to 14C at the end. The mean minimum and maximum were 11C and 20C respectively.

### JULY

This month was comfortably warm until the last couple of days, with just a sprinkling of rainy days.

Afternoon temperatures were in the range 18C to 24C until the 30th and 31st, with two hot days of 25C

and 29C. Night-time was mainly in the region of 13C to 16C but clear skies brought the temperature down to 6C to 8C on three occasions. The mean minimum and maximum were 12C and 21C.

Rainfall was sporadic throughout the month with 23 dry days and only 8 wet days. In particular, 4mm fell on the 4th, 5mm on the 14th, and 4mm on the 27th, but the wettest day was on the 25th with 11mm. The total for the month was 29mm; rather lower than may have been expected.

John Sole

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# Farewell and thank you

IN the last couple of weeks, the congregation at St Mary's church have been saying a fond farewell to Marcus, Emily and Lydia Bagg, as our vicar and his family prepare to move north.

Marcus and Emily arrived in Carisbrooke, just married, in March 2011, Marcus having served his curacy in the city of Winchester. He was now taking on not one but two parishes and three churches as St Mary's with St Nicholas-in-Castro was to be held in plurality with St Olave's, Gatcombe.

In these nine years Marcus has been heavily involved in the life of the village; above all his role as vicar has given him pastoral care of the parish, responsible for the baptisms, marriages and burials in St Mary's. That would be enough for most people, but to this he has added a number of other roles: school governor (particularly at Carisbrooke Primary, but building links with some of the other schools in the parish), a trustee of the Castle Museum, and chairman of the trustees of this magazine. In the latter role, he took decisive action, to lead the successful campaign to put the magazine on a more sustainable financial footing a few years ago, recognizing the publication's importance to the community.

Emily has used her interests and talents for the good of the parish, setting up the local Society of Crocheters and Knitters (SOCKS) meetings at one of their favourite venues, The Eight Bells. For a number of years, she was at the heart of the organisation of the Wool Festival in the October half-term. In recent years she has served the wider church, being elected onto the General Synod, the national assembly of the Church of England, and now has been accepted for ordination training.

Lydia, now aged 6, has been a source of particular joy to our church community, as we have seen her flourish and her range of interests grow. She had regular commitments to playing Pooh Sticks at the Spring Lane ford after church, and to seeing the ring-tailed lemurs in Sandown, whenever there was an opportunity.

Being vicar of Carisbrooke has had its challenges, especially the need to balance so many roles fairly, and in



**Lydia enjoys one of her farewell presents from St Mary's congregation.**

more recent years all the uncertainties and anxiety caused by the re-organisation to the Anglican church in Newport and Carisbrooke. In all this Marcus has shown considerable resilience, and a determination to find out where the family is being called to next. Emily's acceptance as a trainee has opened up the chance of a move to Durham. This won't be Marcus' first spell in the north – he spent some time as a pharmacist in Blackpool before beginning his own training, which gave him a real insight into the lives of those less fortunate than himself.

We are grateful for the huge contribution that Marcus, Emily and Lydia have made during their time with us: for their fellowship, love and support, their ability to challenge us so that as a church community we are not tempted to stay still. All of this was laced with a self-deprecating sense of humour, which placed a lot of emphasis on chocolate, and the consumption of cake in Parson's Pantry. We hope that they will find plentiful supplies of both in their new home. We shall miss them greatly.

**Richard Smout**

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Life is very different for all of us since we have been in lockdown. At Gunville Methodist some of us are using technology to stay in touch and we are also producing a weekly news sheet to communicate and share thoughts and ideas. The snippets on the next 2 pages are recent communications from the news sheet:

*If you are self isolating and need help with picking up prescriptions, food deliveries etc. we may be able to help. Contact us via our website [www.gunville.org.uk](http://www.gunville.org.uk)*

**Listening for 10 minutes a day can help keep despondency at bay.**

**For encouragement and edification, check out the 'Food for Thought' min- talks by Rev Mike Pilavachi MBE and Rev Andy Croft on the Gunville Methodist website.**

**Recent subjects include:**  
**The power of words when we praise;**  
**The power of words when we admit our mistakes;**  
**The power of words when we affirm others.**

**A different talk is added each day.**

### Wise Quotes:

Realising that a tomato is fruit is knowledge. Knowing that it can go in a sandwich but not in a fruit salad is wisdom!

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to them.

(James 1v5)

If 50 million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.

(Anatole France)

### Points to ponder

The workshop of character is everyday life. The uneventful and commonplace hour is where the battle is lost or won. *Maltbie D Babcock*

The measure of a person's real character is what they would do if they knew they would never be found out. *Thomas Macaulay*

**Young people's groups:**

**RS 2 – school years 8-11**

**Mondays of term time @ 7-8:30.**

**Now meeting on line. Contact Ellie via our website at [www.gunville.org.uk](http://www.gunville.org.uk) for further details.**

**ROCK SOLID – school years 4-7. For details of activities contact Ellie as above.**

Boris impacted by "Sensational Song"

Last month the vicar and worship leader Tim Hughes was astonished to discover that he had been given an award by Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The PM's 'Points of Light' prize was given in recognition of The UK Blessing - a viral video sensation that featured Christians from various denominations. (You can **listen to and watch this on YouTube**)

In the citation, Johnson wrote how he had found Hughes' "sensational singing masterpiece" to be "truly uplifting", before praising the Birmingham-based pastor for bringing Christians together through the power of music.

"Obviously it's hugely encouraging to know that Boris Johnson listened to it and was impacted by it," Hughes said afterwards. "It's very special that the leader of our government, our country, was listening to this thing, which I think beautifully communicates and demonstrates the heart of the church."

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### A prayer for these times:

I thank you, O God, for the pleasures you have given me through my senses: for the glory of the thunder, for the mystery of music, the singing of birds and the laughter of children.

I thank you for the delights of colour, the awe of the sunset, the wild roses in the hedgerows, the smile of friendship.

I thank you for the sweetness of flowers and the scent of hay.  
Truly, O Lord, the earth is full of your riches.

After Edward King

### **Chuckle with Ken**

A man feared his wife Helen wasn't hearing as well as she used to, and he thought she might need a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family doctor to discuss the problem. The doctor told him that there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the doctor a better idea about her hearing loss. "Here's what you do," said the doctor. "Stand about 20 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone, see if she hears you. If not, go to 15 feet, then 10 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner with the door open and he is in the hall. He says to himself, "I'm about 20 feet away, let's see what happens." Then in a normal tone he asks, "Helen, what's for dinner?" No response.

So the husband moves closer to the kitchen, about 15 feet from his wife, and repeats, "Helen, what's for dinner?" .... Still no response.

Next he moves into the dining room which is about 10 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again he gets no response.

So he walks up to the kitchen door, about 5 feet away. "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again there is no response.

So he walks right up behind her "Helen, what's for dinner?"

"Frank, for the fifth time, CHICKEN."



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# Hidden danger at Priory Farm pond



THE pond at the Priory Farm has shrunk to such an extent this year that it has been necessary to put up a warning notice.

Despite the fact that the ducks are standing close by the board, the 'Deep water' warning is correct. A number of years ago, when the earth bank opposite the bungalows on Priory Farm Lane was created, the pond was dredged and a deep hole made in the centre. This is not usually a problem, but this year so much water has been lost that it could be very dangerous for any children wading at the edge of the water.

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# Looking forward to 2021

IN the past few years the Friends of Carisbrooke Church have built up a good community spirit as we have organised a variety of community events and raised funds towards the maintenance and upkeep of our Grade1 Listed church. It seems really strange not to have been able to meet up, to socialise, to have a chat – for this is the core of what we do. Sadly it is still not possible, due to social distancing, to restart our activities. We hope that in the coming month there will be a relaxation of the rules to enable us to restart, so that in the next edition we can have better news.

We thank you for your support in the past and look forward to your support in the future. We will have a bumper Carisbrooke Fete in 2021 and a fantastic Open Gardens Event!

**Peter Ednay**  
Friends of Carisbrooke Church

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# W.I.'s prize-winning bloom

IN the last issue we wrote about our effort to stay in touch with each other. By the end of August, with contributions from the members, our weekly Carisbrooke WI Newsletter will be edition 24!

One of our challenges has been to do all we can to complete our published 2020 programme of events and, as we can't yet meet in person, we've had to think of a "virtual twist" for as much as we can.

Each year we award several small trophies and our WI Silver



Photograph: Carisbrooke WI

The prize-winning bloom in the WI Silver Spoon competition.



Photograph: Carisbrooke WI

The silver spoon trophy presented each year.

Spoon would normally be competed for in July.

Our competition for this framed spoon is "A single bloom in a vase". This year members were asked to submit photographs of their entries. They ranged from the

thimble-tiny to the large and showy. The winner, chosen by members vote, was number nine-but not before a first tied vote from newsletter 18 led to a shortlist of five published in newsletter 19!

Sheila Hall

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# Blind witness triumphs

A NUMBER of Victorian photographs show individuals posing at the entrance to Carisbrooke Castle. These may look like snaps for a family album, but the vast majority of them were taken by itinerant photographers, who could make the lives of the nineteenth century tourist a misery. If you have run the gauntlet of aggressive souvenir sellers when holidaying in a tourist trap, it is worth remembering that something very similar was in operation on the Island a century and a half ago.

We know this because of a remarkable court case which was heard in Newport in the autumn of 1878. Albert Edward Neat accused John Raymond and Frank Rich of assault. The star witness for the prosecution, Henry Chambers, was blind, but his evidence was compelling. In effect this case is a stand-off between local pedlars, and some travelling salesmen from the mainland, with a very different code of ethics. Both Neat and Chambers lived in Carisbrooke, Neat earning a living as a dealer in sand art, but he also did some selling of his own photographs, which explains some of the tensions between the men.

Raymond and Rich were the authors of their own destruction. They were spotted by Neat short changing a Lady and a Gentleman who had just emerged from the castle. Raymond had bullied the visitors into having their photographs taken telling them that they would be charged only 1/6. He had given the wrong change and then refused to correct the error, saying that it was against his firm's policy to alter a receipt once issued. The couple had

paid three times what they were expecting. Neat stepped in to back up the couple, telling them to insist on their rights. For this "Rich immediately flew at me like a wild man and gave me a violent blow on the head". Neat and his attackers dodged back and forth around Chambers, and Neat used Chambers' stick to ward off the blows raining down on him.

Henry Chambers was stranded in the middle of this turmoil. He described himself as totally blind, but his evidence was devastating. He knew everyone present from their voices, and he could interpret all the sounds that he heard. "I heard some running or schuffling in a manner towards me. I heard a blow struck. I heard something fall. It sounded like a hat, but not like a hard hat. That was immediately after the blow." He describes the sound of Raymond spitting four times at Albert Neat. "I am enabled to say so because it was not more than 4 or 5 inches from my ear". It is also clear that the defendants did not regard Chambers as having any potential influence. For them he was a non-person. When Neat left the defendants discussed what had happened at length in Chambers' hearing, Raymond saying to Rich "You ought to have mugged him". The language Chambers said was disgusting.

The solicitor for Raymond and Rich was not a lot of use to his clients. He told the Magistrates that the incident illustrated the adage "He that in quarrel interposes will often get a bloody



*Photo courtesy of IW Record Office.*

**An old stereoscope print shows a visitor resting just inside the castle walls.**

nose." As a defence, it was not exactly impressive. The court recognised that the local men's business may have influenced their decision to intervene, but felt that it was hardly relevant to the case. Rich and Raymond were each fined £1 with six shillings costs. They had been brought to justice by the compelling evidence of the one man who could not see anything of what had happened, but who used his hearing to create a vivid image of what had taken place.

Henry Chambers would have been 37 when this happened, Neat was in his late twenties. They were still in the village at the time of the 1881 census and Henry Chambers and his wife Mary had taken in a lodger, Thomas McGrotty, the guide to Carisbrooke Castle soon to become famous as the custodian of the well house and its donkeys. Chambers was well-connected as well as observant.

**Richard Smout**

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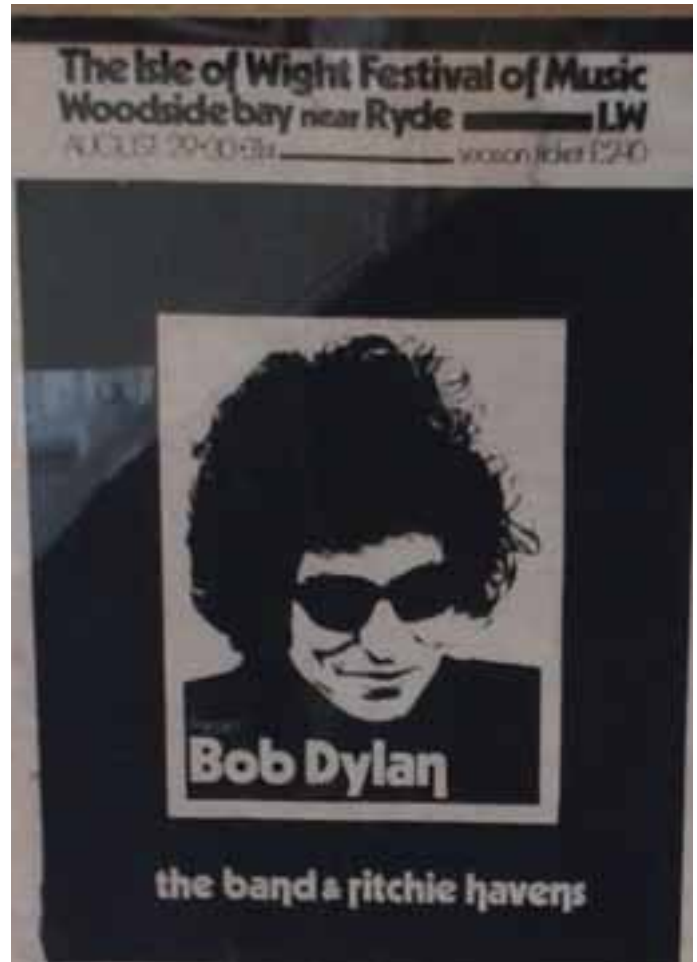


# Were you there 50 years ago?

If you have been thinking that this August has been busy on the Island, try casting your mind back 50 years, when a crowd estimated at 600,000 to 700,000 attended the 1970 Isle of Wight Pop Festival. The event took place on East Afton Farm, Freshwater from the 26th to the 31st August. East Afton had the advantage of being a wide open area, capable of hosting a huge number of music lovers. It had the disadvantage of being a windy location, which at times made the acts hard to hear, and of having Afton Down overlooking the site from the south. This meant that large numbers of people had no incentive to purchase tickets, but were able to see what was going on, and (at times) make their presence felt.

Those performing are a roll call of some of the great names of the day: Procul Harum, Sly and the Family Stone, Joni Mitchell, Joan Baez, Leonard Cohen, Miles Davis, The Who, and most famous of all, Jimi Hendrix. The event caused huge controversy, and the Isle of Wight Act was passed the following year to prevent a repeat of what had happened. It limited overnight gatherings of more than 5,000 people without a licence from the County Council, and after 1970 it was a long time before that was going to be allowed. Those who were more sympathetic, like Rev Robert Bowyer, vicar of Brooke, who acted as "vicar" to the festival, were admired by many but regarded with incredulity by others. In one service on the site 500 of the attendees received communion from him. Robert Bowyer married two of the festival goers in Mottistone Church. Allen Desmond Funnell and Carol Ann Kelly held their wedding in the same church that saw the wedding of Benedict Cumberbatch and Sophie Hunter 45 years later. It was the first wedding in that church since 1964.

Although emphasis is sometimes placed on what went wrong at the Festival it is an iconic week in the Island's history and raised the profile of the Isle of Wight around the globe. Perhaps the most extraordinary element in the whole story is how last minute many of the arrangements were. For a long time this was an event without a venue. At one stage Seaview was suggested, which did not go down well with the residents. For much of July plans were being considered to hold the event near the junction of Staplers Road and Blackland Road opposite what is now Monkey Haven. On the 29th July the Isle of Wight Rural District Council said that it was now "almost certain" that



Photograph: Marilyn Hartwell

**The previous year's concert, held at Woodside Bay, featured Bob Dylan as the headline act. Like the 1970 festival it ran for 3 days, from 29th to 31st August, with Dylan appearing on the Sunday evening. If you had been able to attend that concert the ticket would have cost you £2.**

the festival will be held in the Rural District. So Afton was only chosen a few weeks ahead of the opening day. For those festival goers who arrived in Ryde it was quite a trek.

Did you go to the 1970 Festival? Were you keen to go, but had your pleas turned down? What was it like living in Carisbrooke as so many thousands of festival goers passed through the village? We would love to hear more from you.

**Richard Smout**

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AS I have taken my exercise walks around the village over the past few months, several of the friends I have met have expressed pleasure at the enforced slower pace of life many of us have been experiencing. It has given us time to watch the ducklings grow on the farm pond, the hedgerows turn green, the flowers change from the yellows and whites of spring to the hotter colours of summer, and gradually the fruits of autumn to appear in our gardens and the hedges beside the fields.

It has brought to mind a poem I learnt from one of my teachers when I attended the junior school at the top of School Lane. It was written by the Welsh poet W H Davies and first published towards the beginning of the last century as a warning against the hectic pace of modern life.

Perhaps we would do well to heed it today.

**Brenda Hall**

#### NEXT COPY DATE

FRIDAY, 11th September is the copy date for the October issue. If you would like to contribute news or an article please contact the editor, Brenda Hall, on tel: 520666, or send an e-mail to [carisbrooke.editor@aim.com](mailto:carisbrooke.editor@aim.com)

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### Leisure

*What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.*

*No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.*

*No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.*

*No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.*

*No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.*

*No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.*

*A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.*

**W H Davies**

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