

## Litton Cheney Newspaper Articles 1969-Present

### **11.4.2001**

Thorner's School in Litton Cheney has been praised by Ofsted inspectors for being an effective school providing value for money, with a 'culture of care' through-out that helps prepare pupils for the wider world. Governors' chairman Geoff Truscott said: "This is a good Ofsted report and credit must be shared, not only with staff, governors and helpers, but also the pupils and parents, who all contribute to make this school so successful". Head teacher Alison Johnstone said she was delighted that the report recognised that the good teaching and learning at the school. She said: "Ofsted highlighted four areas for improvement, none of which came as a surprise as all of them were already under review by staff and governors. Prior to the inspection we had already started to investigate ways which we could expand our assessment procedures beyond literacy and numeracy, particularly in science. At the time of my appointment, just about two years ago now, it was acknowledged that there was a lack of ICT staff subject knowledge and high quality software and hardware throughout the school".

The school has bought new computers and registered for funding and training for staff with the New Opportunities Fund. The training will take a year. Ofsted inspectors praised the good teaching and leadership, highlighting achievements in mathematics and physical education which were above average. They said there was good provision for pupils with special educational needs. The report said that standards in communication technology were below those expected and the time spent on science below national recommended guidelines with results in science for higher attaining pupils not as good as they should be.

The report says: "The school's strengths far outweigh its weaknesses. Thorner's is an effective school. The pupils behave well in lessons, around the school and in the playground".

### **30.1.2004**

#### **Snow brings chaos to West Dorset roads**

The snowstorm on Wednesday night combined with high winds caused traffic chaos in West Dorset with several incidents being reported to police.

Two lorries jackknifed on the A35 within minutes of each other. The first on the eastbound carriageway near the Litton Cheney turning completely blocked the carriageway at 8.15pm. Ambulance attended but there were only minor injuries.

In the end six vehicles were involved. Police closed the road at the Compton Abbas turning. The lorry was an Iveco Ford registered to a Sussex company. The road was cleared by 11.15pm. In a separate incident another lorry jackknifed by the Long Bredy turning at 8.25pm. Police were notified by the fire service.

Four vehicles were involved in an accident on the A35 westbound carriageway just before the Shipton Gorge exit at 6.45pm. A tree blocked the northbound carriageway on the B3162 outside New Close Farm near Salway Ash at 6.35pm and two trees blocked the road outside Stoke Abbott Fruit Farm near Beaminster just after 6.30pm. Another tree was reported down on the Mosterton to Cheddington road just before 7.30pm and two trees came down between Litton Cheney and Burton Bradstock just after 8pm. A woman was shaken but unhurt when her Vauxhall Nova overturned on the Mosterton side of Beaminster Tunnel at 9.30pm. The road was cleared by 11.15pm. Thorner's School in Litton Cheney was closed on Thursday and 15 bus companies were not running any services.

### **9.3.2007**

Mildred Trenchard passed away peacefully at Whiteway House Nursing Home, on 7th March 2007, aged 84 years, formerly of Charity Farm, Litton Cheney. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. The funeral service will take place at St Mary's Church, Litton Cheney on Thursday 15th March at 12 Noon, followed by interment.

### **22.1.2008**



It takes a great deal of self-belief and determination to set up a new business at the age of 61 but, for Simone Verbeeck-Heard, of Litton Cheney, near Dorchester, the challenge proved irresistible. Mrs Verbeeck-Heard is principal of Nouvelle Ecole de Français, which offers French language tuition, not in the traditional classroom but via the very latest professional video-conferencing technology. It's all done from her home. Corporate clients and, in particular, the legal profession, are her main target markets.

Mrs Verbeeck-Heard was born in London but is a French speaker as a result of being brought up in Belgium. She qualified to teach French as a foreign language at the Alliance Française of Paris and then became director of the exclusive Ecole de France in the Flemish town of Tienen, Belgium, which under her guidance built a reputation for excellence. Ten years ago, she 'retired' to Dorset.

Mrs Verbeeck-Heard said: "I suppose that after a while I became a little bit bored, I began to develop the idea for a new English version of Ecole de France, at the same time deciding I needed to master new technologies for use at the school. It took a while for me to find suitable hardware and at a price I could afford. Eventually, however, I made the decision to invest around £15,000 in top-of-the-range professional video-conferencing equipment. It means that students and teacher are united by means of a real-time link - very much like a live' classroom - and have opportunities for discussion of subject matter. An additional advantage is that every lesson can be stored on any memory device, which is ideal for revision purposes and really does help the rapid development of language competence".

Mrs Verbeeck-Heard's enthusiasm for technology goes back 40 years to when she made amateur movies using a variety of cameras. Then she graduated to the first video camcorder. She said: "In the classroom, I filmed my students to help them overcome shyness when expressing themselves in French. In other words, I was using this technique long before it became fashionable."

During her career, Mrs Verbeeck-Heard worked in the legal profession. It is why she believes that people working for law firms - which like any businesses becoming increasingly 'international' - can benefit from lessons at Nouvelle Ecole de Français. Mrs Verbeeck-Heard said: "Of course, there are many language schools that teach French, but French which incorporates the special 'language' of the legal profession is very different. That is one of my specialities. I can also teach 'Français commercial' and a subject that could be of particular relevance in Dorset - Français du Tourisme".

Mrs Verbeeck-Heard is very grateful to Business Link for the support she received in developing Nouvelle Ecole de Français. This involved computer technology and creation of her business plan as well as marketing strategies. She added: "I think Business Link showed a lot of patience in understanding the mind of someone who is academically inclined rather than having a business mind!"

**11.4.2008**



**Charlie Trott, Pearl Trott and Edward Stone at St Mary's Church**

Villagers are up in arms over plans to demolish their church hall and put a car park over part of the graveyard. Litton Cheney residents have reacted strongly to plans for a car park for St Mary's Church, a Grade I listed building that have been submitted to West Dorset District Council.

John Randall has lived in Litton Cheney for 27 years and says the plans for a car park at the church, parts of which were built in the 14th century, have caused outrage in the village. He said: "I am very much against what they are doing. People have been going up to that church for 500 years and they have not worried about it before. They are going to knock the church hall down to be able to do it and widen a foot path to a Tarmac road. They intend to put the road right up to within a foot or 18 inches of the old 15th century tower. I'm very concerned about what could happened with the vibrations."

Mr Randall added: "This is a lovely old church that a lot of people come to see from all over the country. This is the biggest upset there has been in the village in all the time I have been here."

Edward Stone, who lives in a cottage right next to the church, said: "I'm very upset about it, I don't like the idea of churchyards having Tarmac. Apart from the beauty of the thing, you will also have

problems with the water running off it and things like that." Many of the villagers have submitted representations to planners in response to notice of the planning application on West Dorset District Council's website. James Davey used to live at Looke Farm, just outside Litton Cheney, for five years and moved to Kent last year. He said: "I was talking to people who still live in the village and I was quite surprised at the strength of feeling. But we are talking about people who were christened there, married there and had family buried there." In a letter to the planning officer in the case Mr Davey wrote: "A church has no right to a car park. It is not their business to desecrate monuments that we leave in their trust just to suit modern convenience, their business is to save souls." Chairman of the Parish Council and church warden Freddie Spicer said that the church needs to improve access and the old church hall was becoming too expensive to maintain. He said: "The Parochial Church Council has taken the view that the answer is to demolish the old hall to provide a way into the churchyard and to widen the existing tarmac path to provide sufficient access." Mr Spicer added: "Those people who use the church and tend to the church are all for it.

"It's only people who seem to have nothing to do with the church who seem to be against it."

### **20.7.2008**

VILLAGERS today hailed the signing of a new deal to build a long awaited community hall. Builder CG Fry & Son has been awarded the contract to build the £400,000 hall in Litton Cheney. The breakthrough comes after decades of campaigning by villagers for a new hall. They hope the new centre, which will be built next to Thorner's School, will open next spring.

Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) chairman Ron Davidson said: "We are delighted that after all this time, we are in a position to start work. "The village has never had a proper village or community hall. It is something that has been the goal of many people in the village for many years and we are delighted that this will now be achieved." Enough money has been raised to start work with extra help from the Salisbury Diocese, councils and grants.

Mr Davidson added: "The hall, now costing in the region of £400,000 before fees and furnishings are taken into account, will provide an activity centre for the village's many interest groups who have had to make do with a dilapidated, now condemned, church hall, the village school and private homes in which to hold their meetings." Pupils from Thorners School will be able to use the hall for sports and activities.

Litton-Cheney-based CG Fry & Son bid for the contract against other contractors. Managing director Philip Fry said "We are delighted to have been chosen for the construction of the new hall. "Our family and business has been associated with Litton Cheney for generations and it will be great to help to provide this much needed community facility." LATCH is stepping up its fundraising - including a concert on Saturday July 19. Mr Davidson said: "We are continuing our fundraising in order that we can furnish the hall in readiness for a myriad of activities so we will still be knocking on people's doors hoping they will give generously. We have even compiled a pick your own list so that people can choose what item their donation goes towards. We are delighted that C G Fry & Son will be carrying out the work, although they had to compete for the contract alongside several other local companies."

### **7.3.2009**

Villagers told of their shock after it emerged that a wealthy Dorset couple were helped to die at a voluntary euthanasia centre in Switzerland. Peter Duff, 80, and his wife Penelope, 70, were both suffering from terminal cancer and decided to end their lives in a suicide pact at the Dignitas clinic. The couple are the former owners of Islington House in Puddletown and although they moved to Bath about 12 years ago they were regular visitors to Dorset, staying at their holiday home in Litton Cheney. Mr and Mrs Duff apparently told friends they were moving back to Dorset to spend their final days – but instead travelled to Switzerland. They were only the second British man and wife to commit suicide at the clinic.

It is understood Mrs Duff, who was known as Penny, had been given the all-clear from cancer but had suffered a relapse. Retired wine merchant Mr Duff had cared for his wife until he too was diagnosed. Neighbours confirmed Mr and Mrs Duff had a property in The Paddocks at Litton Cheney. The property is a large detached stone cottage commanding stunning views of the Bride Valley.

### **27.11.2009**

GERALD CUZENS Died peacefully on 18th November at Rush Court, Wallingford, Oxon, aged 91 years. Formerly of Manor Farm, Litton Cheney. Funeral Service will be held at St Mary's Church, Litton Cheney on Wednesday 2nd December at 11.30am. He leaves behind daughters Ann and Jenny, son Richard and ten grandchildren.

### **3.1.2012**

The 64-year-old, named locally as Bruce Davies, is believed to have injured himself falling into the stream in Litton Cheney, after leaving the White Horse pub in the early hours of New Year's Day. He was not found until 9.15am the next morning. Mr Davies is believed to have been involved in a car accident earlier that evening in the village.

PC Rhiannon Stroud, who is investigating the collision, said: "We are appealing for witnesses to two incidents, which may be connected. The first was a road traffic collision, which happened at 7.15pm on Saturday, December 31, on the White Way Hill junction with the main road through the village. This involved a blue Honda Prelude. "The second took place in the early hours of Sunday morning and involved a man falling into the stream which runs parallel to the road, near to where the first incident took place. The man has been taken to Dorset County Hospital with serious injuries, where he is in intensive care."

Villagers were shocked at the news. Cassie Williamson, landlady of the White Horse pub, said: "We're all absolutely horrified. He lives with his son, who was away for the night. He saw in the New Year with us and left just after midnight. The worst thing is, people who left later must have walked past him, but it's so dark in the village they wouldn't have seen him." Sarah Wood, of Manor Farm Close, said: "This is a sleepy little place, nothing ever happens here." A neighbour of Mr Davies, who did not want to be named, said: "Everyone knows him around here. He's a well-known chap. It's really shocking." Steve Kourik, chairman of Litton Cheney Parish Council, said it isn't the first time someone has gone into the stream, which runs around the village. "Lots of people fall into it," he said. "Usually it is not quite as serious as this. It could really have had quite tragic consequences."

**31.1.2012**



It was love at first sight for Tom and Norma Foot from Long Bredy when they met at Young Farmers' Club as teenager. Tom was 18 and Norma was 16 – and as they celebrate their diamond wedding they say there's never been any doubt in either of their minds that the marriage was for life. Mr Foot said: "We met in the Askerswell and District Young Farmers' Club as it was known then. "First sight – that is how it happened and it has never been any different." Mr Foot's father farmed at Lower Coombe in Litton Cheney while Norma's father Sidney Walter Fry was at Manor Farm in Askerswell. Tom said: "We started courting immediately. It was a 10-mile rough track to her farm then. You couldn't pass on the road, you had to wait at the farm for the next vehicle to come in. The very first time I went there her father got out of the car with her brother-in-law and said: 'Come and meet your future brother-in-law'. I always teased him that he had it in for me but he was a lovely man".

Tom, who at 79 still keeps a few sheep to 'keep him out of mischief', says he never would have chosen to do anything but farm. He said: "If I had my life over again it would end up the same. We have the loveliest family that anyone could ever have. We had six children, four boys and two girls. If we had cross words it was soon over and done with. If you start carrying grudges then that can get bad."

**19.7.2012**



He might once have helped with the computers at Thorner's School in Litton Cheney but now Simon Nobes is working for Google as one of their 'trusted photographers'. It was this combination of technical capability and curiosity, combined with a love of photography that made Mr Nobes an ideal

candidate for the job which is based on Google Street View but aimed at businesses. He had already made something of a name for himself – and a business called PanoScope UK – with panoramic photography as anybody who saw his ‘Little Planets’ exhibition at Dorset County Hospital in 2010 will know. So, when Google expanded its idea for business photos from America to the UK, the job seemed tailor made.

He has always been a keen, if not spectacularly successful, photographer, but with the advent of digital cameras and the discovery of 360 degree photography his life took a new direction. He said: “This was something special – taking home a whole scene; left, right, front, back, even up and down. I’m not claiming any credit for discovering the technology – it almost found me. Suddenly I had the ‘wow how did you do that?’ experience which, with the help of some inspirational friends, has developed beyond a hobby into a business. There’s a lot gone into this – over two years of research, testing, development and hard graft. But we all love doing it.”

And it was thanks to that work that he was able to impress Google executives who after successful trials in shopping malls, cafes and restaurants in America decided to expand the idea into Europe. Mr Nobes said: “I was selected because of the work that is currently on show on the PanoScope website and I am one of about 150 photographers actively selling the service in the UK. In the trial they found it was very useful because people could see what sort of atmosphere there was in a pub and they could even go as far as choosing the table when they rang for a booking in a restaurant”.

Mr Nobes set up London Business Photos but despite the name will principally be working in West Dorset. He has already done a job for the Hive Beach Café’s The Watchhouse on West Bay. He added: “It is very exciting and there is huge potential for it. People won’t want to be left out. If you are a café and your biggest competitor has it done, you are going want to do it too.” The idea is that in much the same way as Google Streetview people can ‘walk’ around business on a virtual tour.

### **19.3.2013**

Sheila Mary Barnes dies peacefully after a long illness bravely borne on 14th March 2013, aged 61 years. Dinner lady and hairdresser. Beloved Wife of Keith, Mother of Jamie and the late Daniel, and Step-Mum to John. A much loved Daughter, Sister, Daughter-in-law and Sister-in-law. Sheila will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. A Service to Celebrate Sheila’s life will take place at St. Mary’s Church, Litton Cheney on Wednesday 27th March at 2.30p.m.

### **20.3.2013**



Villagers will be able to satisfy their curiosity about Litton Cheney’s answer to Grand Designs at the weekend when the Tithe Barn opens its doors to fund raise for the Weldmar Hospice. In the last two years the semi derelict barn, which was once a milking parlour and sheep barn, has been turned into luxury nine-bedroom accommodation. Refreshments will be on offer from 10.30am onwards on both Saturday and Sunday with donations for the hospice gratefully received in memory of popular villager Sheila Barnes who recently lost her fight against cancer.

### **22.5.2013**

Veronica Kingston died peacefully on 19th May 2013 at Dorset County Hospital, aged 76 years. Beloved wife of Bill, much loved mother of John, David and Marion, devoted grandmother of John, Ryan, William and Nick. Private Cremation will be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary’s Church, Litton Cheney on Wednesday 29th May at 2.00 pm.

### **29.8.2013**

Kenneth Armitage died peacefully at Somerleigh Court Nursing Home on 17th August 2013 after a long illness, aged 94 years. He will be sadly missed by family and friends. Service of Celebration at St. Mary’s Church, Litton Cheney on Friday 30th August at 3.00pm.

### **8.7.2014**

Thomas Charles (Charlie) Trott died peacefully at home on Saturday 28th June 2014, aged 91 years. Loving husband of Pearl and dad to Roslyn, Elizabeth, Michael & Alison. Funeral Service to take place at St Mary’s Church, Litton Cheney on Monday 14th July at 11.00 am.

### **10.12.2014**



Reuben Kingston finished fourth at the National Junior Indoor Championships at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry. In a very competitive under-14 recurve section, the Bride Valley archer who lives in Litton Cheney, was placed just one point off third spot and four points behind the winner. His score of 549 for the Portsmouth round was a county and regional record. Although disappointed not to win the national title, he received other good news. He has been invited to a selection event at Lilleshall National Sports Centre to choose an England Cadet (under-17) team for the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa. He also won the under-14 section of the Summer Metrics, a National Postal competition run by Archery GB.

**9.10.2015**



Litton Cheney organist and choirmaster, Paul Cheater, has been appointed Principal of the National College of Music and Arts, London, following the unexpected death of the former principal Eric Hayward.

The college was founded in 1894 and is a music examination board, offering music examinations of all kinds, from the most basic to the advanced diplomas of Associate, Licentiate and Fellow. It is represented throughout the United Kingdom and in many other countries, from other parts of Europe to the Far East.

Mr Cheater said he was honoured. He said: "I am delighted to be able to do it. It is a great pleasure and a great privilege." His appointment is the culmination of a distinguished career. He added: "I was inspired when I was at schoolboy of 15 or 16 by a teacher called Roger Pope who became warden of Trinity College of Music. "I just wanted to be able to play and be as much of a musician as he was. I studied the organ at Oxford and I have had a wonderful musical career ever since. I have been able to play in cathedrals all over the world and give recitals, it has just been terrific."

The National College of Music and Arts has a strong association with the Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul, which provides a general and musical education for Afghan children between the ages of seven and 19, many of whom have been orphaned as a result of the ravages of war. Mr Cheater was one of the institute's founders, and it was he who designed its original music curriculum. He studied the organ at Oxford's University College and was elected as an Honorary Fellow of the National College of Music and Arts in 2003.

He said: "I have been involved with it since 2003 as part of the management team. Then my predecessor Eric Hayward who was the principal for many years since the 1970s passed away very unexpectedly. "It was always his stated wish that I should take over from him when he did pass away".

**4.1.2017**

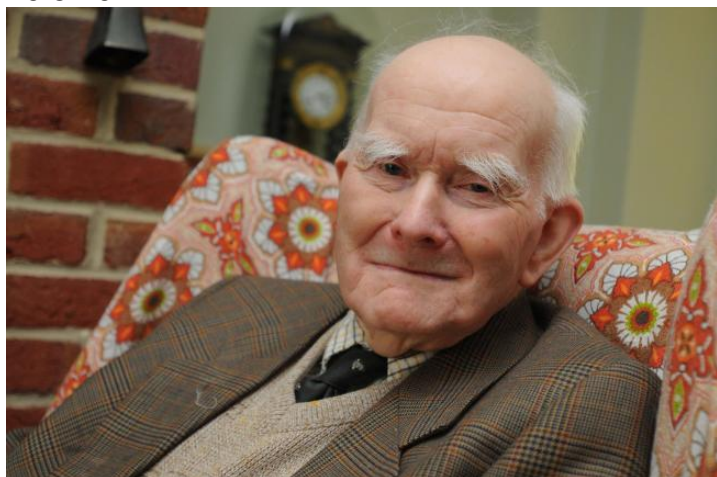
Villagers are celebrating after bells rang out across the Bride Valley after a two-year restoration project was completed. The bells at St Mary's Church in Litton Cheney have been returned and installed

following the community-funded project. St Mary's Church's sixth bell, dating from 1656, and the eighth or tenor bell from 1470, required major surgery. The cost was estimated to be around £20,000 and in the two years since the restoration appeal started, villagers have raised funding.

In September, the bells were removed by John Taylor and Co of Loughborough before being re-installed last month (Dec). Restoration project manager John Salvetti, said: "In early October we received confirmation that there was a crack in the number six bell so the bell foundry had to send the bell off for specialist welding at Soundweld in Newmarket. After additional renovation work, both bells arrived back in Litton Cheney on December 15 and the installation and refurbishment work was completed on Friday, December 23." He added: "The main cause for concern we had was how we were going to get the bells up the path to the church. To the rescue came Richard Hart of G & R General Builders Ltd. Richard had helped us to load the bells onto the transport lorry when they were taken out in September. This time he provided the machinery, not just to lift the bells off the lorry but also to push them up the path to the church – a task which would have required many more people than we had, if it had been done manually".

Six other bells at the church were also due to be serviced. All of the runners and bearings were checked, while maintenance took place on the clappers. Mr Salvetti added: "We had asked John Taylor to complete the work by Christmas so that we could ring for the festive ringing. The work was finished at lunchtime on Friday, December 23. The ringers rang all the bells in the morning of Christmas Eve and declared all was well. The band returned to the tower at 11pm to ring for the midnight service."

**20.3.2017**



The church in Litton Cheney was full to overflowing for the funeral of John Randall last week. The 92-year-old was to 'go-to' man for anyone wanting advice on his twin passions - sheep and heavy horses. His expertise got him TV and radio appearances and meetings with Royalty and legions of friends. Long-time friend Robin Barbour gave the address with help from Mr Randall's family. Mr Barbour said: "What struck one most was the quizzical twinkle in his eyes and the amazing high polish on his brown gaiters and boots. John would be about to get into his white van which was not as well polished as his boots and gaiters. This contained all that he needed for his journey whether it was to London, to judge at a show, visit a market, give advice or any of the thousand and one other matters associated with sheep or heavy horses. "John was generous with his time and enjoyed talking and explaining his twin loves of heavy horses and sheep to anybody ensuring that his expertise was passed on. This was the same approach he used whether he was talking to the Queen, Prince Philip, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, The chairman of Young's Brewery or the Colonel of the Dorset Yeomanry. He would always talk to the young be they at the ring side of a show, the village fete or when he ran his legendary lamb roast barbecue. He was at peace with the world - not afraid to express his opinion and very willing to listen to yours and then tell you that you were wrong."

Mr Randall was born at Beckington, a village to the north of Frome, in Somerset. His father Richard was a carpenter, wheelwright and undertaker, his mother Martha a cheesemaker. He was educated at Beckington Primary and then at Frome Grammar School where he excelled at cricket and kept wicket for both the school and village teams. At an early age he showed a keen interest in farming, working holidays and weekends for a local dairy farmer. He left school at 15 and moved to Salway Ash to be with his uncle Bert and aunt Rose who had Cursey Farm. This was where John's passion for sheep started. A neighbour, Percy Warren, had a flock of Dorset Horns. It was here too that Mr Randall met Dorothy and romance blossomed. John had a car but, so that he could take Dorothy out, he need extra cash and this came from rabbiting. Mr Barbour added: "No rabbit was safe. One Boxing Day he and a mate went to Colmer's Hill and after 52 shots between them returned with 53 rabbits. The dog caught one."

In 1951 John and Dorothy were married at Netherbury Church and the following year David arrived followed three years later by Russell. Heavy horses were also a passion and he at one time looked after a show team of Shire horses, breeding, breaking and showing the horses and very narrowly missing out on qualifying for the Horse of the Year Show at Olympia in London a couple of times. In 1982 John moved to Litton Cheney and worked for himself contract sheering, trimming and whatever else he was called to do. About a year after his move, while in conversation with Walt Borough, he said that it would take five years to start a flock and breed a champion. So the gauntlet was down. He bought five ewes, rented a few acres and started the Bride Valley flock of pedigree Dorset Down Sheep and, during the fifth year, he won a championship prize was won. By this time grandchildren were on the scene and all were roped in to help whether they wanted to or not. John carried on shepherding for many years and eventually gave up in 2003 but he did not lose his love and enthusiasm for sheep. He carried on with the Dorset Downs Sheep Breeders Association, helping to organise the annual breed show and as a committee member until 2015.

Over the years John achieved many things of which he was proud. He met most of the Royal Family. He was presented to the Queen. He met the Duke of Edinburgh and The Prince of Wales many times. He served on the Royal Smithfield Show committee with the Princess Royal as President. Mr Randall had a long association with Young's Brewery in Wandsworth because its mascot was a Dorset Horn ram called Ramrod who had to be trimmed several times a year to keep him looking good. This meant regular visits to the brewery and these always ended in the sample room. At Christmas he would take a ewe and lambs to the Brewery for their Christmas crib which raised money for the local children's home. He also had a close relationship with the Dorset Yeomanry who are now the Wessex Rifles whose mascot was also a Dorset Horn ram.

Mr Randall served on various judging panels and judged at many of the major and minor shows both as a breed and an interbreed judge. Dorset Down Sheep were his overriding passion and over the years he won countless prizes. Mr Randall wrote two books and made a video on how to show sheep and how to trim their feet. He appeared on television including with Chris Evans on Zig and Zag. Mr Barbour said: "John will be remembered for the help and advice he gave to many to help them on their way in the sheep world, and of course his britches and highly polished boots and leggings lovingly prepared for him by Dorothy. Finally John enjoyed an ample dram whenever the occasion arose."

**20.5.2018**



After waiting more than a decade, children are now able to enjoy their new village playground. It took a while, but for children in Litton Cheney the wait was 'worth it' when a new playground in the village playing field was unveiled.

A children's playground was first established within the village playing field in 1988. It was updated and modernised in 2007 and, following its recent reincarnation, it has become an instant hit with the youngsters of the village and their visiting friends. The idea of updating, and adding to, the play equipment plus fencing it in had been mooted a couple of years ago but the pace of progress quickened when a team, headed by parish councillor Andrew King and assisted by villagers Diana Cheater and Hannah Bunting, began to get to grips with the needs, necessary funding and sourcing the appropriate play equipment.

Cllr King said the plan was to improve the playground and playing field and create a space that can be used by the whole community, especially children and families. The equipment came courtesy of Damers First School in Dorchester after it moved to new premises in Poundbury. The equipment was refurbished ready to be relocated and Andrew and his team sought funding in order to finance the purchase and the physical setting up of the playground.

With the help of a Big Lottery Fund donation, S106 monies and The Litton Cheney Trust social committee, fundraising at various events in the village including a variety show, village supper and wine auction plus several private donations, the required amount was achieved. The wet winter pushed back the scheduled opening of April/May, but villagers finally got their new playground on May 8. Children,



parents and local residents gathered for its official opening, with several children helping parish council chairman Bill Orchard cut the ribbon.

**8.3.2018**

PATERSON. Peggy passed away peacefully at Dorset County Hospital on the 19th February 2018, aged 92 years. Loving wife of the late Andrew. She will be dearly missed by her nephews, family and friends. Funeral Service to be held at St. Mary's Church, Litton Cheney on Friday 16th March at 12:30pm, followed by a private cremation.

**8.6.2018**

KINGSTON. Bill passed away peacefully on 30th May 2018 at Dorset County Hospital aged 87 years. Husband of the late Veronica, father of John, David and Marion, grandfather of William, Nick, John and Ryan. Private cremation will be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Litton Cheney on Friday 15th June at 12 noon.