

**ST WEONARDS, GARWAY, ORCOP,
PENCOYD,
TRETIRE, MICHAELCHURCH, HENTLAND
AND HOARWITHY
PARISH NEWS
OCTOBER 2020**



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Magazine News

Welcome back to the online version of the hard copy magazine! We are most grateful to Diane Williams and her team of willing helpers (only six) who offered to collate the magazine, and to our distributors who ensure that they are delivered in the usual way. Although new restrictions are in place, it is good that we can now share worship in our churches as well as enjoying our Zoom and Youtube services. Please see the middle of the magazine for services.

Please remember that we value your contributions on topics that interest you, so please keep writing. This month we have an article from Australia. We are most grateful for John Pullen's *Nature Notes* which he has written for many years. As he is on the move, John and Meg Oubridge have generously agreed for future issues to provide us with some nature notes. **Fiona Mynors**

Hello Everyone

Covid19 is certainly putting a strain on our church resources and challenging our adaptability. Many people have enjoyed the zoom services and the services on Youtube and there's been a real sense of sharing together as a benefice through those occasions. But we know that those events also exclude some people who are unable, or don't wish, to join in worship in that way. So it's good that we've been able to hold some services in our church buildings over recent weeks. We hope that we will be able to build up our services in churches over the coming weeks and so recreate a regular monthly pattern of worship, which will continue to incorporate some zoom and Youtube services.

It's been a testing six months for us all – our movements have been restricted and our trips to cinema, music events, theatre, cafes and restaurants, holidays etc have been curtailed. Our attendance at church services has diminished, as have church weddings, funerals etc, and so it's been a testing time for our churches too – particularly in regard to finance. Helped hugely by Frances' energy and enthusiasm we've been able to provide meaningful alternatives to worshipping in church. However, it's not so easy for us to talk about money.

On 20th September the diocese is holding a Gift-day, which serves to highlight the precarious financial position of each of our churches. As a way of participating in and contributing to that Gift-day may I encourage all of you to glance through your bank statements, see what money has been saved during the months of social and entertainment restrictions, and then ponder whether any of that financial saving might be offered to the churches of the benefice as a contribution towards the Gift-day.

Covid19 will most probably have made some permanent changes to how our world and our society operates and probably also to how our places of worship operate. We hope that in the midst of those changes our churches will survive as places of Christian worship into the future.

Details of church treasurers are below for those who would like to make a contribution.

With best wishes, **Elizabeth**

Our parish treasurers

Garway: Nigel Deeley. nigel.deeley@btinternet.com

Hentland and Hoarwithy: Robin Symonds. robin.symonds@btinternet.com

Orcop: Julia Garlick juliagarlick@btconnect.com 01981 580 515

St Weonards: Stephen Herbert stweonardspcc@gmail.com

Tretire and Pencoyd: Peter Everall (temporarily)
ple4648@btinternet.com

From the registers:

The wedding of **Bill Sparey & Cheryl Warren** took place on 29th August in Garway Church

The wedding of **Ian Baker & Sarah Sayce** took place on 5th September at Orcop Church.

We wish **Bill & Cheryl** and **Ian & Sarah** every blessing and happiness in their new life together.

The baptism of **Buffy Frances Elizabeth Sparey** took place on 29th August in Garway Church. We welcome Buffy into the Christian family and pray for God's blessing.

The funeral service for **Elizabeth Anne Bayley** took place at Hereford Crematorium on 24th August. We give thanks for Anne's life and pray for peace and comfort for her family and friends.



All Souls service

On November 1st we will be holding our All Souls service, when we pause to remember those people dear to us who have died.

Usually this service is held in St Weonards church, with readings and hymns, and we read out the names of those we have lost, and have the chance to light a candle in their memory.

This year, as with so many things, we need to adapt to the risks which the Covid virus brings. We have decided to hold the event on You-tube, with a pre-recorded service. It will be available to view at any time shortly before or after November 1st, which may enable family members to join together to watch it from your own homes, avoiding risk of infection. It also gives us the chance to do something we have not done before; we can include photos of those who have gone, and other images, to help us in our thoughts and memories.

We are writing personally to those people who have lost someone locally in these last few years, to invite them to send a photo to be included in the service. But the service is for everyone, however long ago your loss, so if you would like to be included, please send a name and a photo if you wish. It could be of just the departed persons themselves, at any stage of their life, or it could be with their family around them.

For some people, this might be too painful a reminder: please feel free to send just a name if you wish.

Names and photos can be sent by email to franiphillips@gmail.com if you have an electronic version, or if not, then by post to Frances Phillips, New House, Garway Hill, Hereford HR2 8EZ.

It may seem premature to be asking this in early September, but it takes time to build these on-line services, so please do not delay if you would like to be included.

Service Rota October 2020

Over recent weeks we've begun to hold worship services in our churches once again and it's been lovely, and quite moving, to see the churches open and in use. Thank you to everyone who has enabled that to happen by keeping the buildings cleaned, with contact lists and hand-sanitiser available etc. We've also held two weddings and a baptism in the Benefice, both special and moving occasions after such a long period of cancelled events and social isolation.

During October there will again be a reduced rota of services as per the list below. We hope to begin to increase the number of services in the upcoming months but we will continue to be constrained by the changes in government led restrictions. There will still be a few Zoom and Youtube services taking place during this time.

The churches mostly remain open for private prayer and reflection but some continue to need to have limited opening times so do check before you visit if you're making a special trip. Hentland Church remains closed until the building work is completed.

4 th October	10.00am	Holy Communion service	Zoom
11 th October	10.00am	All-age service	Zoom
	11.00am	Harvest service at Youtube Deanery service	Orcop Church
Saturday 17 th	5.30pm	Harvest service at St Weonards,	followed by mulled cider
18 th October	11am	Morning Worship (lay-led)	Zoom
	9.30am	Holy Communion Harvest	Hentland Church
25 th October	10.00am	All-age service at	St Weonards Church
	10.00am	Harvest Festival service	Zoom
	6.30pm	Evening service at	Pencoyd Church
1 st November	4.00pm	Service for All Souls on	Youtube available at any time.

Once released Youtube services will be available to view at any time.

Dean's retirement

I'm well into my nineteenth year as Dean and am now 67, so am sure it is high time I handed on to another priest, who will lead the cathedral into what will, inevitably, be a new and very different chapter of its life and ministry. I had expected to finish at the end of the Cantilupe celebrations, in October this year, but because of the extraordinary difficulties of the past few months, with the COVID pandemic, feel it right that I continue just a little longer. So my final Sunday will be 31 January, the feast of Candlemas. This seems an appropriate feast for a retirement – one which looks back and looks forward – back to Christmas and forward to Holy Week and Easter and I guess that's what we'll be doing together – looking back at all that has been and looking forward to all that the future holds for our community.

My new home will be in Presteigne – another country but still in the diocese of Hereford!

It will be hard to leave Hereford after all these years but the time now seems right. I'm announcing now, giving good notice, so that the process for the appointment of my successor can begin without delay. There remain several more months before I leave, so we shall continue to work for the coming of the Kingdom in this place and will seek, together, to find ways of rebuilding and sustaining our cathedral life. With my prayers for you all, **Michael Tavinor**

MUCH BIRCH SURGERY

Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinics 2020

2020 has been a very different year than we are used to. We have all had to make changes to the way we live. As we come into Autumn it is time to think about the risks of Seasonal Flu as well as COVID-19.

Flu vaccination clinics will be held in early October for eligible patients. All eligible patients will receive an invite by post during September.

- Please attend at the time given
- Please wear appropriate clothing so that the vaccine can be given in your upper arm easily.
- It is essential that you wear a mask/face covering to attend your appointment.
- Please do not attend if you or a close contact has symptoms or have had recent contact with a suspected/confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Please come alone unless you need the support of a carer.
- You may be expected to stand in a queue for a short time, which could be outside.
- Please don't bring unnecessary bags etc.
- Understand the toilet facilities will not be available.
- Understand the clinics are for flu only, and please don't ask for other advice during your appointment.
- Entrance and exits may be different from usual, and will be marked clearly.
- Primary School children will be vaccinated in school as normal and will be contacted by the school or school nurse.

From September, the following people are eligible for a Flu vaccine from their GP:

- ✓ Children aged 2 and 3 (if not receiving vaccine in school)
- ✓ People aged 65 and over
- ✓ People from 6 months of age with long term health conditions
- ✓ Adults with a BMI of 40 or above
- ✓ Unpaid Carers
- ✓ Pregnant Women
- ✓ People with a Learning Disability

50-64 year olds

NHS England aim to extend the vaccination programme to all patients aged 50-64 who in previous years would not have been eligible for a flu vaccination. These vaccinations will take place towards the end of the year and will be dependent on vaccine supply. Further detail will follow. It is vital we protect those most at risk first, if you are aged 50-64 and are in one of the at risk groups, please do not delay getting your flu vaccination.

Facebook and website

We have a ***Much Birch Surgery Patient Information*** page on Facebook. Join this or visit our website to keep up to date with current information. www.muchbirchsurgery.co.uk

Village Pages

St Weonards

We have benefitted from sharing worship online, and will do so for the foreseeable future. However it has been good to have the opportunity to be together again in church. We have had one evening service, and our new routine in church will be: 3rd Sunday Holy Communion at 9.30am (note the new time!) 4th Sunday All Age Service 10.00am. We shall of course continue with the other services online. Do look at the rota of services in the middle pages.

Harvest Service Saturday 17th October, 5.30pm

We hope that you will join us at the Harvest Service to celebrate our farmers, food producers and all those who help to provide us with food. It will also be an opportunity to share fellowship with some of our community. Please consider bringing dry goods, suitable for giving to the Food Bank, and we any fresh fruit or vegetables cannot be used at the moment. Gillie and the flower team are going to get busy so do not miss this special service.

We suggest that you wear warm things as we shall have the doors open! Please bring a mask. Churches are not subject to current restrictions on numbers, but we shall be following the covid guidelines:

We hope to have a small choir to sing some traditional harvest hymns. If anyone would like to join in with this choir please contact Richard Mynors on 01981 580 208 well in advance so that the seating can be planned appropriately.

Climate Change

The All-Age Zoom service in September focused on climate change and the fact that the developed world uses up the major share of the world's resources. We discussed what individuals and families do to reduce their own carbon footprint, and we exchanged a number of practical ideas. We shall be publishing some of these ideas and contacts which may be useful. If you have a special way of recycling or use a particular eco product that you have found helpful it would be great to share it. Let us know and we can publish it. As one well known and rather irritating jingle goes, *Every little helps!* **Fiona Mynors**

St Weonards Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2020

Listed below are the dates of the next Ordinary Meetings of the Parish Council. All meetings will take place at St Weonards Village Hall starting at 7.45pm, unless advised differently by the Parish Clerk.

- 12th October
- 9th November
- 7th December

Kate Hughes, Parish Clerk, Meadow View, St Weonards, Hereford HR2 8QS, 01981 580498/07967 352903

clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk www.llanwarnegroupparishcouncil.co.uk

Garway

Garway Church Flowers:

3 October - Rose Sparey

10 & 17 October - tba

24 & 31 October - Jean Howard

We are looking for new people to join our flower rota, so if you would be interested in helping out, please get in touch with Jane Bovell (01600 750700 or janebovell@yahoo.com)

Garway School and Pre-school

The opening of school has involved a huge amount of work for Miss Jones and her team to introduce new working practices for staff and pupils. We would like to thank everyone for their hard work and determination to help children and their parents to adjust to the new normal. **Fiona Mynors**

The school is once again buzzing with the sound of happy, excited children and staff. It seems such a long time since we were last all together in March and so many children have shot up! It has been really heart-warming to see well-established friends playing together once again and to see how the whole school has welcomed our new staff and children. Autumn is the season of change and things will undoubtedly be different to 'normal' this autumn term, but we are determined to make our 'new normal' as exciting, rewarding and fulfilling as we can. As Samuel Butler said, "Autumn is the mellow season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits." It seems a long time since spring this year, but we know that our families have worked tremendously hard since lockdown to cope with the challenges of home learning. We look forward to what autumn will bring and to seeing everyone's hard work and effort over recent months bearing fruit. **Miss Jones**

Herefordshire Council information: Reception admissions for 2021-2022

Do you have a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017?

If so you will need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2021 (to commence September 2021)

Please note: ***a place at a nursery or pre-school does not guarantee a place at the associated primary school, therefore you must still apply.***

For further information please contact the school admissions team on 01432 260926 / 261574 or schooladmissions@herefordshire.gov.uk

Garway Story Stitchers



It was just lovely to meet up at the beginning of September, for the first time since the lockdown as a group, in Tracy's lovely garden studio at Broad Oak, and to make some progress with the Garway Common panel. So far we have the red horse chestnut trees, dogs, and a splendid Kelsmor cow to inhabit the common, with much more planned. We hope to be back to meeting regularly every other Wednesday, 10.30-12.30, though things are a little uncertain at the moment as new restrictions come into place. Since we will have to keep to a maximum of 6 stitchers each time, it will be necessary to ask you to book your place each fortnight, and work on 'first come, first served' for a while.

Meeting dates during October are Wednesdays 7th and 21st. If you would like to come, please drop *Tracy* or *Frances* an email to secure your place.

Garway Heritage Group

The Garway Heritage Group (GHG) was created to explore the rich and diverse heritage of Garway and the surrounding area and to make its work available to others who may share our interests.

Our focus is on learning how historical events, from the Bronze Age to the present day, have impacted on our area and have influenced -- and continue to influence -- the bigger picture of social development.

Monthly talks are held between September and April on the third Tuesday of every month. During the summer months, walks, visits and events are arranged and advertised through an email list and this magazine. To find out more, look at the website.

<https://www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk/>

For the time being, we will be posting some pieces on an irregular, more or less frequent, basis depending on what you send us – whether you are a Garway Heritage Member or not, you are welcome. These will offer a little more depth to previous talks, reminisces of World War 2, looking to the future post Coronavirus and more. Please send them to me, the chairman – liz@fouracretrust.org.uk

As there is no news yet of the reopening of Garway Community Hall our Autumn programme of talks looks uncertain; please look out for details in our newsletter or by emails which you can receive by logging in to our website.

Orcop

Orcop Church and Life after Lockdown

The past six months have been challenging for us all and there is no doubt that life in the years AC (After Covid) will be different from the years BC (before Covid).

It is perhaps surprising to report that the recent months have seen much activity in and around our ancient church, which, of course, has seen epidemics far worse than the pandemic that confronts us today.

After April and May, the dark months of total lockdown, there was a PCC meeting in the churchyard with full COVID precautions on 8th June. Most services thereafter were of the ZOOM variety, which have evidently proved popular but are beyond the reach of our Stone Age internet connection. We managed an evening service in the church on 19th July, when Elizabeth led a socially distanced and sanitised service of quiet reflection.

After eight years of planning, parish consultation and fund-raising, our contractor, Mike Gammon, began work on the perimeter French drain and rainwater goods refurbishment in early August. Fortunately, the ecological survey came up with no evidence of great crested newts, finding only a few rather irritated frogs and toads.



We were fortunate in having as our archaeological consultant Professor George Nash, who is an extremely pleasant and interesting chap, being not only a distinguished archaeologist, but also a specialist in prehistoric and contemporary art. He is a leading international expert on prehistoric cave paintings. Although his examination of the excavations for the drains and soakaway came up with nothing very unusual, only a few bones (subsequently reinterred with due ceremony), old gravestone fragments and clay pipe stems, he came up with some very helpful opinions on the history of the church. Firstly, he finds it very unlikely that the church was originally built in the twelfth century in the middle of nowhere. He

believes there must have been a significant settlement nearby and suggests that we test this hypothesis using LiDAR imagery. LiDAR is an acronym for “Light Detection and Ranging” and it uses pulsed laser light to detect low-lying earthworks and depressions that are often invisible at ground level but might show evidence of the postulated early settlement. Secondly, he believes the massive cruck frame in the tower predates the construction of the tower and was reused. He suggests we undertake some dendro-chronological dating on the timber. This is a fancy term for dating the felling of a tree by studying the annual growth rings in the timber. This is accomplished by taking small diameter core samples from the timber, polishing these and matching the ring pattern to the historical record using a computer algorithm. The technique is claimed to be so accurate that it can reliably indicate not only the year in which the tree was felled, but also the season of that year. If we are able to pursue both of these expert opinions we might significantly enhance the historical record of the church and so increase the already significant flow of visitors. Those visitors with a serious interest in the history of the church tend to leave donations and these will become increasingly important at a time when the traditional forms of fund raising are increasingly difficult or impossible under Covid restrictions.

Early in August, one of our visitors who happened to be an organist remarked that our organ needed to be played, having been silent since March. Chris Northam, a celebrated concert pianist and now a neighbouring Orcopian, kindly agreed to provide the much needed instrumental exercise. We thought it rather sad if he played to an empty church, so we quickly organised a “pop-up organ recital”, which was held on 21st August before an invited audience of about 20. Unfortunately we could not advertise this event because of the need to control numbers and ensure we could manage the COVID restrictions, so we apologise to those whom we were unable to invite or might have come had we promoted the event. Chris put on a virtuoso performance of short works by Bach, Mozart, Telemann and Handel, in total about 30 minutes. It was a moving experience, especially since few have had access to live music since March. The audience provided enthusiastic feedback and we are considering how we might build on this.

Meanwhile, Mike Gammon and his team were busy delivering a wonderful job on the drainage, which was completed in time for an important Orcop wedding on 5th September. Sarah Jane Sayce, daughter of Philip and Angela Sayce of St. Weonards, married Ian Richard Baker. The church was beautifully decorated and it was great to have a lovely wedding in the newly refurbished church, with sparkling rainwater goods!

We extend our best wishes to Ian and Sarah for a very long, happy and healthy marriage.

We plan to celebrate harvest festival on October 11th, not communion and subject to the ever-changing Covid restrictions, which will be strictly observed, whatever they may be at that time.

In conclusion we extend our sincere thanks to Chris Northam for his splendid performance and to Mike Gammon and his team for their excellent work on the drainage project, which was delivered at a price less than half the highest bid.

Peter Garratt

We send deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs Ann Baly of The Lodge Farm who has died aged 85 years. ***Margaret Fletcher***

Thanks to Owl

We would both like to say a big thank you to Jane of *Owl Good Neighbours* and her helpers Denise and Malachy for doing our shopping every week throughout lockdown which made life so much easier. The kindness shown was second to none, also taking prescriptions to the surgery and collecting them when ready.

Thanks also go to Jackie for her help. We must say how lucky we are to have these good, kind people in our community. Again, many thanks. ***REGINA and ANGUS BRYMER***

Sowing a Seed of an Idea



Barely a day goes by, especially at this time of year, when I don't appreciate the rich abundance of this land. Granted, today was a particularly gorgeous, early September day of soft warmth and gentle sunshine, and we were harvesting some of the fruits. But to be honest, I can be just as happy turning compost heaps in the drizzle.

Six months ago, we were preparing for our first Orcop Parish Hall Seed & Plant Swap - with breakfast - before everything went bonkers and came to an abrupt halt. Lots of people have said how much they were looking forward to it and so I thought we should give it another go, in some shape or form. None of us can know what the situation will be when we get to March next year, or what restrictions might be in place – but we can prepare for it, with a positive outlook. We may be able to enjoy breakfast together and mill about talking of plants and gardens – or we may have to come up with another plan.

What we do know is that many of us will continue to grow things and lots of us enjoy sharing plant cuttings, seeds, seedlings, useful tips, as well as the fruits of our labour. So, if we can't meet in person, perhaps there is an online way of organising it. I'm not in the slightest bit technical, but I will look into it. And, given the difficulty that many people had in obtaining seed earlier this year, we may be grateful of a local source.

However we go about it, there is still time to collect and save seed for next year and there are several good reasons to do this: economical, ecological, social and political. Above all, local knowledge about what grows well in these parts is so much more valuable than what one might read on the back of seed packets.

Some seeds are easy to save, others are a bit trickier and require a little more thought and forward planning, and it may be too late for some of these (this year!). There is no point in saving seeds from F1 hybrids – they won't grow. The key things to remember are that seeds need to *be fully mature before harvesting, fully dried before storing, and they need to be stored in a cool, dry place.*

There is plenty of information on the internet about all this and one source that I particularly like is The Real Seed Company – www.realseeds.co.uk. They freely share their knowledge as well as growing and selling some unusual, and heritage, varieties.

So, watch this space. If anyone would like to get in touch about any of this sharing idea please do at gill.bannerman@outlook.com, or 01981 580685

Quiz Answers

Many thanks to those who took part in this year's quiz, the winners were Jane Wright and Pauline Dale.
The answers were

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. 1941 | 8. 1976 | 15. 1994 |
| 2. 1969 or 1976 | 9. Sir John Betjeman | 16. 1431 |
| 3. 1946 | 10. Kronenburg | 17. 1975 |
| 4. 1826 | 11. 1953 | 18. 1961 |
| 5. 1947 | 12. 1899 | 19. 1871 |
| 6. 1964 | 13. XTC | 20. Buzz Fizz |
| 7. 1983 | 14. 2015 | 21. 1995 |

22. 1066
23. 1946
24. 1952
25. 1215
26. 1859
27. 1491
28. 1848

29. 1897
30. 1770
31. 1826
32. 1455
33. 1642
34. 1949
35. 1964

36. 1838
37. Declaration of
Independence
38. 1903
39. 1972
40. 1991

Tretire with Michaelchurch and Pencoyd

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 27th at 5.30pm in the churchyard at Pencoyd.

In last month's electronic magazine there were details of the Harvest Festival but you may have missed it, so to remind you:- If you would like to come and join us please can you e-mail me - lizzie264@btinternet.com and I will send you the hymns and order of service in time for you to print them at home. Please bring something to sit on and pop up gazebos or brollies for rain or shade. If it is wet we shall have to cancel. As we can't have our usual Harvest Supper and Auction we are having a sale of jams, marmalade, chutney, cakes and plants etc. before and after the service. Please can you let me know if you can provide anything. Happy to take IOUs if you forget your cash! I will keep you posted.

Sadly, we still have quite a number of people in the parish who are unwell, both at home and in hospital and others who are going through very difficult times and we ask again for your prayers for their support.

On a lighter note to finish, I have just weighed what I think is the biggest apple to ever come off our Bramley tree, it weighed in at 1lb 7 ½ ozs.!

Liz Everall

My New Comfort Blanket.

The Archers has always been a sort of comfort blanket for me, when things are bad and the whole world's gone mad, my family says "it can't be too bad the Archers is still on at the right time" Meaning the news didn't have to run on over 7pm (or 2pm). Well, this pandemic took my blanket away – The Archers are only on four nights a week instead of six and some very strange monologues. I felt somewhat bereft, of no importance at all really but in lock down all sorts of things got out of proportion.

After a few weeks I got a new blanket, the weather forecast! Every night after the news, familiar faces and names, no masks, no voices that sound as if they are inside a goldfish bowl, no references to Corona Virus and the familiarity of "a cold front will attempt to push in from the Atlantic", "a ridge of high pressure", "drawing cold air down from the north". No matter whether the forecast was good or bad, I found it's regularity a comfort. And it put me in mind of this short poem:-

*Whether the weather be fine, or whether the weather be not,
Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather, whatever the weather,
Whether we like it or not.*

And no doubt we shall weather the pandemic too.

Liz Everall

HOARWITHTY

Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2020

Listed below are the dates of the next Ordinary Meetings of the Parish Council. All meetings will take place at Llanwarne Village Hall starting at 7.30pm, unless advised differently by the Parish Clerk.

Thurs 19th November

Kate Hughes, Parish Clerk, Meadow View, St Weonards Hereford HR2 8QS

01981 580498/07967 352903 clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk www.llanwarnegroupparishcouncil.co.uk

Hentland

HARVEST

Sunday 18th October, Harvest will be celebrated at 9.30am Holy Communion.

HENTLAND CHANCEL

Latest News at 10th September

Looking at the report of a month ago, I was hoping to see (a) the scaffolding removed (it has been)

(b) the French drain dug (it has been) and any human remains thus exposed preserved for reburial (they were) (c) a meeting held on site with the Diocesan Advisory Committee to discuss final layout of the chancel (it was) and

(d) contractors finished by the end of August with everything cleared away (they weren't).

So where are we now? Christina and Lee, for Sally Strachey the main conservator and Rob the plasterer, have been reinstating the plaster which had fallen out, leaving the large cavity above and to the left of the vestry arch where the Walker organ will be rebuilt. The left-hand half of the space had fallen away and smashed beyond repair several years ago, while the other half's decorated area had been hanging by a thread when work started two years ago, and so was carefully removed and preserved for reinstatement later. This is now in progress and will need to dry out with the new plaster on which it is mounted, before we can judge how successful it has been. The remaining area to the left will now be plastered to come flush with the replaced fragments, ready to be decorated with the roundel in a square to match the rest of the frieze. Not forgotten was access for the bats. This consists of a slot 5cm x 10cmm at the top on the left which is completely invisible from below, though the bats have already recognised that it is for them and have been popping in and out. Nick the ecologist came yesterday and has given his approval.

Tom the young labourer has been doing sterling work clearing up outside and inside to make way for David the organ builder to start work on Monday 14th as planned. There will still be work on the plaster carrying on, but he has said he can start work with them there. Tom has a huge job to do on spreading the spoil from the digging of the French drain within the churchyard, for this is soil from consecrated ground so cannot be taken away.

When it comes to lights at the end of tunnels, there is a faint glimmer, slightly brighter than it was this time last month. Next month? Well, watch this space.

Robin Symonds 10th September 2020



www.isabelsbakehouse.com

Courgette ribbons and shredded chicken Bulgur salad

Ingredients

- 6 chicken thighs
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 6 garlic cloves, skin on
- 1 red onion
- 1 green courgette
- 1 yellow courgette
- 200g bulgur wheat
- Handful of parsley

For the dressing

- 100g crème fraîche or Greek yogurt
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp cider vinegar

Method

1. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.
2. Peel and roughly chop the red onion.
3. Place the chicken thighs in a large roasting tin with 1 tbsp oil, the red onion and the whole garlic cloves, season well and bake for 35 mins until cooked through and browned a little.
4. Remove the chicken from the bone and shred with a fork.
5. Peel and crush the cooked garlic cloves and mix in with the chicken and red onion.
6. Cook the bulgur wheat following the pack instructions, once cooked pour into a large bowl and season with a little olive and salt and pepper.
7. Peel the courgettes and make into ribbons using the peeler, add to the bulgur wheat with the shredded chicken and garlic.
8. Roughly chop the herbs and mix in.
9. **Dressing:** Whisk the dressing ingredients with a splash of water and season to taste and drizzle over the salad.

Book review

***Bodies of Light*, by Sarah Moss**

Bodies of Light is, on the surface, the background to Moss's wonderful book *Night Waking*. It tells the story of the Moberley family in central Manchester in the 1860s and 70s. The place of women in Victorian society is central to the book; but, although well researched, this is no dry historical treatise. It is an exploration of a complex era where an apparently well-ordered society with rigid social rules rubs shoulders with sexual double standards and acute poverty.

Daughter Ally is subject to the domestic cruelty of her austere mother Elizabeth, who has no warmth or joy, but zealously pursues her campaign to improve the lot of downtrodden women, concentrating on the ways in which she believes they are violated by men, not just physically, but by the male-dominated society in which they live. Elizabeth finds her justification in religion – in a self-flagellating judgemental variety of Christianity. Incongruously married to a liberal artist, Albert Moberley, she appears not to notice the borderline improper use of her two daughters as models by him and his close associate Aubrey West. The younger daughter May is pretty and spirited and gets away with challenging their mother; but Ally

absorbs the message of dedication to duty, and lives in fear of her mother and of her own imagined failings.

From an early age her mother recognises Ally's intelligence and earmarks her to be in the vanguard of women to be trained as a doctor, a fate to which Ally meekly submits, but about which she receives no encouragement or praise from her mother. In 1880, Ally and her small band of fellow women medical students become some of the first women to be licensed to practice as doctors.

Ally has been indoctrinated in her duty to the poor and suffering, but it causes her much internal conflict and soul-searching: *"I try to be mindful of the needs around me and mindful also that my mindfulness does not in itself help anyone and indeed denies me the excuse of ignorance for my inaction."* – a pertinent observation for the 21st century too, when we are bombarded with the knowledge of global suffering and climate disaster, but are often overwhelmed into a state of paralysis.

Ally is disturbed by the pioneering surgery of the period which is knowingly undertaken as life-threatening, but justified as a scientific advance. *"There is no principle worth having that does not exact a price."* *".....the purpose of a moral imperative is to justify harm."*

Having been steeped in scientific principles for the 5 years of her study, she at last recognises: *"....healers do not have to be whole, because wholeness, holiness, are not human qualities. Humanity's greatest gift is love and not reason.....Mama, for all her time in church, does not know this."* As the book closes Ally has made her peace with her mother's faults, and her own: *"If she is to be a doctor – as she is to be a doctor – she will be a broken doctor, her own hurt as much part of her practice as her healing. A doctor who can see her own damage and not run away to hide."*

Hilary Smallwood

The Challenge of Pegs and Peg Bags?



More time leads to musing. Here is one that has bubbled up for me.

What is your attitude to peg bags? For some reason I have never liked them. When living in Macclesfield when first married we used a laundrette with dryers, so no worries about peg bags or their contents.

Our move to Wolverhampton changed all that with a washing machine and a good sized garden with a real washing line. Our pegs lived in a plastic bag, which always seemed to go missing when wanted. Obviously I needed a proper *peg bag*. So an appropriate investment was made! But this did not improve matters. The bag still seemed to disappear and when finally found, fishing into it, to find just that last peg needed, was rather a nuisance. I tried a plastic pot instead, but that used to tip over. Although the bending down was good for the figure, except when heavily pregnant, it still seemed a poor solution to the peg problem. If we left it on the ground, one of our two newly acquired labrador puppies would delight in chewing everything to shreds. More concerning was that our toddler might find the pegs just right for practising her chewing!

Enlightenment came suddenly one day when an unexpected downpour necessitated a dash to rescue the toddler from drowning, and of course to collect the washing. With only two hands, I have always thought that God should have given mothers more, I decided to leave the pegs on the line! Of course. So simple. They would be there for the next time. Why not?

Reasons against: Wooden pegs get wet and black-pegs are not the most beautiful things.

Reasons for: NO need for a peg bag or box as they are always there-no puppy or toddler risk - wooden pegs can be used for dark clothes- remove pegs when 'special visitors' are expected, like older relatives or in-laws who might frown on such lax behaviour.

Liverpool, our next home, was somewhat different. We lived near the River Mersey and the damp air dried nothing! So we had to invest in a tumble dryer which we had always avoided. But it turned out to be superfluous. An elderly lean-to sort of sun room, proved ideal for drying things, including wet dogs. Pegs on the lines were no problem in this scruffy place. Following our departure from Liverpool, a major storm blew the sun room away which shows its age!

Our move to take on Treago Castle provided further challenges for the whole peg and washing issue. The only washing line was situated behind the stable block, about 200 yards away up quite a steep incline. Presumably this was to ensure that no one could see the washing. Or perhaps even more shocking, glimpse any 'smalls', as my aunt would have said! (Sometimes she commented on the size of the 'smalls' on display on our kitchen airer when the girls were teenagers!) Given the usual family washing, and later, sheets for 26 in the holiday cottages, we took drastic action. With no obvious 'back garden' to the house, we chose a windy, sunny place for a line along the drive. Yes, it could be seen by others, but we thought we could handle that! Again what to do about the pegs. Given that we were still taking our washing about 50 yards to the new line, I left them there most of the time. By now I had invested in sturdy plastic ones and still no peg bag. But to give a good impression for cottage tenants when they arrived on Fridays we did remove all washing and pegs, and I even put the pegs in the bottom of the washing trolley. For more formal 'events', we can even remove the washing line as well as the pegs!

Sorry to digress, but I must comment on washing trolleys. When visiting friends in Australia many years ago, I was so impressed with their 'washing trolleys'. Like old-fashioned folding carrycot prams, they were basic trolleys for taking washing out to the line. Just what I needed, but not then available in the UK. Instead I bought a fold-up compost trolley which was ideal. Inevitably it was nicknamed, 'granny's zimmer trolley'. But I noticed that when others helped to hang out washing, which they often did, they used it happily!

Now in retirement, our back garden is the space behind the stable block. We have an excellent rotary washing line, and of course it is adorned with pegs. Over the years our *no peg bag* practice has caused some confusion. Kind guests and house sitters have looked long and hard for a peg in the utility room before realising the simple truth. At times we have taken washing out only to find no pegs to use...

So are you a peg bag person with a lovely empty washing line, or do you leave the pegs to hang for another day...?

Fiona Mynors

Garden Notes

'You know what?' said my husband surveying the vegetable plot, 'this lot just isn't worth all the bother'. I gazed at the plot and saw tall straight delicious leeks, regimented rows of sweetcorn with plump sweet cobs, lush shiny leaves and colourful stems of rainbow chard and the prolific crop of red cherry tomatoes. He saw the clouds of white fly around the sprouts, the rocket riddled with tiny holes, climbing beans that had turned stringy almost as soon as they started to form, the army of caterpillars munching the purple sprouting, the yellow plum tomatoes that just refused to ripen.

Between us we must have clocked up a staggering ninety years of vegetable growing. We are nowhere near as ancient as that sounds but it did make me start thinking. We've always grown vegetables; that's what we do in the summer, isn't it? But perhaps it isn't really worth all the effort. Back in March we all worried about where our food would come from and many people started to grow vegetables for the first time. The garden centres sold out of seeds and I spotted a few new polytunnels around the village.

However you look at, our vegetables have not been wonderful this year and it has been disheartening – I hope it hasn't destroyed the confidence of those just starting out. Some years are just like that but after all

those decades we have decided not to carry on. The final decision was made after serving up some purple sprouting – complete with wildlife. Despite my careful inspection of each shoot, half a dozen limp boiled bodies ended up on our dinner plates – mine were carefully removed, my husband covered his with a liberal application of gravy.

The success of the leeks, sweetcorn, chard, lettuce etc. is not enough to make up for the rest and so we have made the big decision to do away with the vegetable plot. The local shops and the supermarkets didn't let us down this year and have managed to supply us with wonderful quality vegetables so why are we bothering really?

I can still grow trailing cherry tomatoes in hanging baskets as usual; an obelisk of climbing beans is easy to place in a flower border; I can even have a patch of Rainbow chard or some leeks in amongst the shrubs. And I will still have my greenhouse for cucumbers or peppers.

The vegetable plot is right outside our back door and is a wonderful sunny spot. We are planning to turn it into a lovely easy-maintenance sitting area: handsome wooden benches, large planters, perhaps some kind of formal pond, water feature or piece of sculpture. We are just tossing ideas around at the moment but the minute the last leek has been eaten, we'll be lifting the old paving slabs, ordering gravel and looking for beautiful pots. *Julie Davies*

Watching the world from lockdown



Image by Darkness, Unsplash

The affairs, the burglaries, or worse, the solitary suspicious neighbour. I remember those lacy curtains from my British childhood; you could see out, but no-one could see in. An old lady could spy on the world, secretly.

I have a horrible feeling I have become that lady – but my curtain is electronic.

Just before lockdown we were burgled – and my all-seeing camera was still in its box – we hadn't bothered to put it up. But having lost my Granny's stylish art deco brooch, countless earrings bought on holiday in Italy, France, and England, as well as my iPad and laptop I wasn't prepared to let that happen again.

Enter the dalek. The all-seeing eye above my front door, which feeds information back to my phone. It rings a cheery little bell when someone is approaching. I can check the video and see who it is – almost in real time.

In lockdown I am getting far more deliveries than usual. The delivery men and women rarely ring the bell, but I know they have been because my video shows them approaching the front door.

One day there was a man walking from house to house –the dalek rang me three times. I was immediately suspicious. I watched the video. The gasman was checking everybody's gas metres. Panic over.

The other night at 3.45 am the bell on my phone rang. Twice. I woke up with a jump. Someone must be creeping around! I grabbed my phone and there, its white antennas waving at me, was a giant moth, walking all over the camera. A scary creature of the night at that magnification, but not the one I had expected. The moth and a black cat have so far been my only night visitors.

If I was not in lockdown, I am sure I would not be so obsessive. But we watch the world through electronic devices these days, we zoom our friends and family, listen to music and talks from the other side of the world, see bands doing one night stands from their living rooms, and stream every film and TV series we never got round to watching when everybody else did.

So I get out to check reality, but my obsession follows me on my walks. My rescue greyhound Swifty and I climb up Narrabundah Hill, a favourite outing for those living in the Molonglo Valley. I get to the top, and admire the view over Canberra, the rolling blue hills, the buildings in the distance. If I squint I can see the Parliament House flagpole.

The dalek rings its cheery bell. I check the video and ring my husband at home. 'Those books you were waiting for have arrived,' I tell him. He, momentarily forgetting we have the dalek, exclaims – 'How on earth do you know that? I've just answered the door?'

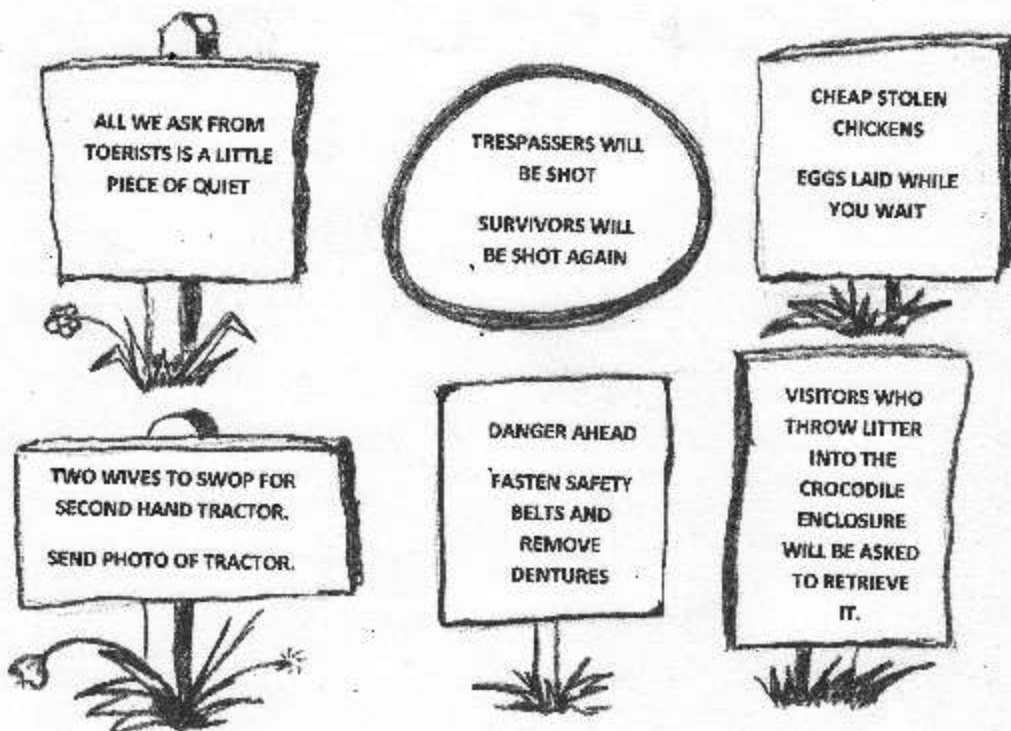
'I am the all-seeing lady behind the net curtain,' I tell him. **Marilyn Chalkley**

First published in hercanberra.com.au. Marilyn Chalkley is a writer of crime fiction and award-winning short stories, and an arts publicist, and sixth form college friend of Fiona Mynors!

AFRICAN ROAD SIGNS from Peter Garratt

Some of you may have read last month's article on the African Beetle. Here are a few typical road signs that it might have encountered on its travels. These are actual signs, of which I have photographic evidence.

They are reproduced here as copies because the photos are of poor quality and difficult to read:



Chuckle Corner

There once was a bloke in a cloak
Whose views were decidedly woke
He sought friendship with BAME;
To his sadness and shame
They just thought him a bit of a joke.

Robin Symonds

By JT Doyle Found on Facebook

A malapropism walks into a bar, looking for all intensive purposes like a wolf in cheap clothing, muttering epitaphs and casting dispersions on his magnificent other, who takes him for granite.

A non sequitur walks into a bar. In a strong wind, even turkeys can fly.

Hyperbole totally rips into this insane bar and absolutely destroys everything.

A verb walks into a bar, sees a beautiful noun and suggests they conjugate. The noun declines.

GRANTHAM U3A QUIZ

The answer to every question is the **name of a musical instrument.**

What fishermen may do Castanet
AAAABIKLL Balalaika
Breakfast cereal going beep, beep Alpenhorn
High value card before film Trumpet
Rob Monet and blow it Trombone
March to Iona for this one Harmonica
Falsify the Accounts?. Fiddle
Reformed short street player Psaltery
Ice cream holder Cornet
A judge?..... Recorder
Bermuda?..... Triangle
Spot a conifer in the street..... Spinet
A creepy crawly with the French..... Bugle
Pine legs and lock together..... Glockenspiel
Rash hid crop of keys Harpsichord
Sounds like a dahlia root..... Tuba
It's a big one adorning Pa Grand Piano
Find gold in the grit for this one Guitar
US coin overdrawn & sounds like ages Nickelodeon
Reorder a phoney ring – extra-large Xylophone
Does this have two bottoms? Double Bass
I did good with some hesitation Didgeridoo
Different stairs missing the point..... Sitar
Ruled in 1101..... Dulcimer
European hooter French Horn

Scrub the wood soundly	Wash Board
Sounds like stolen goods.....	Lute
Not quite heart but vital	Organ
You and I need to hump one around	Euphonium
Card game needs the French to blow a note.....	Whistle
A new hoax opens the jazz festival	Saxophone
Champagne glass	Flute
Old length inside a small company.....	Cello
A tub for boiling water	Kettle Drum
Moan about a trough	Mouth Organ
Peeping Toms falling over	Spoons
A profound voice with a near future	Bassoon
Sn before number 30	Tin Whistle
On following an ailing vehicle	Carillon
One hertz for Harry Lime	Zither

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Hereford Civic Society is concerned about all aspects of the built environment and the civil society which lives here.

We liaise with Hereford City Council and Herefordshire Council on relevant matters and reviews all planning applications within the City.

We have a non-voting seat on the City Council Planning Committee and we also submit our own comments via the excellent Herefordshire Council website.

Talks and events are advertised through the Society's website and this magazine.

<https://www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk/about-the-society>

Hereford Civic Society continues to operate virtually!

www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk especially commenting on latest reports about housing design; and worries about loss of democracy with the suspension of the planning committee.

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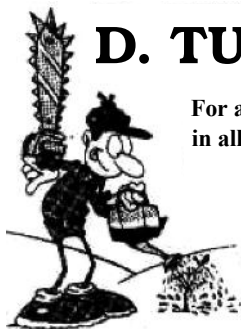
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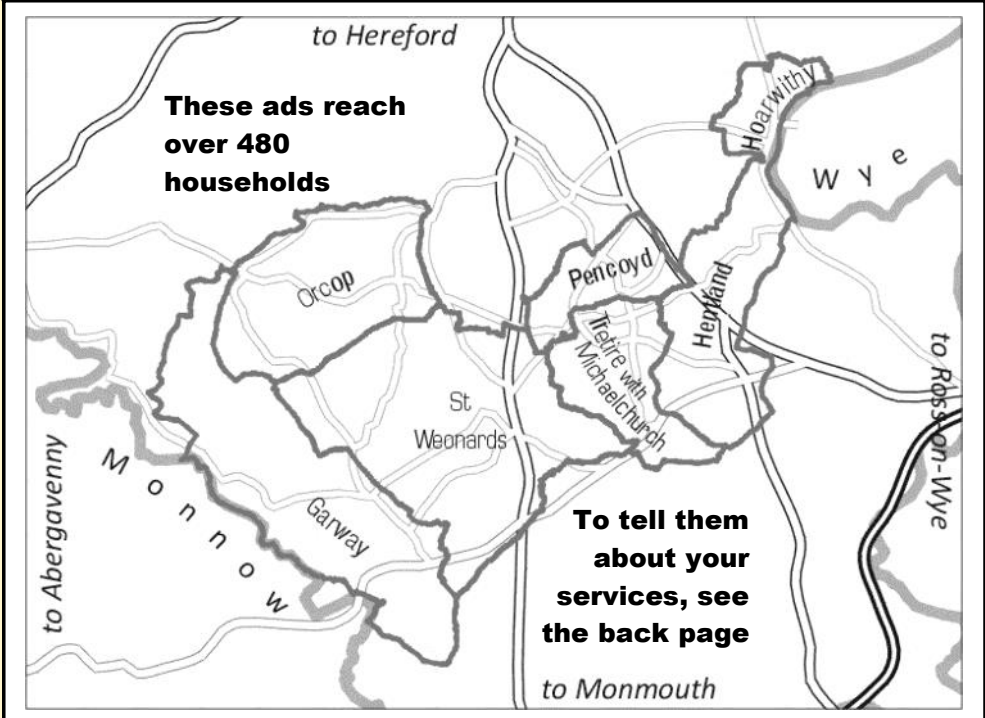
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