

PARISH NEWS

OF

ST WEONARDS, GARWAY, ORCOP,
PENCOYD, TRETIRE, MICHAELCHURCH,
HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

MAY 2021



PICTURE BY PAT MACRAE

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CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

Churchwardens

St. Weonards	Vacant
Orcop	Margaret Fletcher 01981 540790
Garway	Vacant
Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm 01989 730201
Hoarwithy	Peter Pember 01432 840254
	Jeff Goulding 01432 840492
Hentland	Robin Symonds 01989 730439

Local Contact

Editor Parish Magazine	Fiona Mynors 01981 580208
Group Choir	Sir Richard Mynors 01981 580208
Bellringing	Mr Peter Hallowell 01981 580203
Royal British Legion	Bea Morris 07932 668363
Orcop Evergreens	Gill Bannerman 01981 580685
Woman's Fellowship	Miss June Griffiths 01981 580353
Youth Group, Tear Fund	Mrs Fay Rowlands 01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings	Gill Bannerman 01981 580685
St Weonards Hall Booking	Julie Ross 01981 580201
St Weonards Pre-school	Maggie Evans 07855 550108
Singing Tree Choir	Hilary Smallwood 01981 540022
Garway Hall Bookings	Hilary Keenan 01600 750243
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones 01600 750273
@Garway	Colin Finnie 01981 580086
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson 01600 750465
Much Dewchurch Gardening Club	Linda Ashton 01981 540804
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Rigler 07940 308696
Dore Community Transport 0345 2020144
St Weonards Group website www.stw.org.uk

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Birch Ward:	Toni Fagan (Green)	tonifagan@btinternet.com
		office hours 01981 540721
Dinedor Hill Ward:	David Summers	david.summers@herefordshire.gov.uk

Samaritans	National Helpline 08457 909090
	Hereford 01432 269000
HOPEline UK (Prevention of Young Suicide).....	0870 1704000 01978 367333

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South local policing teams

Sgt Emma Freer, PC Kirsty O'Brien, PC Jim Phillips, PCSO Lowri Anderson, PCSO Adam Westlake, PCSO Christina Howard, PCSO Hayley Cohen and PCSO Christopher Yarwood. How to get in touch: 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime. herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
www.westmercia.police.uk

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

Contributions to the Parish news can be given to your parish representative by the **12th of the month**:

Magazine Editor	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
Garway:	Mrs Ruth Maskell Windy Ridge, Garway	01600 750454
Hentland/Hoarwithy:	Mr and Mrs Pember One Eleven, Hoarwithy	01432 840254
Orcop:	Mrs M Fletcher 3 Wilkes Row, Orcop	01981 540790
Tretire/Pencoyd:	Meg Oubridge Tretire Smithy	01989 580233
St. Weonards:	Mrs P Craig 8 Mount Way St Weonards	01981 580433

Contributions by email to archenfieldmag@btinternet.com
or paper notices to: Miss June Griffiths, Hillside, St Weonards

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Garway:	Mark Hearne clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	01981 251887
Orcop:	Parish Clerk Mark Hearne clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org Parish council website www.orcop.wordpress.com	01981251887
St Weonards:	Mrs Kate Hughes Meadow View, St Weonards HR2 8QS Email: clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org	01981 580498 07967 352903
Llanwarne:	Mrs Kate Hughes Meadow View, St Weonards HR2 8QS Email: clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	01981 580498 07967 352903
Hentland:	Kath Greenow AILCM Hackford House, Dinedor clerk@yourparishcouncil.co.uk	01432 840874

VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS www.stw.org.uk

PARISH NEWS

THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

Revd Frances Phillips
Associate Priest of the St Weonards Group of churches
New House
Garway Hill
Herefordshire
HR2 8EZ
01981 240032
franjphillips@gmail.com

Vicars' Letters

Hello Everyone, And goodbye everyone.

By the time you are reading this magazine I will be almost retired and on my way to live, with Sean, in Hereford. This has been a strange few months for me. The decision to retire was about being able to offer more care and support to my elderly, and increasingly frail, mother. It was completely devastating for myself and my family when my mother sustained serious head injuries during a fall at home. She was too frail to undergo the brain surgery which may have alleviated her symptoms, and after a couple of weeks it became clear that she was drawing towards then end of her life. And so my retirement will take a rather different pattern to the one I had anticipated.

It's been a pleasure to be here amongst you all over the past five and a half years – to get to know the oddities and quirkiness of the individual churches and their people, to share your traditions and customs, to see the flourishing of occasions such as the All-age service. The past year of lockdown has been testing and wearing for everyone, but out of it community projects have sprung up enabling us all to offer more care and support where it's most needed within our communities. As lockdown draws to its close – with perhaps some toing and froing before we finally reach the end of this dark tunnel – it will be good to see the churches opening up again, with services happening in our buildings and community events taking place.

The end of lockdown will present a new challenge to the churches as you all work together to look at what was good about Zoom & YouTube & recorded services, so that the values gained and lessons learned can be woven together with the more long-standing traditions of the Benefice. Some traditions or customs or ways of being church may – probably will – need to be left behind as new way of being church emerge from the weaving. I wish you all every success as you move forward on your new Benefice adventures.

Blessings, **Elizabeth**

Hi Everyone,

As the COVID-19 pandemic begins to ease and we start to see some light at the end of the tunnel, we are asking ourselves a number of questions. Firstly, what have we lost? Secondly, what have we gained? And thirdly, what would we like to keep?

For individuals and families, these questions pose quite a challenge, as they do for society as a whole. And the Church (with a capital C) is not immune from the changes and challenges ahead. We have worshipped online, via video and Zoom, we have had worship in person (some of the time). What now?

Of course, things are complicated by Rev Elizabeth retiring, but now is the chance to refashion the way we worship. If we can't have a service on a Sunday, because there are no priests to lead a communion service, would a mid-week be better? Can we continue with our Zoom services? Should we tune into other churches?

These are some of the questions that face us, and we need to think long and hard about how we answer them.

One thing is certain, we won't be going back to the old rota! So, thinking and praying about the future, we take heart from those first saints in our areas, Weonard, David, Junabius and Dubricius. They responded by listening to God, finding ways that the story of Jesus was told that people could relate to and building up new communities. Now it is our turn to follow their lead.

With every blessing,

Revd Mark

(Editor's note: We are most grateful that Mark and Frances have each agreed generously to write a letter bi-monthly)

May Benefice Service

Our May benefice service is at 10am on Sunday May 2nd via Zoom. This will be the only service in our group of parishes on this day, so that we can all gather together and share each other's company and fellowship. It will be a Communion service.

If you are not already a member of our Zoom congregation, and would like to be, then please send me an email today at franjpillips@gmail.com

I hope to see you there--**Frances**

See the service rota below and for any last minute changes we suggest you check www.stw.org.uk

Letter from Archdeacon Derek Chedzey

Pentecost or more traditionally Whitsun is I think the Cinderella of Christian festivals, it has never really had the impact of Christmas and Easter. It doesn't have the same traditions or social events around it which make it stand out in the wider culture either. I think increasingly the church doesn't really know how to mark the occasion, and even the recent 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer campaign which has actually taken off across the churches in recent years, doesn't really make much of Pentecost itself. Yet Pentecost is perhaps one of the most exciting of the church festivals for it marks the moment when God started the church! It is in effect the Church's birthday, the day that God sent the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower ordinary Christians to do extraordinary things for Him.

The Holy Spirit is given freely to all of us as a free gift from God. Jesus promised his disciples that we would receive this gift so that we might know his presence with us as we live out our faith on a daily basis.

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another comforter to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you..." - John 14:15-16

The problem is when most of us think of comfort we think of the luxuries of life, or being wrapped up in a warm blanket or duvet. We also think of comfort as something that consoles us when we are upset or in need. Whilst all these things are true, the word used in the New Testament has a completely different meaning to those we might expect. The word comfort is the same word that we find in relation to prodding, strengthening or stirring into action. The Bayeux Tapestry has a wonderful panel of Bishop Odo, forcing his men into battle, at the end of his battle club, with the abbreviated Latin words: which when translated means: *Here, Bishop Odo, comforts his troops*. As individuals we might not find such 'comfort' comforting, but the Holy Spirit is given to equip and spur us into action! In fact, the word comfort has traditionally also meant to give or add strength to someone or to encourage, urge or exhort. When we see the coming of the Holy Spirit in that way, it makes much more sense of both Jesus's words and what we see in the book of Acts as the early church begins to emerge.

The Holy Spirit also empowers us to be the people God created and knows us to be, in that sense the Holy Spirit fills us with God's wisdom and power for the tasks to which he has called us. On the day of Pentecost it is the Holy Spirit that takes the group of timid and bewildered disciples and equips them to declare the gospel message. Jesus before his Ascension had promised them that they would receive the Holy Spirit to equip them as His witnesses throughout the world.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

This power that comes with the Holy Spirit is very real and is available to us just as it was to the first disciples. It is power to live our lives as God intended, power to encourage us and to strengthen us for acts of service. It is not to make us feel better, or for our own benefit, but it is the power to build one another up and to inspire the Church. So as Pentecost approaches perhaps we need to re-evaluate this slightly misunderstood Christian Festival and celebrate the birthday of the church with a bit more style and flair! Our prayer certainly needs to be 'Come Holy Spirit!'

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ. Amen.

May Service Rota

2 nd May	10am	Holy Communion	Zoom
9 th May	10am	All-age service	Zoom
	11.00	Iona Lay-led service	Zoom
13 th May Ascension	10.00am	Communion	Much Birch Church
16 th May	10am	Holy Communion	Zoom
23 rd May	10am 6.30pm	All-age Communion Evening Prayer	St W Church (social distance) Pencoyd Church
30 th May	11.00	Iona Lay-led service	Zoom
6 th June	10am	Holy Communion	Zoom

If you would like to receive the link to a Zoom service which you have not previously attended, please send a brief email to the contact below:

Holy Communion at 10am on 1st and 3rd Sundays: franiphillips@gmail.com

All age service at 10am on 2nd and 4th Sundays: stweonardspcc@gmail.com

Iona-style service on 2nd Sunday: peter@pember.plus.com

Evening prayer at 6.30pm on 4th Sunday: elizabethamalcolm@outlook.com

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



25th May Chris Strange 07970 614933

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

All Age Service

We were delighted to be back in St Weonards Church at the end of April for our 10.100am service. The plan for the future is to have the second Sunday monthly service on Zoom to enable people from many different places to join us. The fourth Sunday service will be in church.

On Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May, we look forward to welcoming Bishop David Thompson, formerly bishop of Huntingdon, to celebrate communion as part of our service. For Zoom services contact St Weonards PCC (stweonardspcc@gmail.com) for a link. Or join us at church. We look forward to seeing you.

Date for the diary. Open Garden 27th June.

On Sunday 27th June, we plan to hold an Open Garden event at Treago from 2.00 to 4.30pm. (This assumes that the easing of lockdown continues on the road map.) We hope to serve teas, but we will have no stalls. Do come to enjoy the garden and the opportunity to meet people in a spacious outside environment. Proceeds will go towards the ministry of the church in St Weonards. **Fiona Mynors**

Flowers

Many thanks to the flower ladies who decorated the church so well for Easter. As we begin to have regular services in church again, we shall appreciate the amount of work and care taken by everyone to make our church look lovely. **Gillie Hallewell**

GARWAY

Garway Sunflower Competition

Can you grow the tallest sunflower in Garway?

Wouldn't it be good to brighten up Garway with lots of giant sunflowers growing tall and just think how happy our bees will be! You can either grow your own or use one of the sunflower plants that have been grown from seed and started off for you. If you would like to make a small donation for the plants, we would be very grateful. All donations will go towards the Playground Refurbishment fund.



The results will be declared at Garway Fun Day, which hopefully will be able to take place on August 30th. If you would like to join in the competition, please contact one of The Garway Spice Girls or email: Garwayspicegirls@outlook.com

Garway Playground refurbishment update

Thank you everyone who filled in our playground survey. We had a magnificent 113 responses. Lots of lovely ideas were received along with many offers of help and support. A report detailing the results of the survey is being compiled and will be available shortly.

We have submitted our first application for funding and hope to hear within the next few weeks. Other funding applications will be made very soon. A working party will be planned in the near future to tidy up the park ready for the spring, it will be a while before we have our new playground! We will also arrange some sort of meeting to discuss some of the ideas put forward and to think of some other ways of raising funds.

Thank you for your support. **Garway Spice Girls** (Garwayspicegirls@outlook.com)

Garway School and Pre-school

The whole school, pre-school and staff were delighted with all the Easter Eggs so kindly sent in for the school community by the PSA. Although it was not possible to have the usual end of term performance, the school recorded a song to delight parents and carers! The theme for younger pupils' learning has been Space and Spring and the fine weather enabled everyone to get outside for work, play and reading.

Fiona Mynors

Here are a couple of acrostic poems from Class 4.

Teaching and helping other people,

Encouraging people to try their best,

And collaborating,

More and more,

Working to be the best,

Organising and keeping everything in order to help where they can,

Respecting other people and their possessions,

Keen to help other people be the best they can be.

Helping

Others to

Notice

Everyone's reason for their

Superb

Trust in

You

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

We had a little walk up to the church over the Easter Weekend, and I am pleased to report that great progress has been made on the roof. All the batons on the south side have been replaced with new, and the tiles mostly replaced with the original, but a few broken ones have had to be replaced with reclaimed ones. Inside, the damaged lathes have been replaced by new, and it looks as if plastering will be started very soon. It will clearly be a while before the church can be open again though.

So Zoom services will continue to be held. About 30 people attended the Zoom service held by Frances Phillips on Easter Day, and the music provided by several different people recording over previous recordings, and between them giving those of us attending a backing of not quite a massed choir!

What a beautiful day that turned out to be, so much better than that forecasted. It meant that families and friends meeting in gardens or parks were considerably more pleasantly warm than those on Saturday, when we sat with our family behind a large wind break!

Walks around our two villages in the last few weeks show that a number of households have used the lockdown to make some major home and/ or garden improvements. Indeed, my husband has been one of them, but his work has all been inside the house, so no passers-by would be aware of them.

It has been so strange to have no visitors in our house in all these months, and tempting not to bother too much with keeping up with the housework, but, old habits die hard, so we do. And with John decorating, and the cold weather ensuring that we light the wood burning stove most days, there is plenty of dust to keep on top of.

We so look forward to restrictions being eased a little further, and the chance to catch up with friends. But how we have appreciated our regular chats with our dear friends, Peter and Liz Everall! We have been able to chat on the phone, or Peter has set up several Zoom meetings, and they are able to bring us up-to-date with news of our two villages, as clearly, there are many more of you who also keep in touch with them! We do miss them, don't we? But how good to hear how well they have settled into their new home and environment, and made so many friends.

One day, we will even hold services in our churches again, and meet up with more of you there. I wonder when our first community event will take place, the last one being our carol service at the Vaughan's house, and will we be still wearing masks? Only then will I actually have some real news for you!

We were sad to hear that the father of Lynda Davies, of Oakleigh, Crossways Tretire has died. Our thoughts are with you at this time, Lynda.

Margaret Oubridge

ORCOP

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Gerald Worgan, of Tretire, aged 80 years on March 31st in Hereford Hospital. His private funeral will take place at Orcop Church.

To close on a happier note, it was great to hear that Mike and Nicky Bailey of Orcop Hill have had a baby girl, Erin. **Margaret Fletcher** Churchwarden

It is with great sorrow that we write of the death of Eric Morris, just 15 days after the passing of his beloved wife, Vera. Eric was born at Little Camdore Farm, Orcop on the 1st of May 1924, one of 12 children born to Frederick and Amy Morris. When Eric was a small child, the family emigrated to Australia, but after only a few years they returned to farm again in Orcop. Along with his siblings, Eric attended Orcop Church and Orcop School. On leaving school, Eric worked on various farms in Dinedor, Cross Ash and Allensmore. Often he would have to cycle to and from work, unless he could get a lift on the back of his brother's motorbike.

Eric and Vera were married at Orcop Church in January 1946 and lived in the village. At this time he was working at Green Farm, Orcop. In 1948 Eric and Vera bought his old home, Little Camdore Farm, and their own farming life began. In 1960 they moved to Moat Farm and later to the bungalow, Moat Villa, in 1980. Eric was a true country person; he enjoyed his weekly trips to market, a Sunday morning pint in the pub and always made new people to the village very welcome.

Eric's motto in life was "You never put off until tomorrow what can be done today". He always said that he was happy with what he had achieved and "If I had my time over again I wouldn't change a thing".

The funeral took place at Orcop Church on Monday 22nd March after he took his final journey around Orcop. The family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, condolence cards and generous donations in memory of Eric.

Written by the Morris Family

Church Cleaning Rota: May 7th and 14th Mrs. S Griffiths

OWL does a Drug Run in Lockdown

When the lockdown was announced in March 2020 and a request was made for volunteers to assist the local surgery at Much Birch to deliver prescription medications, Owl Good Neighbours immediately volunteered their services. The surgery was looking for people under 70 and with a D.B.S. (police check). Unfortunately, many of the Owl volunteers were not under 70, but those who were, were quickly pressed into service. It was agreed with the surgery that we would do a weekly delivery and emergency deliveries as and when the need arose. Being under 70, at that time, I joined in.

I immediately had a vision of happily skipping up to the ideal country cottage surrounded by apple orchards, nice garden and flowers, making friends with the family dog or cat and handing over a package to a grateful

recipient. Another version saw me bravely battling through wind and rain to hand over life-saving drugs just in time.

Reality seldom if ever matches the vision.

We reported to the surgery at the appointed time, and were handed a collection of packages. The label on the package gives the name of the patient and address including the postcode. Never have I valued postcodes as much as I do now. Put the postcode in your satnav and off you go. On arrival at the postcode all you have to do is find the house. This is the theory.

On my first trip I was alone in the car and would like to apologise to anyone who saw me driving along hanging out of the window looking for house names. I soon learned that the satnav version of a destination was very approximate and you have to start looking for the house well before it says, *you have arrived at your destination*, to avoid driving up and down the same stretch of road. Postcodes cover between 1 and 100 houses and in the case of Herefordshire it seems to me several fields.

The next week I made sure to recruit a “spotter” to look for house names. When we first started it was very hot weather and there were lots of people in gardens to ask directions and very few vehicles on the road.

Those were the easy days. You have to be eagle-eyed to spot house names as they can be any here: on the house, the garage, a fence, a separate post, the door, garden wall, roof, and often on a tree. This week I saw a house name on a bicycle permanently parked outside the house. Even when there is a large name plate well placed in a prominent position you can be fooled, for example when at one house the wheelie bin was obscuring the house name. We drove up and down the lane several times until fortunately the lady of the house came to retrieve the bin and return it to its usual spot in the back garden. And there was the house we had been looking for in front of us all the time!!

Even when you find the house the task continues. We are asked by the surgery to hand over the medication to a responsible person, preferably the person it is intended for. It is not safe to leave it on the doorstep or push through the letter box. A number of houses have large containers outside for parcels, but we cannot leave our packages there. If no-one answers the door we have to shout or search for a live person. Which sometimes results in an interesting encounter. I had no idea so many ladies wore bikinis in the hot weather.

We have a “report form” to complete from the surgery to say if we left the package with a person or not, and if not handed to a person if a note was left and where package and note were left.

For the past year Owl Good Neighbours have delivered medications every week at least once and often more than once a week. We have taken emergency deliveries at short notice. Alongside this service Owl Good Neighbours has done shopping for those self-isolating and given telephone support to those living alone. It seems wrong to say I have enjoyed this most terrible time. However, I think I can say I feel that the Good Neighbour scheme has proved its worth and the members have felt that they are valued to the community. We are looking forward to restarting the monthly community lunches with perhaps a tea party as a first step. Look out for more news about that later in the year. **Jane Rigler**

HENTLAND

The restoration of John Pollard Seddon’s chancel decoration at St Dubricius’ is now done and very beautiful it looks. There will be a period for snags to be dealt with before the final 5% retention will be due, but the final look will be as it is now. If snags do crop up, they are likely to arise from the damp patches which occurred when the eaves were opened up to give access to the back of the decorated frieze, and the protection was dislodged in a gale in Spring last year.

Meanwhile the Walker organ is all but rebuilt and was played for the Pax service on Palm Sunday. Organ builders David and Kevin will be there this week to finish off and with some regulation and tuning to be done, it will be back to its original state of 1869, but for the addition of electric blowing. There will be a recital on Saturday 26th June by Anna Lapwood, the first female director of music at an Oxford or Cambridge college,

and frequent presenter on Radio 3. She will be joined by tenor Ruairi Bowen, who is well known to local audiences, though now based in London. More details of timing, tickets and programme will be in the June magazine. **Robin Symonds**

Book Review

***Olive Kitteridge* and *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout**

Author Elizabeth Strout richly deserves her Pulitzer Prize. *Olive Kitteridge* and *Olive Again* are unique in style and are compelling reading. Set in Maine, US, Olive Kitteridge is a 'character' –somewhat prickly and outspoken, and deeply puzzled by the outpourings of emotion from her fellow citizens-by their lack of self-restraint. So much of what she sees about her seems to her unnecessary and curious; and she does not hesitate to say so.

This is not simply a novel about Olive-it is a series of short stories about the lives of a host of characters, and she barely gets a mention in some chapters. But the ways that she has impinged on the lives of these others, sheds oblique light on who she is.

We first meet her in middle age when she is reaching the end of her career as a college maths teacher. Her kindly, long-suffering mild- mannered husband Henry runs the local pharmacy. Their one son Christopher, has retreated to the other side of the country, where he enters into two marriages in quick succession. His contact with his mother is intermittent and fraught with tension.

The books follow her into old age-Henry dies of a stroke and, to everyone's amazement, she marries Jack, a retired Harvard lecturer who indulges her quirks, but with a little more self-assertion. He ponders the odd behaviours of the human race, reflecting: '...it should never be taken lightly, the essential loneliness of people; that the choices they made to keep themselves from that gaping darkness were choices that require respect.'

The theme of ageing underlies the books, and we are treated to Olive's acerbic reflections on that unwelcome process. 'Shrink? Of course you do. Your spine gets crunched up, your belly pops out-and down you go.'

As her life draws to a close, she is no nearer understanding life and herself, 'I do not have a clue who I have been. truthfully, I do not understand a thing.'

Hilary Smallwood

Childhood Memories

When my father was about my age he started writing short recollections of his idyllic Derbyshire childhood. He wrote them by hand on cards. In 1994, when he was 80, I gathered these up and had them typed and published in a nicely bound limited edition. One of these was presented to him at his 80th birthday celebration, much to his delight. It was titled "TED'S TALES, Being the Recollections of a Derbyshire Lad". There are 58 stories in the book, relating to a period now 100 years ago. Some of them are quite amusing and some are of historical interest. Although they are not local, it occurs to me that some might find them interesting.

Peter Garratt

37 THE BELL RINGERS

Our church only had two bells, which were hung in the open at the west end of the building. The official bell ringer was a Mr Lowe, who was always reliable and punctual. All he had to do was to pull two ropes alternately and the bells went "Ding Dong, Ding Dong" and then five minutes before the start of the service, just a series of "Dongs". The single "Dongs" were a message to late comers to hurry up as the service was about to start. Mr Lowe failed to arrive one Sunday evening and the Vicar recruited myself and another choir boy to carry out the easy task of calling his faithful flock to the evening service.

Did I say it was easy? Well, you have never heard such a row in all your life for instead of the customary and familiar "Ding Dong, Ding Dong" our peel was of several consecutive "Dings" followed by one "Dong" then a "Ding" and a few "Dongs".

This unusual bell ringing went on with numerous variations for a few minutes, after which came a pause by mutual consent, in order to get our act together and make a new start. After a few mutterings the peel again rang forth, the result being even worse than before as by now we were getting panic stricken. You see, this bell ringing was not carried out in the privacy of a bell tower, but at the west wall of the nave and those of the congregation who had arrived early were staring at us in fascination. To complete our discomfort some of the girls started to giggle.

We never did get the hang of this simple task.

Of course the choir boys thought that our performance was hilarious and one of them had the cheek to ask the vicar if we could ring the bells every Sunday. The vicar told him not to be unkind and that we had done our best, but we were never asked again to deputise for the absent bell ringer.

Only a small congregation attended that Sunday evening because of the fear that the bell ringer had gone mad.

Wildlife in our Garden

The squirrels have become very skittish – even more than usual if that's possible. Maybe it's because it's mating time. Or maybe it's because they're so well fed on all the food we put out for the birds. They do seem to be in pairs now. They chase each other about, up and down trees at high speed. They've also taken to teasing the cock pheasant that comes into the garden nearly every day. He enjoys the seeds we put out on the low wall, for the small birds really, and is in competition with the squirrels. They tolerate each other up to a point, but occasionally a squirrel will lunge at the pheasant, turn tail and dash off before it can retaliate. The pheasant does not appear to be particularly bothered by this behaviour but just returns to feeding. (Those of you brought up on Beatrix Potter stories may be put in mind of Squirrel Nutkin and Old Brown.)

Talking of mating behaviour, one of our resident song thrushes has been singing its heart out the last three weeks. For a while it seemed to be performing all day from dawn to dusk so that it could not have had time to feed, no doubt making sure of its territory and showing off to any potential mate. Is it only the male who sings like this, or do females do it too?

The birds that come regularly to the feeders or onto the grass below have not changed much: tits (blue and great), sparrows, chaffinches and dunnocks every day, greater spotted woodpeckers most days. The jay returned briefly at the end of February and again at the end of March. In April so far we have had two goldfinches on the nyjer seeds on 4th but they've not returned and a greenfinch briefly on the mixed seeds on the 7th, the day I'm writing.

We were delighted and a bit surprised that a robin is building a new nest in our potting shed. Last year a pair of robins raised a family in the same shed in a different corner but the young were taken by a weasel before they could fledge. We wish them better luck this year, whether the same or a different pair.

In the warm weather just before Easter I thought I could hear a chiff-chaff singing in the wood that abuts the bottom of the garden. What made me unsure was that it only seemed to sing a repetitive chiff, chiff, chiff chiff.....but no chaff. This went on for too long to be a thrush. I don't know what else it could have been. Perhaps one of our readers could enlighten us?

We have one more question for any knowledgeable enough person: there are some bees (well they look like small bees) at this time of year (April) that for several years running appear to have emerged from the ground under a patch of lawn. They are about 15 mm long and of relatively slim build like a honey bee, not rounded like a bumble. They have hairs on their thorax. They have three white patches, one on each side of the thorax and one on the front of their heads. Otherwise they are, as far as I can see, quite black. They fly around about 5 cm above the ground but I cannot see them feeding on anything. Can anyone tell us what they are?

John Oubridge.

Garden Notes

I don't know whether it is because we have been leading such a quiet life for the past year, but this year I want the garden to be filled with colour, really strong colour. And when I say colour, I mean orange. Lots of it. I want to open the curtains in the morning and say 'Wow!'

Orange is a bit like Marmite – you either love it or hate it. I love it (I love Marmite too) but have generally avoided it because it can look dreadful next to pinks and pale lilacs. I have been removing many of my older perennials which are no longer performing very well and I have been planting shrubs. I now have an opportunity to fill the spaces in between with masses of summer colour.



The greenhouse is filling up with tiny seedlings which promise me orange in abundance. There are the *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Rustic Dwarfs' that I grow every year; there are orange snapdragons (*Antirrhinum* 'Overture Deep Orange') and red and orange snapdragons ('Maryland Flamingo'); there are Mexican sunflowers (*Tithoni rotundifolia* 'Fiesta del Sol') and California poppies and there are African marigolds ('Elevate Orange'). When I venture out to a garden centre again, I will be looking for *Helenium* 'Moerheim Beauty' or 'Sahin's Early Flowerer' – such good flowers for late summer.

As a contrast and to calm down all that flaming orange, I am growing *Salvia farinacea* 'Seascaped mixed' – a mixture of blue and white. There will be other blues - the pretty blue of hardy geraniums such as 'Rozanne' and a friend has offered me some delphiniums. I will be looking for other blue flowers to add to the show – other Salvias, perhaps *Salvia patens*. Agapanthus look wonderful with orange flowers too, especially the stronger blue ones, so perhaps one of those in a pot.

There will be white flowers too - last year I collected seed from *Echinacea purpurea* 'White Swan' and these have germinated well. This is such a good Echinacea with its pure white downswept petals and its beautiful spiky cone centre. In this garden it comes back reliably every year, its only fault being that it disappears completely in winter and I always worry about standing on the emerging shoots when I weed the border in spring.

Lime greens are wonderful with blue and orange and the obvious plant to provide that is good old *Alchemilla mollis* which I have plenty of here. Euphorbias are the other obvious choice, not a plant I am particularly fond of but I might just be tempted to plant one and see if I can grow to love it.



As we cautiously emerge from lockdown and start to lead more normal lives, I won't need to venture out and about in search of excitement – it will all be happening here in the garden. Hidden behind our huge front hedge will be a garden chock full of eye-popping colour. The flowers will be having their own party and I will be joining them...

Julie Davies

Chuckle Corner



Thanks to Peter G.

A couple of engineering jokes from Janet Harvey who is sad that she cannot share them with Bill Taylor who would have enjoyed them!

Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it.
Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it isn't sufficiently complex yet.

Two engineering students were riding bicycles across a university campus when one said,

"Where did you get the great bike?"

The second engineer replied,

"Well, I was walking yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said,

'Take what you want.' "

The first engineer nodded approvingly and said,

"Good choice: The clothes probably wouldn't have fitted you anyway."

Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.

More Curious Quiz Answers

Name a reason for standing up quickly.
Being in church.

Name an occupation where you might need a torch.
Burglary.



An Unexpected Find

I was walking with a friend in the wood above our house, on the east-facing slope of Garway Hill. We had reached the topmost corner, just where the wood abuts onto the common. The ground was covered with the green of the bluebell leaves, yet to flower, with occasional clumps of lovely white wood sorrel flowers, and a lot of tree debris after the winter.

A flash of colour in the gloom caught my eye - an unexpected blue. Could it be the first bluebell, in the middle of April? Surely not!

We got down on hands and knees, to have a closer look. A tiny, dainty flower, sky-blue fading to white at its centre, with six petals and a reddish stem, supporting 2 long, pointed leaves, and with its face pointing upwards to the sky.

Definitely not a bluebell. I had never seen anything like this in the wood before.

At home, we got out the wildflower reference books, searched the internet, and consulted knowledgeable friends.

Is it? - could it be? - yes, it's a chionodoxa!

Having done a bit more searching, I now know how to pronounce it, but only with an American accent. Chionodoxa, I found, comes from the eastern Mediterranean area, particularly Crete, Cyprus and Turkey. The long name comes from the Greek, meaning 'Glory of the snow', which I think is lovely, and refers to its habit of growing high in the mountains and flowering just as the snow starts to melt in the spring.

So how, I wonder, did this little beauty find its way to the top of the wood, at least a quarter of a mile from the nearest garden, and quite different from cultivated varieties? It just goes to show how wonderful the natural world is, how strong the life force, and how rules, even in nature, are made to be broken!

Frances. Illustration by Tracy Somerville.

A Surprise Ingredient!

At this time of year I peer into the depths of the freezer to use up the last of the veg and berries stored from last year. A rather unappetising pot of plum puree emerged last week, and as it defrosted, its taste was not very exciting. As I was making a chicken casserole at the time, I decided to risk adding some plum. With some onions, carrots, celeriac and paprika, the plum gave the dish a good, rich texture. Why not try out something from the bottom of your freezer and share the result with us too?! I hope that you do not find anything too exciting lurking there! **Fiona Mynors**

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 please look out for details in our newsletter or by email which you can receive by logging in to our website.

HEREFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

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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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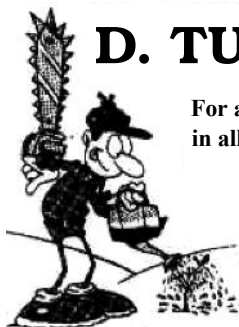
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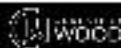
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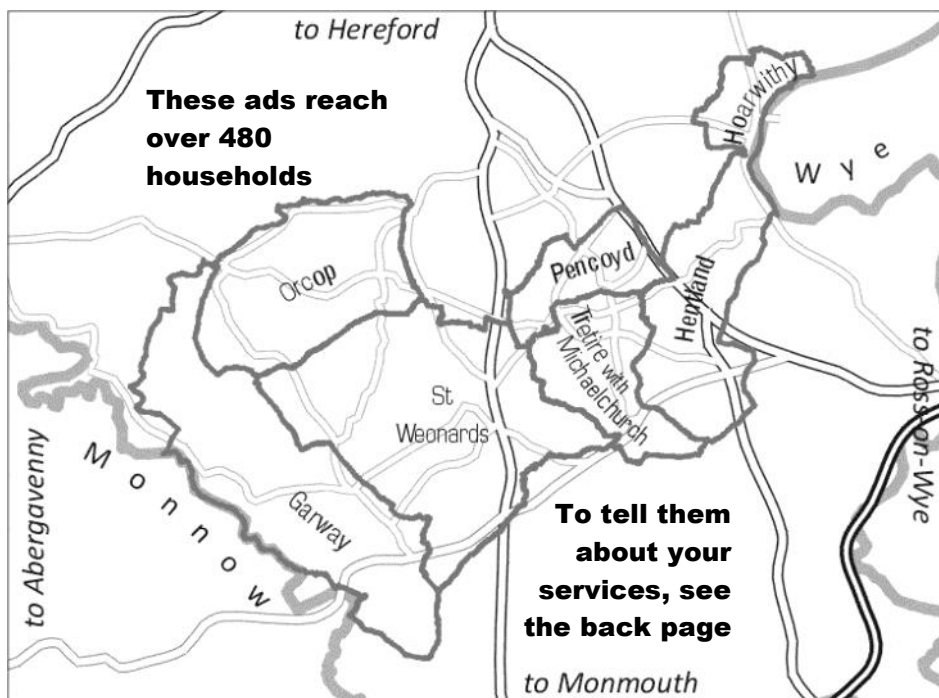


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