

# PARISH NEWS

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

JUNE 2022



LOUISE BROSAN

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## CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

### Churchwardens

St. Weonards	Richard Mynors.....	01981 580208
	Anna Williams .....	01981 580352
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 Contacts

Editor Parish Magazine	Fiona Mynors .....	01981 580208
Group Choir	Richard Mynors .....	01981 580208
Bellringing	Peter Hallowell .....	01981 580203
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Orcop Evergreens	Gill Bannerman .....	01981 580685
Woman's Fellowship	June Griffiths .....	01981 580353
Youth Group, Tear Fund	Fay Rowlands .....	01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings	Jude Loveridge.....	01981 241614
St Weonards Hall Booking	Anna Williams.....	01981 580195
St Weonards Pre-school	Anna Williams.....	01981 580352
Singing Tree Choir	Hilary Smallwood .....	01600 614012
Garway Hall Bookings	.....	hires@garwayhall.org
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones .....	01600 750273
@Garway	Graham Bevan .....	01981 580215
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

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### Samaritans

National Helpline .....	08457 909090
Hereford .....	116 123 free calls
.....	0330 094 5717 local call rates apply jo@samaritans.org
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 **12<sup>th</sup> of the month**:

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<b>Tretire/Pencoyd:</b>	Margaret Oubridge Tretire Smithy	01981 580233
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## PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

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<b>Ballingham, Bolstone &amp; Hentland:</b>	Nicky Mackenzie <a href="mailto:clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk">clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk</a>	07581 353103

**VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS** [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)



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# PARISH NEWS

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## THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

Revd Frances Phillips  
Associate Priest of the St Weonards Group of churches  
New House  
Garway Hill  
Herefordshire  
HR2 8EZ  
01981 240032  
[franiphillips@gmail.com](mailto:franiphillips@gmail.com)

### Archdeacon's Letter

Hello Everyone,

As I write this, we are preparing to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Whatever your view about having a hereditary monarch from a historical point of view most of us alive today will not see such a long serving monarch again in our lifetime. This truly is therefore a once in a lifetime event and may never take place again. Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne 70 years ago and she has already reigned longer than Queen Victoria who reigned for 63 years and 7 months, and King George III who reigned for 59 years and 96 days. This is a significant historical event, and it should be marked with appropriate national celebration. Some of you reading this may have met the Queen and have clear memories of that moment and its impact. The jubilee coincides with Pentecost and the 'Thy Kingdom Come' global wave of prayer organised by the church, and it strikes me this is entirely appropriate given that the Queen has such a strong personal faith. As she herself has said on many occasions, it is her personal faith that guides her actions and her life.

*"To many of us our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example." (Christmas message, 2000)*

Whilst it is easy to complain or write off royalty as an historic anachronism, with no place in the C21st, we are fortunate in our nation to have a Queen who has publically stated her belief in Jesus, and takes seriously her role as head of the Church of England. She trusts in Jesus, at the heart of her life.

Whatever our view of the Queen as an earthly monarch as Christians we believe in a King and a Kingdom which is everlasting and without end. We can and should celebrate the Queen's 70 years of service to our nation shaped by her faith, calling and determination to serve God. We should also remember as Paul taught Timothy to pray for her and our nation's leaders, but remember too that the faith she so often speaks about is available to all of us too.

*"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings, queens and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:1-5*

**From the registers:** *Charlotte Nicholls* was baptised at St Weonards Church on 22nd May.

*Gerald Roy Strange's* funeral took place at Orcop Church on 22nd April.

*Simon Cooper's* funeral took place at Orcop Church on 31st May.

### June Benefice Service 9.00am

Our June benefice service is at **9.00am on Sunday June 5th** via Zoom. Join us for this service on this special 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](mailto:franjpillips@gmail.com)

Do join us.

**Frances**

## PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



**21st June Carolyn Trew 01600 750227**

### Service Rota

**For any changes please check the benefice website [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)**

June	05	09:00	Holy Communion Zoom
	12	10:00	All Age St Weonards
		11:00	Orcop
	19	10:00	Holy Communion Pencoyd
		10:00	Holy Communion Hoarwithy with guest speaker, Charles Price
	26	09:15	Holy Communion Hentland
		10:00	St Weonards
		18:00	St Michaels' Michaelchurch – Evening Service
July	03	10:00	Holy Communion Zoom

### Hereford Cathedral Events

See the end of the magazine as there are many activities for all ages including a Lego Club and garden visits!

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# VILLAGE PAGES

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## ST WEONARDS

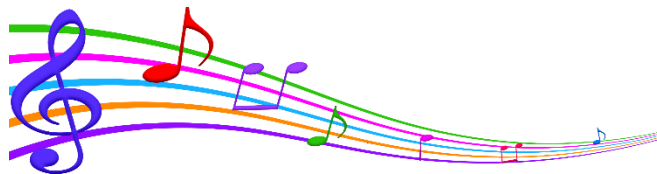
Easter Sunday was a day of celebration for our church community. Many of our younger families with their children and babies returned to their family homes and joined us for communion led by Archdeacon Derek. The large congregation sung the Easter hymns heartily, and after the service, eating Easter Eggs generously given out by Gillie and Peter Hallowell, enjoyed catching up with friends.

We were pleased to welcome Bishop David Thomson to our church to celebrate communion and to baptise Charlotte Nicholls.

As I write we are preparing for our 'Come and Sing' or listen for the Jubilee. See Below. Do come. All welcome and we would love an audience even if you do not want to sing!

Rev Tiffany Jackson will be with us to celebrate communion on June 12th for our All Age Service. Our current mini-series at this service is that we are considering the letters of St Paul which he wrote to support the new scattered Christian communities across the Mediterranean after the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day.

We had an excellent meeting to plan the village Bring and Share Village Picnic and look forward to seeing plenty of people on Sunday 5th June at Treago at 12.00am. Please see the poster for more information. Please get in touch if you are hoping to come.



**COME AND SING or listen for the JUBILEE**  
**St Weonards Church. Sunday 29th May**

Rehearse 2.00pm for rehearsal at 2.30 pm. Tea at 4.00pm.

'Perform' 4.30pm. Look forward to seeing you!

Richard Mynors 01981 580 208 [fionamynors@btinternet.com](mailto:fionamynors@btinternet.com)

**Sunday June 5th 'Bring and Share Jubilee Picnic' at Treago.**



Join us at 12.00pm for bubbly and bring some food to share. If you hope to come, could you let us know so that we can put out enough seats, and also what you would like to bring in the way of food so we don't all bring the same!!!

[fionamynors@btinternet.com](mailto:fionamynors@btinternet.com) or 01981 580 208

***Pengethley Farm Shop and St Weonards Shop are generously providing us with some ham and bread rolls.***

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This meeting gave our parishes the opportunity to share news about our activities over the previous year, and to thank Frances Philips for all that she has done across the benefice in her ministry. Rev Sean Semple, our rural dean, has asked for two representatives from our group of parishes to discuss the way forward for future ministry. Part of that process will be to understand how sustainable our individual parishes will be. We also re-elected our parish officers and were delighted to welcome Anna Williams as an additional church warden. **Richard Mynors**

### St Weonards Village Hall

#### Public meeting Tuesday 14th June at 7.30pm

Due to the pandemic the Village Hall and past committee has been rather neglected.

Now is time for positive change and the chance to move the Village Hall forward. It is a public building located centrally in St Weonards for the local community to hire and for us all to come together at times as a community. In the past the hall committee hosted Big Breakfasts, Pub Nights, Christmas fayres. It has been used for Bingos, whist drives, family celebrations, fitness groups, youth groups and has been home to Welsh Newton Young farmers for a very long time who still meet regularly at the Hall as well as the local Parish Council.

There will be an open community meeting on Tuesday 14th June at 7.30pm to reform a committee for the Village Hall. Let's come together now to breathe some life back into this village building and see it used again for the good of our community.

If you would like to engage with the organisers of this meeting, please contact **Anna Williams** on 07779 006994 or **Richard Williams** on 01981 580442

### St Weonards Academy News

The pupils at St Weonards Academy had a wonderful spring term and are now fully refreshed after the Easter break to begin the summer term.

At the end of last term, we were very fortunate to be able to celebrate Easter with an Easter Party hosted by the PTFA with a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny, the usual chocolate delights and some fun games. Local residents Mr and Mrs Hallowell also provided pupils and staff with an Easter gift, a tradition they have maintained since their own children attended St Weonards. We were invited to St Weonards Church for an *Easter Experience*, reinforcing the children's learning of Christianity delivered through the Herefordshire agreed RE syllabus within schools. It is also wonderful to be able to share the history of the landmark building within the village and connect the school and church community. Our thanks to the Herbert and Mynors family for organising such a positive visit.

The children are very lucky here at St Weonards and took part in a number of musical and sporting activities last term. This term will be no different with pupils taking part in both Rounders and Athletics tournaments across the county. We are also looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in school and have been gifted a beautiful Rowan Tree to plant as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

*Shining Stars* pre-school pupils have been treated to new playground markings, giving them a new racetrack, number crunching caterpillar and journey through the alpha spiral. We are also having a new canopy to allow more space for outdoor learning, and they have started planning a vegetable garden, with plants being grown from seed and some donated by local families.

We will keep you updated of all that goes on here at St Weonards but if you would like to find out more, please do contact **Anna Williams**, Office administrator, on 01981 580352 or [admin@stweonards.hmfa.org.uk](mailto:admin@stweonards.hmfa.org.uk)



# GARWAY

## Garway Stitchers

Dates we are stitching this month are June 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. 10.30 – 12.30, at Garway village hall.

We now have three panels. Our first one, which we started quite a few years ago now, is about Garway Village Hall, both old and new, and how they have brought the community together to enjoy the activity and events that have been held there for a century of village life. With just a few finishing touches, this panel is almost complete.

There are two panels that we are working on now, one is about Garway Common and the other, Garway Hill. Do come along and see the beautiful embroidery that has been done by our stitchers, and perhaps add your own piece of embroidery. There is plenty of help on hand to guide you if you are not that good with a needle. Or just come for the company and a chat... you are welcome to bring your own project too!

**Tracy Somerville**

## Garway Primary School and Pre-school

*STOP PRESS! We have just heard that the builders arrive to erect our new Early Years classroom immediately and should be finished by August. What excitement!*

It has been business as usual at school, with a sigh of relief as normality seems to have returned after such turbulence because of covid. It always astonishes me, that despite the comparative size of GPS, technically called *small*, the pupils have so many exciting opportunities to broaden their experiences through the myriad of activities organised for them. (The school website publishes the weekly newsletter where you can read all about these activities). This is in addition to the solid curriculum teaching and learning.

Older pupils have been sitting SATS assessments as usual. Towards the end of the term all pupils are assessed to ensure that they are progressing as well as possible. This information is extremely useful for teachers to ensure there are no gaps in pupils' learning, particularly after the challenges of absences because of covid.

Recently the *GROUND FORCE CLUB* have been busy and school is so grateful to Henry's Dad and Pengethley Garden Centre for their generous donation of topsoil which has been added to the garden beds by Groundforce club. Thanks also to Allensmore Nurseries for donating some lovely perennial plants which are already in the flower bed and looking fantastic! Groundforce club would welcome donations of vegetable plants to go in their vegetable plot or drought tolerant perennials (e.g. lavender) to go in the containers around school.

Pre-school have been exploring the world of insects! Some of the activities include making playdough insect fossils, rescuing insects from string spider webs and gooey jelly, comparing common characteristics, creating paper chain caterpillars and designing insect inspired snacks! The *Butterflies Group*, older children, have been very grown up lately and have started to learn early phonics in preparation for joining school. They have been super at recognising and pronouncing some letter sounds and made great efforts to practise writing them.

The PSA are organising a Fashion Show and we are so grateful for their support for school.

**Fiona Mynors**

### **Garway School PSA FASHION SHOW**

**Friday 24th June, 7.30pm, Garway Village Hall, £10 per ticket**

The team of parents organising the Fashion Show are doing a fantastic job of putting together gorgeous goody bags - a huge thank you to the parents and local businesses who have donated items. If anyone else would like to model in the show, let us know! Tickets will be £10 each with all proceeds going towards Garway Primary School. This event has been a really good fun social event and a great fundraiser for the school, so have a chat to your friends and family and bring them along...

### **Garway Hill Beacon**



There will be a beacon on Garway Hill on Thursday June 2nd. It will be lit at 9.45 pm in accordance with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. There will be a vehicle to take anyone to the top of the hill who cannot walk that far. It will be available at the bottom of Sun Lane from 9.15 pm.

***Lesley Whistance***



### **Jubilee Picnic**

**Friday 3rd June 2022**

**From 2pm on Garway Common**

**\*Bring your own picnic\***

**2.30pm \*Fancy Dress Parade\* ... dress as kings, queens, knights and princesses and join the parade for the**

**\*\*Grand Opening\*\*  
of the new Garway Playground!**

**3.00pm \*Maypole dancing\***

**Rounders matches ... Live music ...**

**Pimms Bar ... Kelsmoor ice cream...**

**strawberries & cream ... Tea, coffee & squash**

**Fish 'n' Chip van 4pm**

**Sale of sunflowers for the**

**Fun Day competition**

## Garway Croquet Club 2022

The season is starting early this year, you may have seen the courts marked out in early March. This is for the 'very keen' members and I should say also very good players.

So don't be put off when you see them playing on the common, they are the A team.

There are also many members like myself who are the fair weather players who really don't start until April at least, and need far more practice to get really good. I just turn up on a Thursday evening for the social side/fun but do continue to enjoy learning more tricks from others.

Anyone can come and have a try, it only takes a couple of games to digest the rules and get the swing..... Young, old and ancient are all welcome. We have a selection of each so do come along and give it a try. Three croquet sets are kindly kept at the pub for members to use.

**Thursday evenings from 6.30 pm til dark**, call by and just ask how we play croquet and you will be welcomed to join in. No one is ever turned away, but is welcomed to the group. Thursday is club night and the night to start for beginners, teaching and practice, plus the chance of a meal or drink at the Moon after. So come along unless very, very wet.

You don't have to arrive with a partner, come on your own, as we all join in together and play with whoever has turned up on club night. Members are always keen to teach new members on a Thursday evening, that's what club nights are for.

You will notice others playing their matches at other times of the week, some are so keen they can still be seen out in the dark with their car lights on!

You can also just come and watch of course, spectators always welcome, bring your comfortable chairs and enjoy the evening and fantastic views from Garway Common.

**Angela Farr** 01600 750 333 [farrcottages@yahoo.com](mailto:farrcottages@yahoo.com)

**Date for the diary:** Garway Fun Day, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August. More details to follow.

## ORCOP

We are sad to report the death of Simon Cooper, son of Mr and Mrs Barry Cooper, whose funeral will take place at Orcop Church at 12 noon on Tuesday May 31<sup>st</sup>.

We extend our condolences to Simon's family and friends.

Both the Easter Day service and the 11am communion service on 8<sup>th</sup> May attracted very few, the latter only four, despite a former Bishop of Hereford taking the service and a distinguished concert pianist at the organ. This underscores the need to rethink the future of our ancient parish church and more on this will follow over the coming months.

On 12<sup>th</sup> June, the Revd. Crispin Pemberton will be with us, again with splendid musical accompaniment, and we are hopeful of better support.

As we "go to press" (12<sup>th</sup> May) we have learned that thieves have today attempted to strip lead from the roof of the Parish Hall. We have yet to establish whether or not they have had a go at the church as well. Sadly, in these times of financial hardship for many and desperation for some, we can expect such activities to increase.

To conclude on more cheerful matters, we are looking forward the "Archenfield Arts" on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, when Hilary Smallwood has assembled an amazing array of local talent, amongst which Orcop is well represented. Furthermore, Larry Smith is making a steady recovery from his recent medical setbacks and he is setting an amazing example of cheerful stoicism in the face of pain and hardship. All your friends and

neighbours, Larry, join in wishing you a full recovery and an eventual return to your magazine delivery round. Meanwhile, we are very grateful to Lesley Cross for holding the fort until you are well enough to do so.

**Margaret Fletcher** Churchwarden

### **Orcop Neighbourhood Development Plan – Update May 2022**

The draft NDP submission version has been completed by David Nicholson incorporating all the amendments agreed in the Response Log. The Steering Group agreed that this amended version of the NDP should be passed to Herefordshire Council for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. We are awaiting these Assessments in order for our Consultant to reflect their findings in the Basic Conditions Statement.

The Consultation Statement has been compiled by our Planning Consultant and approved by the Steering Group after amendments. This will accompany the NDP when it is submitted to Herefordshire Council – we are aiming for this to happen after Parish Council approval of all the documents at the next meeting, 18 May. The aim of the CS is to document the consultation undertaken during the NDP process, for the benefit of the Examiner.

For any questions please contact **Mark Hearne**.

[clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org)

tel: 01981 251887

[www.orcopparishcouncil.org](http://www.orcopparishcouncil.org)

### **Owl Good Neighbours Community Tea**



Wednesday 1st of June from 3pm to 5pm

In June the community lunch will convert into an afternoon tea with the first tea party on Wednesday 1st June in Orcop Parish Hall from 3pm to 5pm. Come along and get in the mood for the four-day bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Come and enjoy a hearty Orcop Tea with sandwiches, cakes and, if we are lucky, sausage rolls.

The charge will be £8.00 and of course includes as much tea as you can drink. All ages welcome.

*Please note:* Teas will continue throughout the summer until lunches start up again for autumn and winter. These arrangements were discussed at one of the first lunches after the lockdown and were approved by the group.

If you have any questions, require more details or have any special dietary considerations please ring **Jane Rigler** on 01981 241310

## **TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCLOYD**

Tretire church was looking lovely on Easter Sunday, when once again, Rev Brian Phillips came to lead a service of Holy Communion. Our band of cleaners met on the Saturday morning and gave the church a thorough clean before decorating all the windowsills with Easter Flowers. We had a congregation of about 35 and so some lusty singing of the familiar Easter Hymns! The churchyard was all tidy too, after the mowing band had been busy, and still a fair number of Primroses, Bluebells and Violets had been carefully mowed around.

The following week we had our regular service of evening prayer, this time at Pencoyd, and led for us by Elizabeth.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held at Orcop Village Hall on Tuesday 27th April, chaired by our Rural Dean, Rev Sean Semple. It opened with a report from our Assistant Priest, Rev Frances Phillips, who



thanked Sean for all his help in our Benefice during our interregnum, and also the help given by all the churchwardens whose ministry to their parishes has been considerably increased because of the absence of a vicar. They have been meeting monthly and helping to hold the Benefice together.

Frances has been holding a Zoom service of Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of every month, and also taking a Communion Service rotating through the churches on every 3rd Sunday. She has continued to visit Garway School regularly and has dealt with much of the administrative work in the Benefice. This has included arranging for marriages and funerals to take place and visiting sick and elderly people. She has also led the Hoarwithy Singers, which she brought into being a number of years ago. She will be very much missed when she finally retires from Church ministry in October, and will leave a large administrative gap in our Benefice.

Rev Sean Semple then brought us up to date with the work of the Deanery Leadership Team, who have held consultation meetings with all the parishes in the Deanery, over the past year. He has requested that each Benefice should appoint two representatives to attend future Deanery Leadership meetings, and that between them they should present their Benefices with a Sustainability Document. Once this plan has been approved by all the Benefices, a final Deanery Pastoral Plan can be sent to the Diocese. No new incumbent can be appointed until this process has been completed. There is still hope that a new incumbent may be found for our Benefice, but it will not be for some considerable time. This will inevitably result in the workload of our already overstretched Churchwarden increasing, so we, the parishioners need to ease her load whenever and wherever possible.

**Meg Oubridge**

## HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY



**Hentland  
Platinum Jubilee Party**

Thursday 2nd June and Sunday 5th June

**Lighting of the Beacon**  
**Thursday 2nd June 2022 at 9:00pm**  
by Llanfrother Farmhouse, HR2 6QX

**BBQ, BYO drinks, Music**  
**Sunday 5th June 2022 from 2:30pm**  
With £5 BBQ raffle, kids treasure hunt, next to Hentland Church, HR9 6LP

Festival of flowers and music performance from 2:30pm in church

**FREE ENTRY**



On Sunday 5th June, there will be a flower festival in church and an organ recital in the afternoon.

There will be a simple barbecue with burgers and bangers for a fiver, a treasure hunt for the kids and a raffle for the grown-ups. We are hoping to plant a tree on the edge of the car park, with a plaque to record the date and occasion. The day is planned to be a convivial meeting of friends with a welcome to all visitors who have come to see our newly-renovated chancel decoration and to join us in celebration of Her Majesty's 70th Jubilee. **Robin Symonds**



**Hoarwithy Village Jubilee Celebrations Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 12.30pm**

Join us at River Meadow in the village centre 12:30pm for a 1pm sit down lunch @ £10/head, Under 12's free.

Hoarwithy singers, tractor parade, river duck-race, rounders match.

[friendsofhoarwithy@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhoarwithy@gmail.com) for more info and to book. All welcome!"

***Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June – special service at St. Catherine's, Hoarwithy, led by Frances with Charles Price as guest speaker.***

Charles grew up in Hoarwithy and his preaching gift quickly established him as an international speaker. Charles has held a number of senior positions, including Principal of Capernwray Bible School and latterly Senior Pastor at People's Church, Toronto.

After the service Jeff and Sarah will be hosting a lunch at the campsite to provide an opportunity to chat further – please contact Jeff on 075544 96548 if you'd like more info.

***Jeff Goulding and Peter Pember***

**News from the National Churches Trust**

Dear Friend,

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been patron of our charity since 1953, when we were founded as the Historic Churches Preservation Trust. In that time, we have supported over 12,000 churches with grants and loans in excess of £100 million.

To mark Queen Elizabeth's support for our work, we have produced a special Jubilee Proclamation which thanks her for her patronage.

We will be publishing the Proclamation in newspapers and magazines and are asking churches, chapels and meeting houses to join us in publishing it in their magazines, on church websites and as posters on church noticeboards.

You can download the Proclamation on our [Jubilee Proclamation page](#). Please do share it with your local church.

We would be delighted to see pictures of your Jubilee celebrations, which you can send to us by [email](#) or by tagging the National Churches Trust on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claire".

**Claire Walker, Chief Executive**

## Wildlife in our Garden

Since Easter we have not been putting peanuts out as we think the birds are generally finding enough food elsewhere, but we do still put out mixed seed, largely for our own benefit, so that we can get an idea of what is still about.

Far fewer squirrels come to forage now; we have not seen Scratty at all, and the one with the kinked tail only once or twice. The tits have more or less stopped coming and we've not seen a nuthatch this year. Also, we hardly ever see the woodpeckers, the jays, the goldfinches, the greenfinches, the pheasants or the moorhen now. We are left with our faithful robins, blackbirds, house sparrows, dunnocks and plenty of chaffinches.

I continue to worry about the swallows. In previous years they have mainly been seen on and around Pursey's farmyard, but also enough for them to fly over our garden and a few to investigate our garage for possible nesting sites. This year, the numbers at Pursey's are down to a small handful and I have seen none up here at all. I nearly bought a swallow's nesting box from RSPB with a view to encouraging them, but as they don't even come here to look around there seems little point.

On the other hand, the garden is alive with birdsong. The robins are less vocal than they were in the winter, but the blackbirds make up for them. I said last month I had not heard a song thrush in our garden, but since then there has been one, and sometimes two, singing away each morning and evening from some of our taller trees. Although we don't see the birds themselves so much, we know they are about because of all the empty, broken snail shells lying around in various favourite spots on the stone paths.

On Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, we heard both a chiff-chaff and a blackcap for the first time this year. The blackcaps are prodigious songsters and are very vocal in nearly all parts of the garden nearly all day now. The chiff-chaffs are less consistent but heard on most days.

The insect world is waking up too. There are plenty of bees, though many more bumble than honeybees. I am indebted to Lesley Whistance for identifying for me the ashy mining bee, *Andrena cineraria*, the one that we see hovering above the lawn each spring. According to Wikipedia it pollinates fruit trees, but I must confess I have not spotted it yet anywhere other than just above the lawn. We have seen plenty of orange-tip butterflies and a few brimstones and small whites so far this year. Margaret has seen some damselflies in the last few days, a female beautiful demoiselle, *Calopteryx virgo*, we think from her description.



Judging from the number of black droppings found almost anywhere in the garden, we have plenty of hedgehogs about at night. We have not seen one in the day. I must get around to setting up the infra-red camera again and see whether I can get a better idea of the nightlife!

**John Oubridge**, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

## Book Review

### ***Odd Boy Out* by Gyles Brandreth**

Brandreth is a witty and amusing raconteur - as might be expected of someone who is much in demand as an after dinner speaker and panel show guest, and whose career ranges from acting, studying prisons, being an MP, writing books and serving on Lord Longford's porn enquiry.

Born in Germany, he returned with his parents to England at the age of 3. He attended the French Lycée in London (where he was taught in French), and subsequently Bedales, a school that made a deep impression on him, and that was peopled with those who went on to become the great and the good.

I totally lost the plot on his pedigree, but did glean that he is from distant noble stock. I lost the plot too on his vast array of connections in the worlds, of politics, royalty, theatre and literature. His name-dropping is incessant: "I have shaken the hand of a man who has shaken the hand of ....." is a recurring tongue-in-cheek theme throughout, and famous names occur at the rate of roughly 3 to a page. Most of them seem to be gay, bisexual, promiscuous and permanently drunk.

He is fiercely insistent that he is middle-middle class and not upper, although his family lived the lifestyle of the better-off (private schools, meals at the Ritz), in spite of not always having the cash to back this up. His father was a solicitor, a wanabee barrister who had to settle for the role of legal advisor to the AA (cars, not booze). Brandreth's childhood was free and easy in comparison to nowadays: he roamed the streets of London visiting galleries and prisons apparently ad lib – his childhood interests were not the run-of-the-mill marbles and football – prisons featured from a remarkably early age. At the age of 7 he was sent off on his own to spend the summer in Switzerland – there was no-one to pick him up from the airport, and he had to make his own way by train to his host family, unable to speak German and with no instructions as to the route.

His youthful memories are contemporary with mine, which added to the appeal of this book: Spangles, tiny Hovis loaves ("the size of a Dinky car box") that could be cut into fairy slices, donkeys and Punch-and-Judy on the beach, Davy Crockett racoon hats, the Lone Ranger and Tonto, and of course Lyons delicious chocolate cup cakes with their peel-off silver wrappers whose edges could be painstakingly sucked to remove the last dregs of icing – those were the days!

Brandreth felt a deep devotion to his father but berates himself for not being aware of the many sacrifices that he made to keep the family afloat. The last section of the book is in the form of a letter to his father, which summarizes his life and hopes that he would have made "Pa" proud.

There are so many wonderful witty quotes that I could pull out from this book but to whet your appetite here are just two:

He found himself presenting the best crematorium award at the British Funeral Directors award ceremony – otherwise known as the "Crème de la Crem" prize.

And on Rex Harrison's first stage appearance, where he had one line: "It's a baby, fetch the doctor", which came out as "It's a doctor, fetch the baby!"

How many of Brandreth's gems are true, how many exaggerated and how many simply made up I do not know – but it all makes for a good read.

**Hilary Smallwood**

### Garden Notes



Spring has to be my favourite time of year in the garden, when everything looks so fresh, the forget-me-nots, primroses and tulips are in flower, the apple blossom is out and the ferns are unfurling. Our forget-me-nots are beginning to go to seed now but taking over at centre stage are the vibrant yellows and oranges of the Welsh poppies and the orange and red of brooms. The delphiniums are just opening and some of the shrubs are beginning to flower: Viburnum, Spiraea and Mexican orange blossom.

Recently a friend admired a small shrub that is growing just inside our front gate which appears to be sporting the cutest fuzzy white bottlebrushes. The flowers have no petals but are formed of clusters of white stamens. Having never seen one before, she asked for its name. This one is *Fothergilla gardenii* or witch alder, named in honour of, not Mr Fothergill the seed supplier, but Dr John Fothergill, a wealthy eighteenth century



Quaker physician. He had a highly successful and lucrative practice in London, and, like a lot of eighteenth-century scientists and Quakers, he had a great interest in botany (and conchology). He sponsored many botanical expeditions and acquired an impressive collection of rare plants from all around the world. He created a magnificent botanical garden which is now West Ham Park. His hothouses alone contained three thousand species. His collection was said to be second only to the royal collection at Kew – that's one very successful physician!

I find that knowing a little about the early plant collectors and the interesting lives they led, somehow makes the plants in the garden that much more interesting. *Fothergilla* is native to the woodland of south-eastern United States – North Carolina and Alabama – and is related to witch hazel. There are two main species: *F.major* and *F.gardenii*. They really strut their stuff in spring with their pretty flowers and again in autumn when the leaves turn the most glorious yellow, orange and red. They are not large – mine is ten years old and only a metre high - and so are great addition to any border. They do however need a lime-free soil – pH 5.0–6.0. Rather bafflingly, mine appears to be very happy on my clay soil which I had always assumed to be neutral to slightly alkaline as blue hydrangeas turn pink.

As I have never tested the soil and have no soil testing kit, I conducted a little test using ingredients from my pantry. I mixed a sample of soil with half a cup of water and then added half a cup of vinegar. A second sample was also mixed with half a cup of water and then half a cup of baking soda. The theory is that if the vinegar sample fizzes, the soil is alkaline; if the baking soda sample fizzes, the soil is acid. Well, my results were singularly inconclusive. The vinegar sample just sat there. The baking soda sample definitely produced some half-hearted bubbles, but no matter how excited I became when another bubble broke the surface, my husband was not impressed. Perhaps I need to buy a soil testing kit...

**Julie Davies**

### **A peek in the bookshop**

On 18 April the 70 books in the Queen's jubilee book list was announced, featuring 70 books from across the Commonwealth to mark the seven decades of her reign. We have a display in the shop of some of the books that made the list and we've been having plenty of discussion between staff and customers about which books we felt should have made the list but are missing.

Sadly I haven't read any of the books included in the 2 decades covering 1952-1971 but will be adding ***A House for Mr Biswas*** by **V.S. Naipul** and ***The Girls of Slender Means*** by **Muriel Spark** to my 'to read' list.

The 1972-1981 decade includes ***The Thorn Birds*** by **Colleen McCullough** which I remember reading when I had chicken pox, feeling very sorry for myself.

I've only very recently read **Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*** and thought it was wonderful. My pick from the 1982-1991 decade.

***A Fine Balance*** by **Rohinton Mistry** is in my opinion the best choice for the 1992-2001 decade, it's in my top 10 books of all time.

I've read 5 of the 10 books for the 2002-2011 decade which includes ***Small Island*** by **Andrea Levy** and ***The Secret River*** by **Kate Greville**, both top books.

I'm with the Queen on ***Shuggie Bain*** by **Douglas Stuart** and ***Girl, Woman, Other*** by **Bernadine Evaristo** for the 2012-2022 decade, but disagree with the choice of ***The Luminaries*** by **Eleanor Catton**, it was one of the few books I didn't finish.

The list can be found in full at [www.readinggroups.org/big-jubilee-read](http://www.readinggroups.org/big-jubilee-read) and as ever, do come and visit us at Rossiter Books in Monmouth or Ross if you'd like to top up your bookshelves.

Happy reading! **Julie Hudson**

# Chuckle Corner

Driving to Bristol recently I was struck again by the bizarre nature of a couple of road signs. Approaching a bridge which warns WEAK BRIDGE, I wondered whether I would be safer to drive fast assuming that I would get to the other side, or should I go slower??

On the back of a small sewage collection lorry, we always called them 'smelly lorries' when we were children, a clever advert - *No 1 in the No 2 business*.

What do hedgehogs have for lunch? Prickled onions of course!

After a gruelling day looking at Roman ruins, one holiday maker said to another, 'I think I am ruined out now!'

## Hereford Cathedral Listings

### EXHIBITIONS

***Strangers: World views and marginalising the 'Other'* Saturday 30 April to Saturday 3 September  
Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm**

The new display in the Mappa Mundi & Chained Library is an exhibition exploring how, throughout history, human beings have covered their tribalism and fear of the unknown with stereotypical and distorted misinterpretation of those who appear different to themselves, the 'Other'. Through the understanding of our commonality and the acceptance of difference we can counteract this and be united. **Normal admission charges apply**

**'Who Are We? Who Are They?' Monday 16 May to 25 June**

Hereford College of Arts Foundation and Portfolio students have created artwork in response to a brief titled 'Who are we, who are 'they'?', examining themes of values and the human condition which coincides with the Cathedral exhibition, *Strangers: World views and marginalising the 'Other'*.

**The exhibition will be on display in the cathedral during normal opening hours.**

### EVENTS

#### Lunchtime Organ Recitals

**May – September, Tuesdays, 1.15pm.** Join us on Tuesdays at 1.15pm to hear the glorious Father Willis organ or Hereford Cathedral. Each week a different guest organist will perform with a large screen projection from the organ loft. **Admission is free, with a retiring collection. For more information please visit [www.herefordcathedral.org/events](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/events)**

**Toddler Group Mondays in term time, 9.30am** Calling all toddlers and their grownups! Join us each Monday morning in term time to play and pray in Hereford Cathedral. Listen to a Bible story, take part in

a craft activity and have fun in our weekly drop-in. Come along to meet other families, make new friends and discover the cathedral. Suitable for toddlers between the ages of 1-3 years. **Toddler Group is free to attend but donations are welcome. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.** Please visit [www.herefordcathedral.org/news/toddler-group](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/news/toddler-group) for more information.

#### **Homo Sapiens: All the Same, All Different? Dr Audrey Nunn Tuesday 7 June, 7pm**

The Mappa Mundi may have strange figures and monsters on its periphery expressing fear of the unknown. But are we any different today as we marginalise groups and cultures 'not like us'? Our own sense of identity and belonging is woven into the mythology and stereotyping of 'Others'. What can we learn if we listen to the wisdom of strangers? Dr Audrey Nunn is a Social Anthropologist, Educationalist and inveterate traveller. Join Audrey in College Hall on Tuesday 7 June, 7pm, for this talk. **This event is part of the Life & Learning programme. Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased via the website:** [www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/homo-sapiens-all-the-same-all-different](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/homo-sapiens-all-the-same-all-different)

**Open Gardens: Wed 8 June, bookable sessions between 10am & 3.30pm.** The popular series of Open Gardens events takes place again this year, between May and September. Our team of volunteer gardeners have been hard at work to ensure the gardens are ready for this summer!

Visitors will be able to explore the Chapter House, Cloister Garden, Canon's garden, Dean's Garden and the Bishop's garden at their own leisure with our team of volunteer garden guides. Join us for the next Open Gardens on Wednesday 8 June! **Tickets cost £5 and we recommend booking in advance, please visit:** [www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/open-gardens-wednesday-8-june](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/open-gardens-wednesday-8-june)

**Cathedral Lego Club Wed 8 June | 3.30pm – 4.30pm** Test your skills at creating crazy constructions and super structures with Lego in the inspiring surroundings of Hereford Cathedral. Enjoy this freestyle Lego session in the South Transept with thousands of bricks and hundreds of mini figures, learn building techniques and make new friends! **This after-school session lasts 1 hour and is free to attend, please visit the cathedral website for more information. Cathedral Lego Club is appropriate for anyone aged between 8 and 14.** [www.herefordcathedral.org/Pages/Events](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/Pages/Events)

#### **The Sixteen: Choral Pilgrimage Thursday 9 June, 7.30pm**

The Sixteen's 2022 Choral Pilgrimage concert is a powerful and emotional programme of English choral music. Centred around Hubert Parry's heartfelt Songs of Farewell, the tour also explores music by Campion, Howells, and award-winning composer Cecilia McDowall. Hubert Parry's Songs of Farewell must surely rank among some of the finest choral works ever written. Deeply affected by the First World War, Parry sought poetry that would reflect not only peace and unity and the search for a better world, but also an escape from the horrors of war. **Visit the website for more information:** [www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/the-sixteen-choral-pilgrimage-2022](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/the-sixteen-choral-pilgrimage-2022)

**Creative Cloisters: Photography Mon 13 June, 12pm** Hereford Cathedral's Cloisters are nestled behind the main cathedral building and feel a world away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Once home to the Vicars Choral, the Cloisters have been a source of inspiration for centuries, and now we are inviting individuals to come and explore their own creativity in this tranquil and beautiful space. Open to creative professionals, amateurs and complete beginners, the Creative Cloisters sessions will give people the chance to create their own poem or capture photography with the support of a volunteer.

Visitors can explore the Cloisters using photography as a means of reflection and discovery.

The session will start with an opportunity to visit the Old Chapel and view a short video telling the story of the Cloisters. A volunteer will then provide a series of prompts to consider, and time in our Cloisters to respond to them by taking photographs.

All visitors will be given an opportunity to print their favourite photograph at the end of the trail, as a souvenir of the pilgrimage. **Tickets cost £5 and advance booking is essential, visit the website for more information:** [www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/creative-cloisters-photography](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/creative-cloisters-photography)

**Ex Cathedra: Summer Music by Candlelight. Wednesday 15 June, 8pm** Ex Cathedra return to Hereford Cathedral on Wednesday 15th June 2022, for their annual concert Summer Music by Candlelight. As a long summer day fades to dusk, and candles flicker in the twilight, we present an enchanting programme of seasonal music and readings inspired by nature, summer holidays, sea and sunshine – a concert to send you home with “the sun in your heart, ready for love”! With conductor, Jeffrey Skidmore.

**Advance booking is essential. For more information, please visit the website:** [www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/ex-cathedra-summer-music-by-candlelight2022](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/ex-cathedra-summer-music-by-candlelight2022)

**Creative Cloisters: Poetry Mon 20 June, 10am** Using extracts from existing poems as a starting point, visitors can wander through the Cloisters, writing their own pieces of poetry. The session will start with an opportunity to visit the Old Chapel and view a short video telling the story of the Cloisters. A volunteer will then provide each visitor with a series of prompts inspired by poetry written in or about the Cloisters of Hereford Cathedral over many centuries.

**Tickets cost £5 and advance booking is essential, visit the website for more information:** [www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/creative-cloisters-poetry](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/creative-cloisters-poetry)

**NGS Garden Opening Saturday 25 June, open for bookable sessions between 10am and 3.30pm**

We are pleased to open our gardens again on Saturday 25 June as part of the NGS Scheme. Discover the cathedral's historic and beautiful gardens with our Gardeners and Garden Guides on hand to answer any questions and share the history of the site. Book a timed session below and visit the Chapter House, Cloister, Canons, Dean's and Bishop's Gardens at your own pace.

**Tickets cost £5 via the cathedral website or on the day at the entrance to the College Cloisters. Please note, tickets purchased on the door will be via cash only. All income from ticket sales goes to NGS and their partnership charities.** [www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/ngs-garden-opening](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/ngs-garden-opening)





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We have moved most of our clients over to cloud accounting systems, due to Making Tax Digital for VAT, including Bridging Software solutions. However, this will soon be critical, due to the need for quarterly reporting from April 2024, for self-employed businesses and property landlords, where the annual income is over £10 000. For further information, please check out our website and view all the services we provide, including our free App. Otherwise, just call us for all your accounting and taxation needs.

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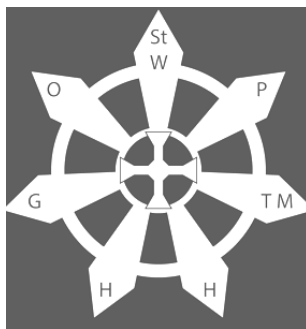
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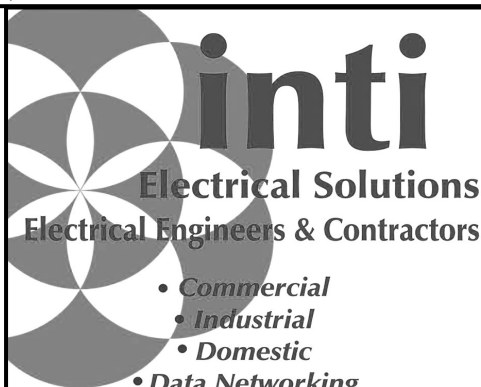
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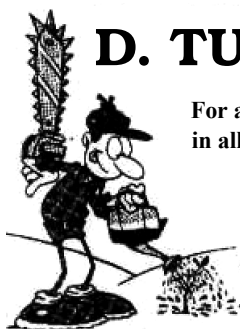
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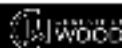
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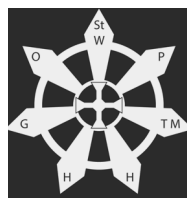


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