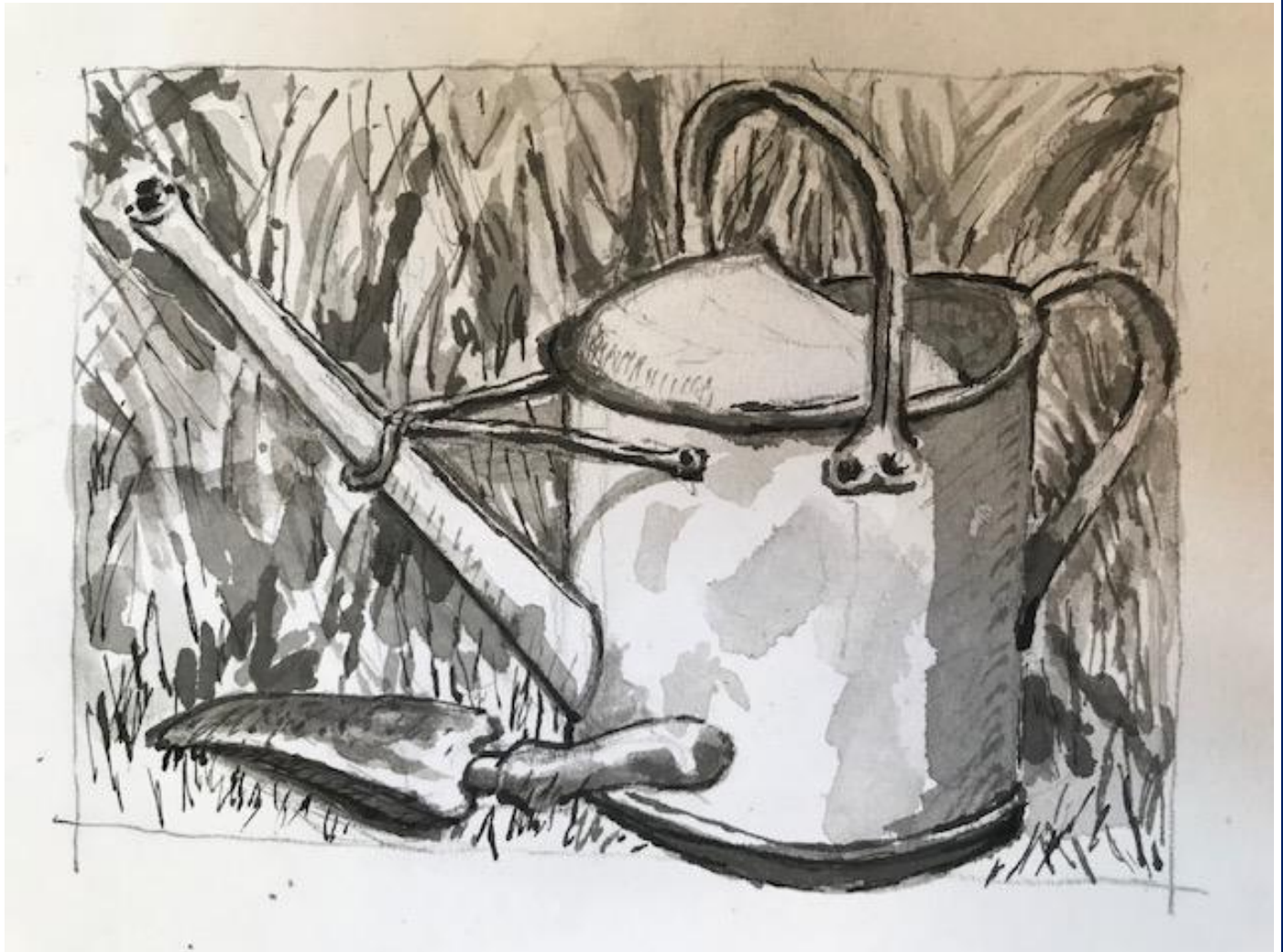


PARISH NEWS
OF
ST WEONARDS, GARWAY, ORCOP,
PENCOYD, TRETIRE, MICHAELCHURCH,
HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

JULY 2022



PAT MACRAE

CONTENTS

Page

3	Parish Contacts
4	Magazine Contacts and Parish Council Contacts
5	From the registers; Vicar's Letter
6	July Benefice Service; Service in the Woods!; Open Meeting ; Prescription Collection
7	Magazine News; Service Rota
8	Village Pages - St Weonards; Big Jubilee Sing; Jubilee Bring and Share Lunch
9	The Loyal Toast!; Garway News - Garway Stitchers; Garway Primary School and Pre-school; Garway Platinum Jubilee Picnic and Grand Opening of the Jubilee Playground
10	Garway Platinum Jubilee Picnic and Grand Opening of the Jubilee Playground continued; July Coffee Morning; Remembering Rees Through Music
11	Garway Croquet Club 2022; Orcop News - A little therapy for the Post-Jubilee Blues
12	Orcop News continued; Flowers and Cleaning Rota; Tretire with Michaelchurch and Pencoyd News
13	Tretire with Michaelchurch and Pencoyd News continued; Hentland And Hoarwithy News - Ode to Jubilee
14	Wildlife in our Garden
15	Michaelchurch Court; Book Review
16	Garden Notes; A peek in the bookshop
17	A peek in the bookshop continued; The Curate's Egg; A tale from headship
18	A tale from headship continued; For Sale; Chuckle Corner; Hereford Cathedral Events for July
19	Hereford Cathedral Events for July continued; Elysium Singers

CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

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	Anna Williams	01981 580352
Orcop	Margaret Fletcher.....	01981 540790
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Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm	01989 730201
Hoarwithy	Peter Pember.....	01432 840254
	Jeff Goulding.....	01432 840492
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Woman's Fellowship	June Griffiths.....	01981 580353
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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

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 **12th of the month**:

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

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Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland:	Nicky Mackenzie clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk	07581 353103

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
franiphillips@gmail.com

From the registers: Melissa Chamberlain and Lloyd Gregory were married at St Weonards on 28th May 2022.

Vicar's Letter

Dear Readers

This is the time of year when our churches usually collect for Christian Aid, the charity which supports all sorts of projects of development in many places around the world, for people of any faith or none.

This year the charity is focussing on the droughts in Zimbabwe and the Horn of Africa, which are causing rising food prices and starvation in many villages. These are really worthwhile causes, and as climate change starts to bite, and many poorer countries are feeling the effect of drought or catastrophic flooding, Christian Aid is a charity which really deserves our support.

But of course, there are many other good causes nearer home which equally deserve our support.

Daily we read in the news about the rapidly rising cost of living, and you only need to go to fill your car up with petrol to realise the impact it is having on all sorts of businesses and services. It doesn't take much imagination to realise what an effect it must have on households which were only just making ends meet before.

At the same time, we read in the news that a million people in the UK will be losing their personal allowance before tax. This is because so many people are enjoying a rapid salary increase, such that they are now earning in excess of £100,000 a year. The gap between the rich and the poor in the UK is widening day by day: the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer.

It is really easy to donate to Christian Aid via their website at <https://donate.christianaid.org.uk>

Our local foodbanks in Ross and Hereford always welcome donations of food or money, and many supermarkets are helping to collect donations so that you don't even have to take your gift anywhere but can do it while you shop. Have a look at

<https://herefordfoodbank.co.uk/make-a-donation> (for Hereford)

or <https://rossparishes.uk/what-we-do/the-community-larder/> (for Ross).

Thank you. **Frances**

July Benefice Service 10.00am

Our July benefice service is at 10.00 on Sunday July 3rd 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 franjphillips@gmail.com

Do join us.

Frances



Service in the Woods!

Our Lammas celebration this year—our thanksgiving to God for the first-fruits of the harvest, and blessing of the animals—will again be held in New House Wood on Garway Hill. It is on Sunday 7th August at 11am, and pets are welcome!

You are invited to bring a picnic to eat in this lovely hillside woodland with its beautiful views over Herefordshire. There is easy access to the top of Garway Hill from the wood, if you want to walk after the service. Please dress for the weather—wellies are a good idea if there has been rain—and perhaps a brolly. There is plenty of field parking. The wood lies on the road that runs between Bagwylydiart and Garway, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from Bagwylydiart and 2 miles from Garway. Access is up the steep drive at HR2 8EZ, marked Yew Tree Corner: there will be a sign board to direct you.

For any further information, please ring Frances on 01981 240032, or email franjphillips@gmail.com

Please keep an eye on www.stw.org.uk, services and events, where any last-minute change of plan in case of really bad weather will be posted.

Saturday 23rd July Open Meeting to discuss our future vicar!

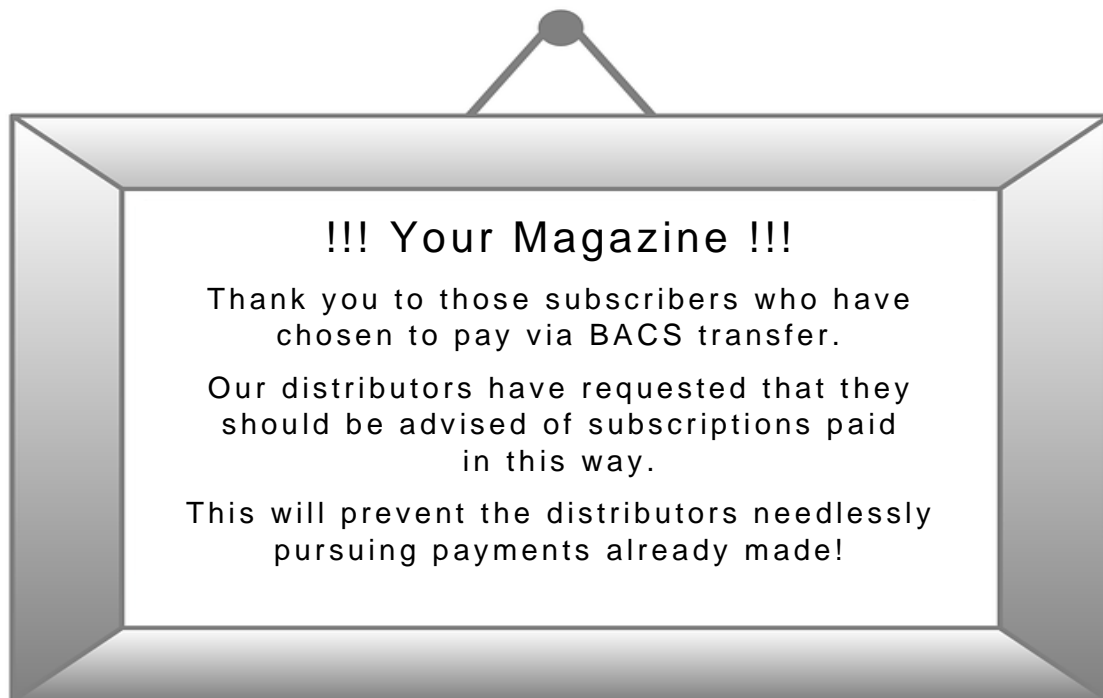
10 am-12 pm Orcop Village Hall

All are invited to come and meet with Archdeacon Derek to share our thoughts on what we feel are the needs of our parishes and what we hope for in a future vicar.

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



19th July Liz Lloyd 01981 580002



See Hereford Cathedral events at the end including details of the Three Choirs Festival: July 23rd to 30th.

Service Rota July

For any changes please check the benefice website www.stw.org.uk

July	03	10.00	Holy Communion	Zoom
	10	10:00	All Age Communion	St Weonards
		11:00	Holy Communion	Orcop
	17	09:00	Holy Communion	Hoarwithy + Bishop Richard
		10.00	Garway Service	
	24	09:15	Holy Communion	Hentland
		10:00	All Age	St Weonards
		18.30	Evening Service	Pencoyd
	31	10.00	Hereford Cathedral Eucharist. (Live streamed).	
August	03	10.00	Lammas Service in New House Woods, Garway Hill. Please keep an eye on www.stw.org.uk , services and events, in case of a last-minute alteration of venue due to inclement weather.	

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the relevant churchwarden or Rev Dr Frances Phillips.

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 Sunday: franiphillips@gmail.com

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

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

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

In an exciting announcement, Archdeacon Derek has informed us that our parishes are to have a new vicar next year who will be allocated to us for 80% of their time and for the rest they will be involved across the deanery. The process to find the vicar will begin with an open meeting on July 23rd at Orcop Village Hall from 10 am-12 pm. (See the notice earlier in the magazine.) Do put the date in your diary and come along.

We welcomed Rev Tiffany Jackson to celebrate communion with us on 12th June and also a goodly crowd of youth leaders from Urban Saints. They were having their training weekend at Treago in preparation for leading a Christian camp for about 130 young people in Kent in August.

On July 10th, Rev Brian Philips has kindly agreed to celebrate communion for us. Do join us!

Big Jubilee Sing

Our Jubilee celebrations began on a high note with the Big Sing of the coronation anthems. About 50 excellent singers, many local and others from Cornwall, Sheffield, London and Bristol, some wearing wonderful red, white and blue, gathered in church. We rehearsed briefly, although given the skill of everyone, we only needed to do a little polishing of the music before tea. Many thanks to all those who brought such a wonderful array of cakes for us to have with our tea, and to Sarah Partridge for generously serving and doing the washing up.

Then the performance! An audience of about 20 clearly enjoyed this, as did the singers, and the sound of the 'Vivat, Vivat', ringing round the church in the middle of the anthem 'I Was Glad' by Parry, was electrifying. We did not quite raise the roof of the church, but we tried!



Many thanks to all who came to sing and listen, and especial thanks to our superb organist John Jenkin for his enthusiastic and skilled accompanying. An excellent way to start the Jubilee week! **Richard Mynors**

Jubilee Bring and Share Lunch



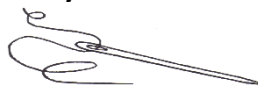
The Loyal Toast!

St Weonards people are resilient! Despite the cold day and threat of rain, about 75 adults and 20 children gathered under marquees, adorned with more than 40 metres of union jack bunting (thanks to Ann Godding and her team), for the Bring and Share Picnic at Treago. It was an excellent opportunity to catch up with old and new friends, and for children to explore the wilderness and try their hand on the village skittles.

The food was amazing with such delicacies as a frittata, pizza whirls, sausage rolls, exotic salads and wonderful bakes, all eaten off palm leaf, compostable plates! We are extremely grateful to James Hughes of Pengethley Farm Shop for providing us with delicious ham and cheese. Also, for the donation of bread rolls from St Weonards Village shop. Having started the event with wine from Beth at the Furnace Barn, we later toasted the Queen with Richard's bubbly and sung some patriotic songs. Thanks to the Parish Council for their financial support for the event and to all involved in so many ways. We are particularly grateful to Martin Williams for the loan of his marquee, all those who helped put up the marquees and moved chairs, and Alex and Stephen Herbert for letting us invade their garden! A personal thank you to Richard and the 'team' who were enthusiastic about the planning and supported with cooking, serving and all the inevitable work in such an event. Thanks also for the £162 donations for the Hereford Food Bank. **Fiona Mynors**

GARWAY

Garway Stitches



Dates we are stitching this month are July 13th, 27th 10.30 – 12.30, at Garway village hall.

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

Although the end of term seems some way off, many events happen before that. Years 5 and 6 had a wonderful residential trip to Longtown, gaining new skills and greater independence from working in teams away from home. Bikeability training, a whole school production, trips and workshops are just a few of the exciting happenings! The Early Years building is progressing well, and when I visited last week, for the first time since pre-covid, I was very impressed by the work of the gardening club. Plants and vegetables are flourishing.

The pre-school has been busy looking at types of homes that people may live in. They have talked about what their own houses look like and explored the story of the *Three Little Pigs*; building mini houses made of straw, sticks and bricks. They also tested what materials were suitable to make houses waterproof against heavy rain showers - common in the UK! There is great excitement about the trip to Rowlestone. If you want to know more about what happens in school do look at the school website which includes the newsletters and details of all events. **Fiona Mynors**

Garway Platinum Jubilee Picnic and Grand Opening of the Jubilee Playground, 3rd June 2022



Garway Common was alive with people on the occasion of the Jubilee Picnic. Over 40 children responded to the call to dress as kings and queens, princes and princesses, and they formed a splendid procession to the new playground, where three of the oldest Garway citizens had the honour of opening the new playground, after which a wave of excited children streamed in to clamber on the new equipment. This was

a joyous moment for all those members of the community who had spent many months fundraising and planning for this new facility for the children of the village. Without the last-minute help of a small group of people, the project might not have been ready for the day, and especial thanks are due to Adam for his tireless work. I am sure all the children would like to say a big thank you to the Garway Spice Girls and everyone who worked together to achieve the success of this project, and to Garway Parish Council for their support.

The afternoon was filled with Garway fun: maypole and country dancing with a small group of live players, a display of Garway Primary School's coats of arms, shields and crowns competition, rounders matches, ice cream, a Pimms bar from Mark Farmer, fish and chips, strawberries and cream, and live music from Tony Hopkins. A fitting and enjoyable village celebration on the momentous occasion of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth the second. **Hilary Smallwood**

Join us in Garway Hall for the

July Coffee Morning

Tuesday 5th July 10 am



Coffee and tea, cakes and company

Post Office open ad free library

You can fill up with bathroom and kitchen liquids – bring our containers

Everyone welcome!

Remembering Rees Through Music Saturday July 9th

Garway Live

As many of you will be aware, we sadly lost our sound and light engineer Rees Williams in a tragic car accident at the end of last year. We are hosting an evening of live music at Garway Village Hall in memory of Rees.

Our intention is to make this a fund raiser for the three charities that the Rees family have chosen because of the way they have been helped by them: the *Hereford Special Baby Care Unit* who were there for Rees at the every beginning, *Phoenix Bereavement Support* who are caring for his nephews and *We are Farming Minds* who are supporting the family.

The last band for which he did the sound engineering was *Quarry Katz*. When they were told about the accident they immediately offered to play for a fundraiser. We also have other bands volunteering to play as well.

With such an array of music on offer we have decided to start earlier than usual.

Therefore, it's doors open at 5.30pm with the first band on stage at 6.00pm. To enjoy this evening of entertainment the admission charge is still £10 with under 18's just £5. In order to make an evening of it we will be serving hot food from 5.30pm and of course there will be a full bar plus non-alcoholic drinks.

We would like to invite you all to come and remember Rees by enjoying his first love, MUSIC.

Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/atgarway

Garway Croquet Club 2022



Don't forget: **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. **Angela Farr** 01600 750 333

ORCOP

We are sad to report the deaths of Gillian Davies, on 17th May, and Patsy Baldry, a former flower arranger in Orcop Church. We extend our sympathy to their families and friends. Also, we record with equal sadness the sudden death of Graham Nichols of Broad Oak Garage on May 27th. He and his sons Derek and Andrew will be well known to the many readers who have relied upon them to service and repair their vehicles. Although well into his eighties, Graham remained a familiar and much-loved character, to be seen most days offering friendly advice in his signature blue overalls. A true Herefordshire character, with a wealth of experience, and keen to fix anything on four or two wheels, he will be sorely missed. His sudden passing must have come as a hammer blow to Joyce, Derek and Andrew to whom, along with his other family members and many friends we offer our condolences.

We recorded last month the passing of Simon Cooper, whose funeral, ably conducted by the Revd. Dr. Frances Phillips, was held in a packed Orcop Church on 31st May. Mark Ewins delivered a splendid tribute to this remarkable man and a choir assembled and instructed by Richard Mynors sang the Burial Sentences from the Book of Common Prayer composed by William Croft (1678-1727). Not easy to sing, but an extremely moving and appropriate feature of the service. We thank the Cooper family and their friends for their generous donations to the church in Simon's memory.

I write this on Trinity Sunday, 12th June. The Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is a difficult concept for most, but in our service today, the Revd. Crispin Pemberton offered excellent guidance on its significance and interpretation in this rapidly changing world.

Finally, we record our thanks to those who clean the church and arrange the flowers. The cleaning is not an easy task at this time of year as the many resident nesting birds deposit debris of various kinds as they go about their daily activities. We receive many compliments on the maintenance of our ancient church and we are grateful to those who work hard to earn them. **Margaret Fletcher** Churchwarden

A little therapy for the Post-Jubilee Blues

I am sure most readers will have found the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations joyful and uplifting, but now we are back to worrying about the many challenges that we face in these difficult times.

To help lift the gloom, here are 10 brief gems of wisdom:

1. A fool and his money are soon parting.
2. The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
3. A clear conscience is usually a sign of poor memory.
4. Half the people you know are below average.
5. If you think nobody cares about you, try missing a couple of payments.
6. Borrow money from pessimists - they will not expect it back.
7. 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
8. Drugs may lead to nowhere, but at least it's a scenic journey.
9. If you must choose between two evils, choose the one you've not tried before.
10. The sooner you fall behind, the more time you will have to catch up.

Peter Garratt

Orcop Churchyard Bingo was held on Friday 29th April, many thanks to those who donated, gave prizes and attended the bingo, we raised £981 towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

Orcop Fete will be held on Monday 29th August at Orcop Parish Hall, if you are able to help with the fete by donating items, manning a stall please let me know. Quiz sheets will be available soon. More details next month. **Julia Garlick** 01981 580515

Flowers and Cleaning Rota: Mrs. M. Morris

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

As usual now, the first service of the month was our Benefice service on Zoom when we meet members from across the Benefice as Frances leads us in a service of Holy Communion. If you have yet to experience this, I do recommend it as a good experience of sharing worship with a number of probably familiar faces and a number of new ones. We prepare beforehand some bread and some wine which we then eat and drink at the appropriate time in the service. Hymns are accompanied by different musicians from across the Benefice, and quite often include Peter Everall on his clarinet, with Liz singing, all the way from Brixton Deverill in Wiltshire!

On the second Sunday, it was Pencoyd's turn to host the communion service for the Benefice, led for us by Frances Phillips, and Evensong the following week was at Tretire, taken for us once again by Rev. Tiffany Jackson. So our parish has been fortunate to have two services in the month, both led for us by ordained priests.

Our Jubilee celebrations in the Benefice started early, with a scratch choir assembled in St Weonards church under the baton of Sir Richard Mynors, to rehearse for an afternoon, and then perform after a magnificent tea, three anthems:- Handel's *Zadok the priest*; Parry's *I was glad when they said unto me*; and a new anthem composed especially for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The first two were both sung at Queen Elizabeth's coronation, and were sung lustily by our scratch choir; the third piece was a little more contemplative and reflected more the values that our monarch has aspired to throughout her long reign, and the importance of her Christian faith.

It was a very enjoyable and good occasion in which John and I were pleased to have played a part.

The following weekend the Pursey family and Elizabeth Malcolm had worked very hard preparing an area of Andy's Lake, which had been kindly made available for the people of Pencoyd and Tretire to gather on the Sunday 5th June for a Bring your Own picnic, and shared fun and games. It was not the most auspicious day, weatherwise, and we were very grateful for the various shelters erected for us, which had been decorated with colourful Jubilee bunting!



But it was a very happy occasion, and good to meet people from the villages that we didn't know, as well as plenty of familiar faces. Good too, to enjoy watching lots of children building and dismantling Jenga towers, creating lots of bubbles with various devices new to us; and almost as many dogs, mostly enjoying each other's company? After lunch, a game of rounders was set up, with participants ranging both in age (6 to 82) and agility but (speaking as an onlooker only,) it appeared to be thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Elizabeth had set up a sort of photographic quiz, with 19 photographs taken around the three hamlets of Pencoyd, Michaelchurch and Tretire of landmarks which participants were invited to identify and mark on an ordinance survey map of the entire area. This gave rise to a lot of very interesting exchanges between long-time residents and those of us more recent arrivals. It certainly got the brain cells working and the memories probed!

I'm sure all who came to this very happy event would want to thank the Pursey family for providing such a beautiful venue, and Elizabeth for masterminding it and providing us with such an interesting, and a stimulating conversation piece with her Photo Quiz which was won by the Pursey Family – enjoy the bubbly!

So life returns for most of us, to normality, but for John and Kathy Handby. It just gets busier as they prepare their garden to be open for the National Garden Scheme on Sunday July 3rd from 11.00 till 16.00. Teas will be served in the afternoon, the proceeds of which the Handbys are kindly donating to our churches, so all donations of cakes, cookies etc will be very gratefully received, as will help with clearing and washing up. Note the advert for this event elsewhere in this magazine.

As I write this article, the sun comes in and out tantalisingly, but as so often recently, it is accompanied by a fairly strong breeze, so I fear for the many taller flowers now in full flower in our borders, likely to lose their petals. Summer lies ahead, with lots to do in our gardens, and holidays to look forward to, so I wish you all a great summer. *Meg Oubridge*

HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

Ode to Jubilee

The 5th June came quickly round,
A Toast to Elizabeth came the sound,
Then at our Queen's Celebration
Hoarwithy did have so much fun.
We thank the tractor drivers kind
Who in neat order they did wind
Along the lanes to give delight
To all who saw the wondrous sight.
We thank the Weston's horsey too
Who brought his drivers as you do,
And wearing mane red, white and blue,
Gave people rides who formed a queue.
Great thanks go for delicious food,
Plenteous savoury and sweet pud,
The waiters, chefs should be so proud,
On Bake Off you should be allowed!
A photo shoot was next to do,
Was that scene one take forty-two?
With drones and cameras at the ready,
We stood around the horsey steady.
Oh! Suddenly some ducks sailed by,
Not the kind that really fly –
Our thanks go to, without a shiver
The folks who caught ducks on the river.
Was time to go – with grateful thanks
To all who on the river banks,
Had put marquee, gazebo too,
In place for many – me and YOU!

Thank you all including Julia who wrote the Ode
And did the banner. *Peter and Jeff*

Wildlife in our Garden

I have just looked back to what I wrote this time last year; it was interesting to find out how different this May has been. For reasons I cannot begin to fathom, we have seen hardly any fledgling birds about on or near our feeding station. Much the same variety of adult birds are to be seen though. Last year robins were dominant and one fearless one couldn't wait for me to finish putting out seeds on the wall before swooping down. This year it is chaffinches, and again, one is particularly bold and demanding as I put out the seeds. We think that Scruff, the male chaffinch with untidy feathers, eventually grew smart ones, but it is hard to be sure we are seeing the same bird.

Birdsong has continued loudly throughout May and into early June, with song thrushes and blackcaps outdoing the others. If, as with thrushes, it is only the males who sing, then we must have two pairs of both thrushes and blackcaps nesting in our garden. I have heard a cuckoo twice this year, not in our garden of course, but heard here from across the fields, once much earlier in spring and again over a couple of dull, damp days at the end of May.



Amongst the insects, I have seen damsel flies but as yet no dragon flies. Tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies are now around. Small, black ants are very busy, undermining the roots of some young plants in the beds, making little hills in the lawns and, perhaps more usefully for us, farming the aphids on the roses and broad beans. It needs ladybirds to actually eat the aphids though. The other day I found an asparagus beetle on some asparagus, which I confess I destroyed, but not before quite a lot of eggs had been laid on shoots. I assume it is larvae which actually eat the asparagus, but I have never seen one.

Slugs have been rather troublesome this year, eating young brassicas, beans, marrows and courgettes. We think there are more slugs about now because our toad population has declined gradually over the years. Margaret has made some slug traps with beer in yoghurt pots and caught a good number.



Some of you may remember that back in the winter I reported that a branch of an acer tree had been ring-barked, we think by deer. I wondered whether the branch would survive. So far it has not only survived, but budded, sprouted leaves and grown twigs! I want to know what is going on. I wish now I had paid more attention and asked more questions during biology lessons at school. I remember that water is transported up from roots to leaves in the xylem, which lies outside of the wood but inside the cambium or growth layer of a tree trunk and branches. That may have been left more or less intact by the deer's teeth, but the outer layers, the bark and phloem, have all gone from a length of several inches. The phloem, I remember, transports nutrients (including sugars made in the leaves by photosynthesis) down to other parts of the tree. So what is happening to that? Can it be that the branch, with no living connection to the rest of the tree except a water supply, is big enough to live a kind of semi-detached existence?

John Oubridge, 8th June, 2022.

Editor's comment: I must admit to such irritation as slugs destroy all my attempts to grow delphiniums!

Michaelchurch Court.
Michaelchurch, St Owens Cross
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The National Gardens Scheme (Yellow Book)
On Sunday 3rd July 2022 - Opening times: 11.00 - 16.00
Admission
Adult: £5.00 Children: Free
Refreshments in aid of Tretire and Pencoyd Churches
Light refreshments. Homemade cakes and tea/ coffee

Book Review

The Heart's Invisible Furies, by John Boyne

Irish author John Boyne is best known for his books for young adults, including *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas*.

Here he takes us on a journey from the strict priest-dominated Ireland of the 1940s to Amsterdam and thence to New York and back to the Dublin of the present day through the eyes of Cyril Avery, the illegitimate child of a 16-year-old farm girl, who is publicly banished from the small parish where she lives by the local priest, who later turns out to have fathered two children. Cyril is adopted out by a “hunch-backed Redemptionist nun” to a well to-do but emotionally barren family. His adoptive mother is a soon-to-be famous chain-smoking novelist, and his father works in finance, with a sideline in tax evasion which lands him in prison on several occasions. Cyril is not so much parented as treated as a lodger, and constantly reminded that he is “not a real Avery.” He and his best friend Julian “..... were both denied love, and this deficiency would be scorched onto our future lives like an ill-considered tattoo inscribed on the buttocks after a drunken night out, leading each of us inevitably towards isolation and disaster.”

Julian is a key figure in Cyril’s childhood and youth, someone he idolizes as having all the qualities he feels he lacks: charisma, courage, jauntiness and self-confidence. Here is Cyril’s first love – a fantasy out of reach and unreciprocated. Dutch doctor Bastiaan is his second and more solid love, with whom he eventually shares a home and a meaningful relationship. This brief peaceful episode in his life follows on from many traumas, much violence and a determined fight to find a place in the judgmental and rigid society in which he struggles to make his way.

Cyril’s life draws us into some of the sadder and seedier aspects of life: from violent pimps at work in Amsterdam to the grim reality of the AIDS era in New York, where Cyril volunteers as friend and counsellor to terminally ill victims.

Central to the book is the reader’s awareness of a critical fact of which Cyril is in ignorance, but which is on the brink of surfacing on several occasions. And scattered throughout are drily amusing passages of dialogue, interspersed with a weight of sadness and gritty reality.

This is a book about acceptance and compassion; about the fight to be allowed to be oneself in the repressed environment of an Irish post-war upbringing, a struggle which takes Cyril a lifetime to resolve.

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes



One of the most delightful spots in this garden is an area of gravel into which numerous plants have seeded. In the centre of the gravel is a table, two chairs and a large tree stump which, for the last few summers, I have been disguising with a group of pots planted with summer flowers. I omitted to deadhead some of them so that they dropped their seed into the gravel. These are now so well established I no longer need to plant up any pots. Earlier in the year we had forget-me-nots and violets. Now we have daisies (*Erigeron karvinskianus*), white and lilac violas (*Viola cornuta*), harebells (*Campanula rotundifolia*), a delicate hardy geranium with veined lilac flowers, tall purple *Linaria purpurea* and the delicate pink *Linaria* 'Canon Went'. I was pleased and surprised to see the Geranium there – the plant from which the seed must have come is several feet away in one of the borders. I have not removed anything or added anything, and I couldn't have chosen a better combination. I am thrilled that without any effort we have such a pretty group of dainty plants in white, pink, blue and lilac. Of course, we can no longer use the table and chairs, but they

weren't very comfortable anyway and it was difficult to place a mug on the table without it tilting. Surrounded by plants, they look charming and quaint.

Similarly I have left self-seeded plants in the gravel where we park the cars. Here we have had to remove some of them to allow us to park but that still leaves a beautiful group. I am amazed by how healthy and strong the plants are as the gravel is so deep. We have a completely different combination of flowers here. There is a cheerful line of yellow Welsh poppies alongside my husband's car and next to my car we have foxgloves, snapdragons and vivid orange California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*). The snapdragons are all bi- or tri-coloured in various shades of white, red/pink and lemon. When they were tiny seedlings it was tempting to rake them all out, but I am so pleased that we left them.



We have a newish area of gravel behind the house; if I can resist the temptation to weed out seedlings it will be interesting to see what appears. Looking at the adjacent borders, I am hoping it will be more California poppies, snapdragons, daisies and hardy geraniums but then again, it might just be chives! **Julie Davies**

A peek in the bookshop



Here's the latest literary news from Rossiter Books.

The local author Phil Rickman paid a visit to our Ross shop at the start of June to sign copies of his latest mystery in the Merrily Watkins series: *The Fever of the World*. Some people had even travelled up from Devon for the event and I know a few local people were pleasantly surprised to meet him too!

The Reverend Richard Coles seems to be jumping on the bandwagon of famous Richards writing cosy crime with a new title called *Murder at Evensong*. Will it be as popular as *The Thursday Murder Club*?

My favourite books from the 'new out in paperback' table are *Circus of Wonders* by Elizabeth MacNeal and *The Fortune Men* by Natifa Mohamed. We have beautiful independent bookshop editions of the *Circus of Wonders* too. Both highly recommended.

In the non-fiction world, a lot of the biographies that were published prior to Christmas are now out in paperback so you can enjoy the delights of household treasure Bob Mortimer's *And Away*, Jeremy Clarkson's *Diddly Squat* and *Shackleton* by Ranulph Fiennes. George Monbiot also has a new hardback out called *RegenesiS: Feeding the World without Devouring the Planet* which is definitely going on my to read list.

In the world of children's literature my absolute favourite picture book of all time is out in paperback at the beginning of July: *The Book That Did Not Want to Be Read* by David Sundin. Absolutely cracking book that you will never get bored of reading to your pre-schoolers.

And for the older children, causing quite a stir is *Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun* by Tola Okogwu, a debut novel about a British-Nigerian girl who finds out her Afro hair has magical power and the adventures she has with her newly found superhero friends.

Do come and visit us at Rossiter Books in Monmouth or Ross if you'd like to top up your bookshelves.

Julie Hudson

The Curate's Egg

Many readers will be familiar with the simile "good in parts – like the curate's egg". It is usually used to describe something that is bad but may be euphemistically described as being only partly so.

I have used it quite frequently, without knowing of its origin.

I was challenged the other day by one of our well known and distinguished neighbours (no names, no pack-drill – so here's another one for next month!), so I investigated and here is the story, which I find very interesting:

It is based upon a cartoon that appeared in *Punch* in November 1895, in which a timid curate, who has been served a bad egg while dining with his bishop, says that parts of the egg are excellent.



We experience many things in life that are "good in parts", so this is a useful turn of phrase! **Peter Garratt**

A tale from headship

One day the lunchtime supervisor came to find me to report that two of the pupils' lavatories had been blocked by doughnuts! This seemed bizarre and I was angry on two counts. As a post war child of the fifties, I hate any food waste and I have also spent time in Africa observing real food shortages. I was also cross because of the practicalities involved in the unblocking!

The whole school was summoned into the hall and made to stand while I made my severe displeasure clear. A profound silence descended as I asked for anyone involved to speak to me, privately if they preferred. As the pupils filed out, one quite small girl remained looking anxious. I presumed that she had some useful information. She did.



'You see,' she explained, 'they had no jam.' I was mystified.

'No jam?' I responded.

'Yes. In the middle there was no jam - they were hard to eat.' Understanding dawned. I must own up to some ignorance here as I am no cake or pudding eater, and I could not remember the last time I had ever eaten a doughnut with or without jam! The thought of a large doughnut without jam was pretty daunting to me as an adult, let alone to a small girl. As a special treat, when possible, the girls could take their pudding, cake or doughnut out into the playground to lengthen their break time. Doughnuts were an obvious choice for this treat.

The remedy? An easy one. In discussion with our super cook, it turned out that her usual supplier of doughnuts had changed the recipe and the jam had disappeared! For the next order, jam was a necessity, and half doughnuts were to be offered as well. Pretty messy no doubt, but plenty of licking to catch the jam would be great, and the uniform dresses had red spots so no worries there! **Fiona Mynors**

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Pretty antique oak wardrobe, dressing table and chest of drawers. Very good condition. £100 each.
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Chuckle Corner

By the way, overall crime is down, but who steals overalls? (Thanks to Peter G)

Small girl to granny swishing her hair behind her, 'Do you like my tony pail granny?'

What's the best way to burn vegetables? Roast them.

Why are butchers so hilarious? They always ham it up.

What did the farmer call his cow? Pat.

Hereford Cathedral Events for July

Toddler Group: Mondays in term time, 9.30am. Calling all toddlers and their grown ups! 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 for more information.

Open Gardens: Wednesday 6 July, bookable sessions between 10am & 3.30pm.

We are running our popular series of Open Gardens events again this year, between May and September. Our team of volunteer gardeners have been very 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 on hand in each garden to answer any questions. Join us for the next Open Gardens on Wednesday 6 July!

Tickets cost £5 and we recommend booking in advance, please visit:
www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/open-gardens-wednesday-6-july

Escape Room: Thursday 7 July, bookable sessions between 2pm & 6pm.

It is 1890... You have been accused of embezzling money from the Vicar's Choral funds and have been shut in the Old Chapel until the police arrive. You have one hour, can you prove that you are innocent?

Come along and crack the code of our Escape Room!

Sessions cost £45 and are suitable for groups of up to six people. More details can be found here: www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/escape-room-july2022

Strangers and Others on the Hereford Mappa Mundi, a talk by Professor Debra Higgs Strickland

Wednesday 13 July, 7pm. This talk will explore the Hereford World Map's tiny, meticulously drawn figures of strange and foreign friends and foes in relation to medieval religious beliefs and cultural attitudes. Some of these figures were familiar outsiders; others, such as the 'Monstrous Peoples' were impossible to know. We will see how these exotic peoples and creatures helped express the vast diversity of God's Creation as well as the importance of Others in a medieval worldview.

Debra Higgs Strickland is Professor of Medieval Art History in the School of Culture and Creative Arts at the University of Glasgow.

This is a Life & Learning talk, tickets cost £10 and can be purchased via the website, or by contacting library@herefordcathedral.org or call 01432 374 225/6 www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/strangers-and-others-on-the-hereford-mappa-mundi

Three Choirs Festival 2022. Saturday 23 July – Saturday 30 July

Hereford Cathedral hosts this year's Three Choirs Festival. This year's festival hosts eight premieres and over fifty works from 43 living composers across an exhilarating range of styles, including our headline commission, *Voices of Power*, for the Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir. Information and tickets can be found via the Three Choirs website: www.3choirs.org/hereford-2022

Elysian Singers

Our next concert takes place on **Saturday July 9th** with **The Elysian Singers at Dore Abbey**.

Doors open at 6.30pm and **the concert begins at 7pm**.



The Glory of Baroque

Purcell	Come, Ye Sons of Art
J S Bach	Mass in G BWV 236
Purcell	Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes
Vivaldi	Gloria RV589

The Elysian Singers, along with conductor Sam Laughton, are returning with a celebration of the glory of Baroque.

Their programme begins with Purcell's ode *Come, Ye Sons of Art* written in honour of the birthday of Queen Mary II in 1694, and ends with Vivaldi's famous choral piece, *Gloria RV589*. In between is one of JS Bach's Lutheran Masses - *Mass in G major BWV236* - and *Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei* a hugely popular anthem by Henry Purcell, characterised as it is by its expression and originality.

We look forward to seeing you at Dore Abbey on July 9th.

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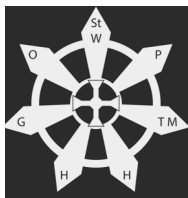
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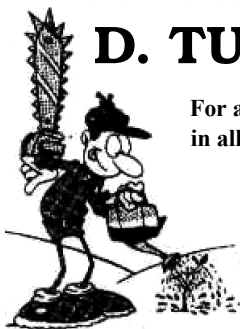
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Advertisers index

<u>Advertiser</u>	<u>page</u>	<u>Advertiser</u>	<u>page</u>
A & G Machinery Services	2	Gary the Gardener.....	10
Advance Joinery.....	3	Geolec Electrician Services	3
Aquassist.....	6	Gerald Benjamin (Electrical Services) .	16
Beyond the Clouds.....	18	Gleam Clean.....	18
Bill McGinley (Maths Tutoring)	17	Golden Valley Construction	21
Birches Bridge Club.....	24	Golden Valley Funeral Services	1
Brian Colwell	3	Golden Valley Tree Services	17
Broad Oak Garage	8	Greenleaf Architecture.....	23
Catherine King.....	5	Hereford Coatings.....	15
Certainlywood.....	19	Hillman's Florist	16
Cherished Funerals	23	Hollow Ash.....	19
Chips Away	19	Home Choice Flooring.....	2
Chris Strange (Building & Carpentry) ..	12	Inti Electrical Solutions.....	7
Coley's.....	15	Iyengar Yoga	14
Colin (Garden Maintenance)	9	J P Mower Services.....	17
Colin Beaumont-Russell (Builder - Maintenance).....	16	Jane Bovell (Singing Lessons)	17
Computer Solutions.....	9	Jo Song APNT (Therapeutic Massage).....	13
Creative Kinesiology.....	5	Jon Winder (Chimney Sweep)	19
D Tugwell Tree Services	10	Josephine Robey Therapies	18
Deborah Cronshaw	11	Julie Ablett Homeopathy.....	16
Dennis Walker & Son (Tree Services).....	13	Kelsmor Dairy	7
Ethan Mitchell Tech Support	5	Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors	5
Eve Lomas Therapies	25	Leabrink Quails.....	24
F R Ball Insurance.....	4	Llama Trekking	1
FarmFlock	13	Lynne Bradley (Piano Lessons)	17
Feet First.....	16	Mark Serle (Tools).....	17
Fiona Furnishings.....	9	Martin Honeyman Decorations	1
Frameworks.....	24	N R Evans & Co.....	5
Franklin Plumbing & Heating.....	3	Nigel Payne (Tree Pruning)	10
Gabbs Solicitors	6	Oldfield Forge	3
Garway Hall & Community Centre.....	13	Orcop Parish Hall.....	10
Garway Pre-school.....	4	Oven Wizards	24

(Continued on page 27)

Advertisers index *(continued from page 26)*

Advertiser	page	Advertiser	page
Owl Good Neighbour	21	South Herefordshire Dowers	1
P G M & Son	11	St Weonards Village Hall	2
Parr Plumbing & Heating Services	7	Stephen Williams	1
Paul Ackerman (Carpenter)	14	Tony Webb Services	9
Pengethley Farm Shop	12	Vivien Ray craniosacral therapy	1
Physio and Health Matters	22	Wellington Consulting	11
Powells Land & Estate Agents	20	Williams Dental Care	22
Rob Evans (Hedge cutting)	23	Woodcut Tree Surgery	14
Ryeland (Rural Bookkeeping)	19	Wormelow Filling Station	8
Sarah L Hope (Osteopath)	19	Wye Electrical Services	5
Shining Stars Pre-school	25	Wye Valley Group	6
Shire Lawns	12	Yogaskies	24
Snooky the Sweep	14	<i>for Advertisers Services index seep28</i>	

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£160	Full page	19.2	13.0

Index of Advertisers' Services

<i>Advertisers name index see p26</i>	Hedge cutting	13,23
Agas, heating & plumbing services	Ice Cream & Milk	7
Architectural services.....	Insurance services.....	4
Blacksmith	Kindling.....	19
Bookkeeping & accountants	Lawn Care	12
..... 5,11,19	Llama Trekking	1
Bridge Club.....	Legal Services	5,6
Builders & decorators . 1,3,12,16	Machinery services	2,17
Car sales and repairs	Maths tutoring.....	17
Carpentry.....	Oven cleaning.....	24
Coatings	Owl Community Support.....	21
Computing	Pest Control services.....	11
5,9	Picture Framing	24
Counselling.....	Piano lessons	17
18,21	Pre-school/Toddler	4,25
Dentist	Quails eggs.....	24
22	Roofing	12,16
Dowsing.....	Septic Tank emptying	6
1	Shepherding services	13
Electricians	Singing lessons.....	5,17
3,5,7,16	Skip Hire, recycling etc	6
Estate Agents	Small bale hay	19
20	Soft furnishings	9
Farm shop	Sweeps.....	14,19
12	Tools.....	17
Firewood.....	Tree services	1,10,13,14,17
1,19	Window cleaning.....	18
Fitness	Village Halls & Community	
14	Centres	2,10,13
Flooring.....	Yoga	14,24
2		
Florist.....		
16		
Foot care		
11,16		
Fruit juice		
19		
Funeral services		
1,23		
Garages.....		
8		
Gardening.....		
9,10		
Groundwork		
9,15,21		
Health		
1,5,13,16,18,19,22,25		