

PARISH NEWS

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

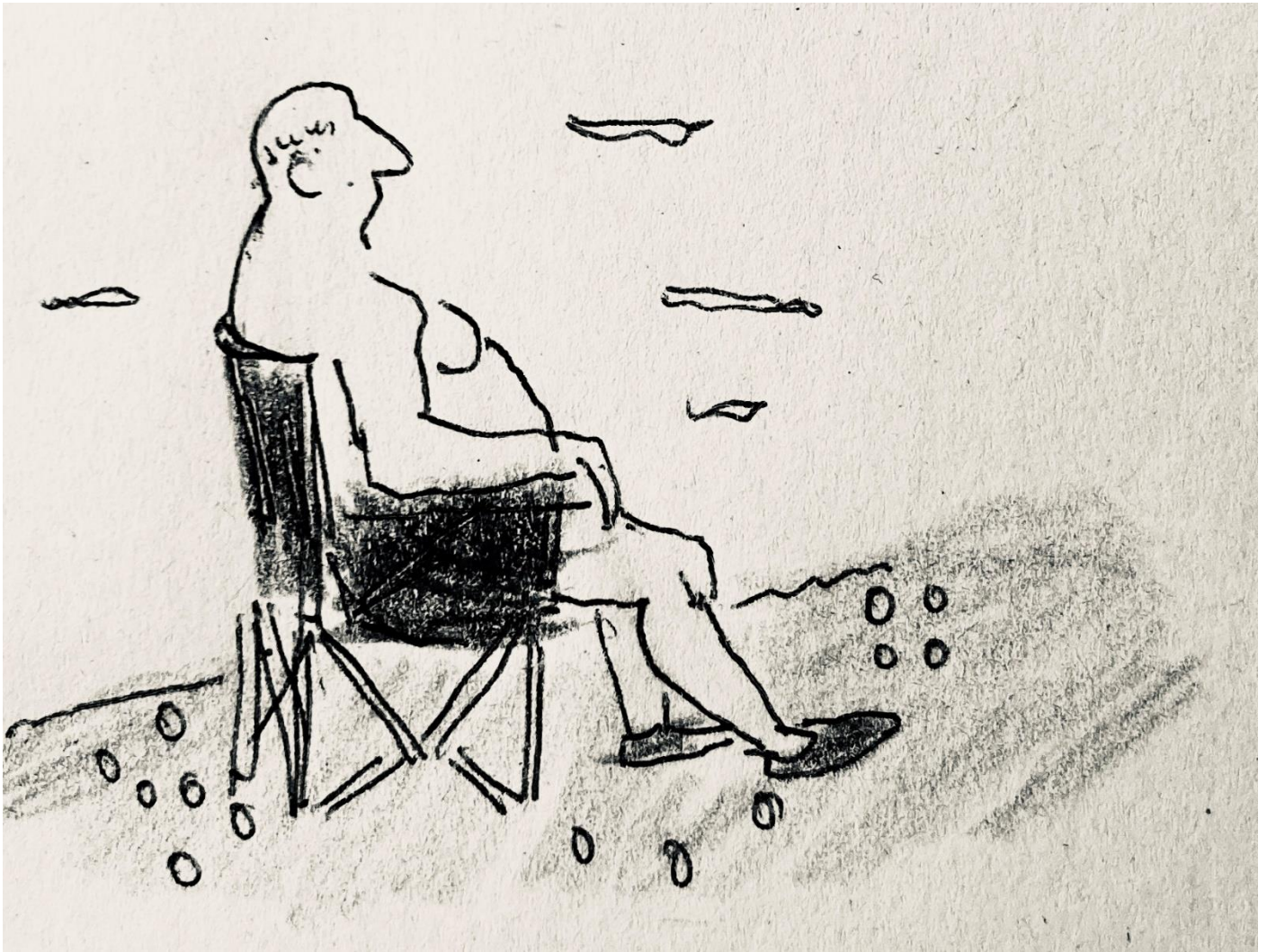


ILLUSTRATION BY

LOUISE BROSAN

AUGUST 2022

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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	Mr Robin Symonds	01989 730439

Local Contacts

Editor Parish Magazine	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
Group Choir	Sir Richard Mynors	01981 580208
Bellringing	Mr Peter Hallowell	01981 580203
Royal British Legion	Bea Morris	07932 068363
Orcop Evergreens	Gill Bannerman	01981 580685
Woman's Fellowship	Miss June Griffiths	01981 580353
Youth Group, Tearfund	Mrs Fay Rowlands	01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings	Jude Loveridge	01981 241614
St. Weonards Hall	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 030 8696
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
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Dinedor Hill Ward	David Summers	david.summers@herefordshire.gov.uk
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Samaritans	National Helpline Hereford	08457 909090 116 123 free calls 0330 094 5717 local call rates apply jo@samaritans.org 0870 1704000 01978 367333
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HOPEline UK (Prevention of Young Suicide)

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 you local SNT or report a crime. herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
www.westmercia.police.uk Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

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

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

Contributions by email to archenfieldmag@btinternet.com

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Garway:	Mark Hearne clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	01981 251887
Orcop:	Mark Hearne clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org Parish council website www.orcop.wordpress.com	01981 251887
St. Weonards:	Mark Hearne clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org	01981 251887
Llanwarne:	Mark Hearne clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	01981 251887
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
franjphillips@gmail.com

Letter from Bishop Richard

Many churches have risen to the challenge of welcoming Ukrainian refugees. By the time you read this I hope we will have a family of five staying with us – visas permitting! We have been greatly helped by a support hub organised by the team at St. Peters in Hereford. We won't have the time to help our guests with the labyrinthine procedures of registration, school places and the like. Fortunately, being part of the group means we can provide what we can and others will help them settle in.

A few weeks ago, some of the recently arrived guests reflected on the cultural differences they had encountered as they settled in. Notable was their bemusement about how English people say sorry all the time. It's true, we do! American friends find it odd as well. Ukrainians tend to be much more direct. Identifying these cultural differences reveals a lot about our different expectations. They can misinterpret our behaviour as insincere; we can interpret theirs as impolite. Both are misinterpretations, but clarifying these expectations is important.

This plays out in every sphere of life: school, home, community and Church. So much conflict could be avoided if we had the courage to have honest conversations about the effect the behaviour of others has on us, particularly in an environment where we decide we aren't going to take offence. Jesus' disciples' expectations of what a messiah would look like were completely wrong. Much of his ministry was about putting them right. The expectations of our clergy have often been formed in a completely different environment to now. One deanery in our diocese has 7 stipendiary clergy. In 1961 there were 17! Clearly, the current generation can't do the things their predecessors did. Similarly, some clergy's expectations of the people in the parishes may have been formed in a very different context to the multi-parish setting in which they now serve.

Many of the relational problems that naturally emerge in any community, and especially in churches, trace back to this expectation mismatch.

As we move forward as a diocese post-COVID these sorts of honest conversations will be vital to the health and well-being of the church. Listening to one another in order to understand rather than to respond will be a key element. Healthy communities are ones that identify conflict and move towards it to resolve it rather than avoid it and pretend it isn't there. I believe a church community that models handling disagreements well could be a very attractive one in a fragmented world like ours.

+Richard



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 Bagwyllydiart and Garway, about ¾ mile from Bagwyllydiart 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 franiphillips@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. Please, if at all possible, bring your own seating.

From the registers: *Keith Bevan's* memorial service was held at St Weonards on 28th June.

Audrey Tapper's memorial service was held at Garway on 7th July.

Graham Nicholls, cremation, and afterwards at Garway 20th June.

The wedding of **Russell Whistance** and **Florencia Cionci** took place at Garway with baptism of their two daughters on 16th July.

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!!!! Advance Warning of Farwell to Rev Frances Phillips !!!!

Book the date Sunday 18th September 10.00am Family Communion Hoarwithy Church 3 to 5 pm.

Tea and cake St Weonards Church



Come and say farewell to Frances and Les.

If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Frances, please contact your churchwarden. Details at the start of the magazine.

YOUR MAGAZINE

Thank you to those subscribers who have chosen to pay via BACS transfer.

Our distributors have requested that they should be advised of subscriptions paid in this way.

This will prevent the distributors needlessly pursuing payments already made!

As printing costs rise, we will need to consider a price increase next year. You have been warned! But we still think it is good value as do our advertisers!

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



16th August Tony Phillips 07971550859

Events in Hereford Cathedral

Holiday Club: Youth With A Mission

Wednesday 10 August or Friday 12 August, 10.30am. Join the team from Holmer Church and Youth With A Mission for a holiday club hosted in Hereford Cathedral's College Hall. The event will be suitable for 5-11 year olds, with games, crafts and faith element, showing video and songs. They will be running two sessions: Wednesday 10 August, 10.30am - 12.30pm or Friday 12 August, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**For more information and to book a place please email Erin: erinbutler41@yahoo.com
www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/holiday-club-ywam-better-together**

Out of Africa: What has the 'Dark Continent' ever done for us? A talk by Professor Gary Craig

Wednesday 10 August , 7pm. A reflection on the historical relationship between Africa and Africans on the one hand, and Europeans on the other. Africa has long been associated with concepts such as darkness, blackness, evil and strangeness, with its inhabitants subhuman and thus ripe both for exploitation and 'bringing to the light'. This historical review will summarise evidence for the profoundly racist understandings of Africa which have informed attitudes and actions and led to such egregious 'events' as the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism and neo-colonialism, and the current exploitation of Africa's mineral wealth. Africa has in fact given us much, often on very unequal terms. Professor Gary Craig is Professor of Social Justice and Visiting Professor at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

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/out-of-africa-what-has-the-dark-continent-ever-done-for-us

Stitch from History: Wonderful Woodcuts! Saturday 20 August, 10am - 1pm

Using the wide range of woodcuts in a 15th century volume of the Dialogues of Creatures and Aesop's Fables as inspiration, come along to stitch a dragon, an owl, a parrot or a peacock, or even the sun and moon. This session will be in College Hall and will be led by Mary Roberts of the Cathedral Broderers and Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe, Cathedral Archivist. This workshop is suitable for all experience-levels. All threads and materials will be provided, participants need only bring scissors suitable for snipping threads.

Advance booked is essential. Tickets cost £30. If you are unable to purchase your ticket via the website, please email library@herefordcathedral.org or call 01432 374 225/6 www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/stitch-from-history-wonderful-woodcuts

Sing Out Strong: Covid Memorial Concert. Saturday 20 August, 7.30pm

See the Sing out Strong Global Choir in person in this exciting COVID-Memorial Concert, in aid of Herefordshire Mind. During the COVID pandemic in 2020, Sing out Strong was one of the first choirs in the world to move online and to open rehearsals to everyone. Over the months we sang together, we made new friends on the other side of the world and found comfort in making new music together. Two years later, the Sing out Strong Virtual Choir is still thriving and are delighted to bring you our 2022 Reunion COVID-Memorial Concert.

The concert takes place at Hereford Cathedral on Saturday 20 August and will feature a choir made up of our virtual singers, coming together for the very first time. They will be joined by a number of local Sing out Strong choirs who will add their voices to celebrate music's ability to bring people together, and to remember those we lost during the pandemic.

All profits will go to Herefordshire Mind, to help support their vital work in mental health.

Tickets can be booked via the concert Eventbrite page. www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/sing-out-strong

Escape Room. Escape Week! We will be running more Escape Room sessions between 23 - 25 August. Book one to see if you can crack the code!

It is 1890... You have been accused of embezzling money from the Vicars 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 test your skills in our Escape Room!

Sessions cost £45 and are suitable for groups of up to six people. Escape Room sessions are available on the following dates in Escape Week:

Tuesday 23 August www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/escape-room-august23rd2022

Wednesday 24 August www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/escape-room-august24th2022

Thursday 25 August www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/escape-room-august25th2022

Open Gardens. Saturday 27 August, 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 Saturday 27 August!

Tickets cost £5 and we recommend booking in advance, please visit:

www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/open-gardens-saturday-27-august

SERVICE ROTA FOR AUGUST

August 7th	11.00a.m.	Lammas Service in New House Woods, Garway Hill. Please keep an eye on www.stw.org.uk , services and events in case of last minute alteration due to weather.
August 14th	10.00a.m.	All Age Service, St Weonards.
	11.00a.m.	Holy Communion, Orcop
August 17 th (Wednesday)	5.30p.m.	Sung Evensong, Hoarwithy (Statue of Virgin Mary.)
August 21st	10.00a.m.	Holy Communion, Hoarwithy.
	10.00a.m.	Holy Communion, Tretire.
August 28th	09.15a.m.	Holy Communion, Hentland.
	6.30p.m.	Evening Service, Tretire.

SEPTEMBER

September 4th Holy Communion – Zoom.

Very Important date for the diary: 18th September 10.00a.m. Final Communion for Frances at Hoarwithy Church.

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the relevant church warden 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 10.00a.m. on 1st Sunday: franiphillips@gmail.com

Evening Prayer at 6.30p.m. on 4th Sunday: elizabethmalcolm@outlook.com

V i l l a g e P a g e s

ST WEONARDS

Alex Herbert has been exploring her vocation for ordained ministry for some time. This has involved meeting regularly with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, having interviews locally and nationally to discuss her faith and her understanding of ministry within the Church of England. The final assessment was a residential conference with a variety of group activities and interviews to discern whether it was appropriate for Alex to be recommended for training. We were delighted to hear last week that she was recommended, and she will start her three-year part-time training in September, while continuing to teach as before.

You may have noticed that we have scaffolding on the north side of the church. Following some rainwater damage high up near the roof, it was necessary to remove some of the heavy stone slates to explore what was going on. The church architect and a structural engineer have given us advice. It was good to hear that the roof is sound, and the repairs to keep the water out are manageable, although inevitably expensive and we need to buy good quality oak to repair the damaged beams. We have some funds for emergency repairs, but will almost certainly need to seek more support through fund-raising and grants if available.

However, to our consternation, we suddenly realised that the chancel floor was lifting, and cracking the tiles-hence the barrier which is now in place! The tiles have lifted over 2 inches in about 6 weeks... and are still moving..why? The structural engineer and the architect were totally puzzled!! They suggested the possibility that ancient rusting iron work may be responsible. Our next step is to get permission to lift a few tiles to see what is happening. This will almost certainly be expensive so we shall be seeking your support for these essential repairs. Please keep well clear of the barriers when you visit the church.

As you will see from the previous notice, we are saying our farewells to Rev Frances Phillips on Sunday 18th September. We have been blessed by her ministry across our parishes in so many ways. During lockdown she rose to the new challenge of leading worship on Zoom, mastering the IT with apparent ease. Since then, Frances has led our monthly communion on Zoom which has enabled us to keep in touch with locals and people from afar. Please come to share in Frances's last service at Hoarwithy in the morning and join us in an informal tea and cake at St Weonards Church when we can show our appreciation.

Richard Mynors

GARWAY

Garway School and Pre-school

The rush towards the end of term takes place as I write with so many activities it is hard to keep up! Sports Day and the whole school performance to mention just a couple. As the Early Years building rises so quickly, we look forward to its opening and seeing the young children and the staff relishing their new space.

Please see the notice below as we seek another governor to join the current team in supporting the school to ensure the best possible provision for the pupils.

We hope that Miss Jones and her team have a good break over the summer after the huge challenges of the previous year, and that all our families also enjoy their holidays



Garway Primary School – Governor Vacancy

Garway Primary School is seeking to find a motivated, dedicated candidate to join our team of Governors who support our lovely school. Ideally, we are looking for someone with an educational background. If you have some spare time and feel you may have relevant skills to offer, please get in touch on the details below and we will be able to send further information.

admin@garway.hereford.sch.uk

Mark Bevan Chair of Governors on 01600 750623. Julie Jones – Head teacher on 01600 750273

Christine Davies - Clerk to Governors 01981 580129

The new playground



It is a joy to see the playground so popular – families picnicking on the grass, with happy children playing on the new equipment in the sunshine! The project was the brainchild of the Spice Girls, who got together with a group of mums to set in train a major fundraising effort and to choose equipment that would suit both the smaller and older children. Garway Parish Council got behind the project and we were good to go. A last minute hold-up meant that it was all hands to the pump to get everything ready for the Jubilee celebrations and massive thanks are due to the team of volunteers who just rolled up to make this happen: Shandy, Adam, Jamie (who loaned the earth-moving equipment, without which things would have ground to a halt), and the Spice Girls and their families who spread vast quantities of wood chippings (kindly sourced by Mark Jones, Kelsmor Dairy) to make the playground safe. It was a delight to see communities coming together and freely giving their time to make it all happen. More picnic benches and trees are planned for the future.....**Hilary Smallwood**

Garway Stitches



Dates we are stitching this month are 10th and 24th August 10.30 – 12.30, at Garway village hall.

If you have not seen the work you are missing out! Casual visitors are astonished at the lovely pieces of embroidery which depict Garway so vividly. 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

Editor's comment: It really is true that you don't have to be expert..I know as I have done some pieces under Tracy's expert guidance!

Join us in Garway Community Hall for the August Coffee Morning

Tuesday 2nd August 10am



The Spice Girls organize a coffee morning in the community hall on the first Tuesday of each month and all are welcome, young and old, men and women.

Tea, coffee and squash – and of course home-made cakes.

Post office and free library open, and Christine from Longtown will be there with her household refills –
bring your containers.

And this month – as it is the school holidays - there will be toys for the little ones, so parents can enjoy a drink and a chat with their friends.

Garway Fun Day Save the Date



The Spice Girls are back in action with the Fun Day for 2022.

August 27th on the common

Last year's was a huge success and plans are afoot for this year.

Look out for more details on facebook and email

If you would like to contact the Spice Girls to find out about any of the above or to offer your services and ideas email: thomas.team@outlook.com

**GARWAY LIVE!
Remembering Rees Through Music**

We are thrilled to announce that we raised just over £3,500 at 'Remembering Rees Through Music' which will be split between three charities chosen by Rees' family: Hereford Special Care Baby Unit, Phoenix Bereavement Support and We are Farming Minds.

The Garway Live! team and Rees' family would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed and supported the event.

We hope to see you all at our next Garway Live! event where we welcome the return of Danny Chang to Garway with his new band 'Searching for Hollies' on 1st October who will be playing hits from *The Searchers* and *The Hollies* - put it in your diaries! Food will be on offer too.

More info please contact: garwaylive@gmail.com **Christine Davies**

Three Counties win for local cider maker

Congratulations to Jeremy Harris of Hollow Ash Orchard, Broad Oak, for winning 'Best in Herefordshire' and 'Reserve Champion'* at the Three Counties Show: Cider and Perry Competition 2022. Jeremy's Cwm Maddoc bottle-conditioned cider and perry were both awarded first place in their respective classes. It was the Thorn perry which gained Jeremy recognition as 'Reserve Champion'. The awards are particularly pleasing because Jeremy is a very small craft producer and every part of the process from hand-picking the fruit to bottling and labelling the finished product is carried out by the Hollow Ash team: Jeremy and his wife Clare!



Sadly, cider and perry orchards (and consequently cider makers!) are not as abundant in this part of the county as in previous centuries. Mature trees, so valuable for their associated wildlife, are now in decline - in fact two very rare perry pear trees which Jeremy and Clare pick over the border in Monmouthshire were blown down this winter in the storms. Hollow Ash Orchard has been planted with old apple and pear varieties, in the same location as the orchard shown on the 1698 Cwm Maddoc estate map, in the hope of restoring a little bit of our traditional Herefordshire landscape and to encourage the re-establishment of the associated wildlife.

Hollow Ash/Cwm Maddoc ciders, perries and juices are sold locally at Broad Oak Garage, St Weonards Shop, Pengethly Farm Shop and The Marches Deli in Monmouth.

*(‘Champion’ was awarded to an iced cider from Poland which was truly delicious!)

Clare Adamson

ORCOP

The Cider and Sausage Festival on 9th July passed off very successfully. Attendance was a little disappointing, but not surprising given the many competing attractions that day. It was good to see Jim O'Neill back in action. He mentioned that he would like to include beer in the offering for 2023, so perhaps it should be billed as "The Oscars" (Orcop Sausage, Cider, Ale and Raucous Singing) festival? We should demand black-tie and red carpet, of course.

More seriously, a lot of work went into this event and special thanks go to Tim and Jill Bannerman, Rick and Jude Loveridge, Chris Northam, on the key board, Liz Farnall for mobilizing the "scratch" choir, who produced an entertaining selection of old favourites, described by Chris as "campfire singing", the solo vocalist and his splendidly clad partner, the sausage cooks, gazebo erectors and washers-up. It is always dangerous to compile such a list, because, inevitably, some will be left off. **So, Thanks Everybody!**

The Orcop Fete will happen, as usual, on August Bank Holiday Monday, the 29th this year. Please contact Julia Garlick if you are willing to help in any way.

The monthly service on 10th July was conducted by Bishop Anthony, and Chris Northam again produced inspiring sounds from our little organ. Thank you both. We aim to maintain the current monthly service schedule, with Crispin Pemberton and Bishop Anthony presiding on alternate months for as long as they are willing to do so, and until we know for certain whether or not we will have a new priest, upon which the diocese is currently deliberating.

The funeral of Gill Davies, who had lived in Orcop from the age of seven, was conducted by the Revd. Mark Johnson, before a full church. The weather was sunny and warm and Gill was afforded an appropriate Orcop farewell.

Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden

Flowers and Cleaning Rota: Mrs. W. Dudfield.

Orcop Fete

Monday August 29th 2.30pm

Orcop Parish Hall

Stalls including cakes and preserves, pictures, plants and produce,
bric a brac, books, tombola, games, skittles, raffles,
ice-creams, refreshments and more.

Pre fete quiz sheets available

Contact **Julia Garlick** Tel 01981 580515

Tables welcome

Free Admission, Ample parking, disabled access

Everyone welcome

Any donations of goods or offers of help would be very welcome – please contact **Julia Garlick** 01981 580515

Dates for your diary: Orcop Parish Hall.

Saturday 24th September-Quality and Vintage Fayre;

Saturday 12th November; Cabaret evening.

Saturday 3rd December; Christmas Bazaar.

Saturday 10th December; Quiz night.

Look out for more details.

If you are interested in booking a table at the Quality and Vintage Fayre or the Christmas Bazaar, please send an to: petamary@hotmail.co.uk

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

We are so delighted that Rev Frances Philips has agreed to take a Communion service with us at At Mary's Tretire on Sunday 21st August and I hope as many as possible will join us for her last service celebration in our Parish of Tretire and Pencoyd.

It is traditional now to hold a service of Evening Prayer at the beautiful old church at Michaelchurch, on the Sunday nearest Mid Summer's Day, and this year we were most fortunate to procure the help of Rev. Brian

Phillips from Ross on Wye to lead that service on Sunday 26th June. A small band met the morning before to give the church a dust and brush up and remove a year's worth of spider webs, and on the Sunday evening, the church was filled with worshippers, and we sang hymns accompanied by Elizabeth's phone; such clever technology! It was not exactly a sunny evening, but it remained dry, and refreshments were enjoyed after the service, both inside and out. It was good for people to catch up who make an annual pilgrimage of this event.

On the following Wednesday, those involved in the production and distribution of this magazine were made welcome at Treago, by Alex Herbert, and Richard and Fiona Mynors, for a shared supper, so a wonderful selection of dishes provided by all present, and a very pleasant social evening, meeting people who had previously just been names, and many familiar faces also.

The following Sunday, 3rd July, John and Kathy Handby had their beautiful garden open for the National Garden Scheme, and 170 guests visited the gardens. Kathy had made a lot of sandwiches and also plates of Cream Teas, and members of the PCC had made a huge selection of cakes. At the kind suggestion of Kathy, the proceeds of these refreshments were donated to Pencoyd and Tretire Churches. The total raised was £648.00, which was a very considerable boost to church funds, and we are most grateful to John and Kathy for suggesting this. I'm sure anyone reading this who visited those lovely gardens last Sunday will agree that all the results of the Handby's hard work were a great success, and the gardens looked stunning. Congratulations, and many thanks to John and Kathy!

The Benefice service on August 7th. will be a Lammas service in New House Woods on Garway Hill, when we give thanks for God's creation and any animals who attend will receive a blessing from Frances, who will lead the service. This is a lovely occasion held each year, but of course, this will be the last such event, as Frances and Les move away from Garway later this year. The service will be at 11.00 am, and pets are welcome.

Schools and colleges will now have broken up, and many people will be taking summer holidays, so let's hope the weather is kind to all, at home or abroad.

In my last article, I mentioned the celebratory picnic at Andy's Lake by kind invitation of Roger and Liz Pursey. What I neglected to tell you was that to mark the momentous occasion, Linda Miles generously donated seven of her beautiful trees; one for each decade of our Queen's reign. They are planted on the roadside of the lake and will provide some welcome shade for the anglers in years to come.

Meg Oubridge

HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee at Hentland.

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated first with the church being decorated all over with beautiful arrangements of flowers by the ladies of the parish. On Thursday 2nd June, the official day of the 70th Anniversary, a beacon was lit at Llanfrother, the highest point of the parish, which was attended by about 60. There was a good view over to the north and east and we were able to see a number of other beacons, though all agreed there was none so bright as ours. This was thanks to great efforts by Philip Watkins and Alastair Ross, who had collected a large number of broken wooden pallets, carried them to the beacon site, and arranged them in a safe place for burning. At the end, as the beacon started to die down, Heather Walker from Hoarwithy and her two daughters playing euphonium, flute and trombone struck up the National Anthem for us all to sing, followed by three cheers for Her Majesty.

On Sunday 5th June, the congregations of each church and their friends celebrated separately around their churches. At Hentland, there was a fine organ recital by our organist David Phillips, with a programme of music of different periods, which was relayed to those outside the church making a connection between the life and activities of the church and the wider community gathered outside. People brought their own drinks and feasted on tasty barbecue snacks, with ingredients given by Danielle Watkins and James Jay, prepared by Alastair Ross and Christopher Hooley. There was a treasure hunt for children arranged by George Hopkins and a testing quiz devised by Val Lilwall. There was a draw for the Hamper presented by the Duchy of Cornwall, a gift voucher from the Pengethly Garden Centre and another from Pengethly.

Robin Symonds

Voyage of Our Lady of the Waters

The plan is for a canoe combination – two side-by-side with a connecting board – to be launched at Hay-on-Wye on Monday 15th August, carrying a statue of the Virgin Mary. This finishes at Monmouth on Friday 19th August, stopping for the night on the way at Moccas, Hereford (16th), Hoarwithy on the 17th, via Lugwardine and Holme Lacy, Ross on the 18th, via Sellack, finally via Goodrich and Whitchurch, Monmouth.

This idea has been conceived by Fr Richard Williams of Hay-on-Wye together with the sculptor Philip Chatfield who created the statue, to raise awareness of the pollution in the River Wye and to call for action. The voyage will be covered by the BBC, the Telegraph and local media, and the journey will be live streamed on Youtube from a webcam on the head of the sculpture.

On the evening of the 17th, the statue is due to arrive at Hoarwithy at 5pm, then to be carried up to St Catherine's Church for Evensong 5.30 – 6.30pm with the choir from St Mary's Ross, followed by a barbecue on the river bank. All welcome.

Among the canoeists are the sculptor Philip Chatfield, The Revd Nigel Thomas, vicar of Cleve and Anglican Franciscan Society of St Francis, and for the final stretch the Deputy Head of Monmouth School and his wife who are both Atlantic rowers.

This is something which must appeal to all who love the Wye, whether for its once magnificent fishing, walkers, canoeists or just lovers of the picturesque landscape through which it flows. As a once keen young fisher for salmon, my biggest regret is that salmon are now a rarity in all but the Wye below Monmouth. Other factors have contributed to this: conifer forests planted in the land of the upper reaches, where the needles fall and decay in the river where the salmon spawn, causing acidity; the decision by Birmingham Anglers in the late 1960s to introduce barbel when the disease UDN had virtually wiped out the fresh-run salmon for three seasons, and they wanted big fish for their members to catch, without considering that the barbel feeds on the gravels in which the salmon spawn. Then finally, there are the huge Spanish trawlers who can see the shoals of salmon gathering off our coast before making their run up the rivers to spawn, which they can scoop from the sea.

Robin Symonds

Wildlife in our Garden

June, and now July already. How relentlessly the seasons progress! As they do, so does the wildlife of a garden change.

There are plenty of young birds of different kinds about, but this year we've not seen so many adults feeding their young as we did last. An exception was a blackbird, diligently feeding one of her young from

the seeds we put out on the wall. The juvenile was quite able to feed itself when mother wasn't there though, so it was just being lazy, clingy or both. Another was a young woodpecker who hid on the far side of a birch tree trunk while its male parent flew back and forth to our seed feeder with morsels. This happened for a few days until it found it could perch on the seed feeder by itself.



Bird song is much reduced now. By the end of June the thrushes were only singing morning and evening and I don't think I've heard one at all this week. The blackcap's song became shorter and shorter as well as quieter so that by July it was difficult to be sure that's what I was hearing.

Around the feeding station, chaffinches predominate, though nearly all the other usual birds appear sometime most days. We have not seen the moorhen for a few weeks though. We are also sad not to have had spotted flycatchers hunting visibly over the lawn this year. I thought I saw one back in May, perched on the sundial, and again in late June, but Margaret never saw it and was inclined to doubt me! We didn't think any could have nested in our trellis this year, but we did see, last Wednesday, a very small greyish, warbler-shaped bird hunting around in a rosemary bush. I thought it might be a young flycatcher, or perhaps a chiff-chaff, but neither seemed very likely.

Yesterday evening we saw a dragonfly for the first time. There seem to be lots of different flies about, but we're not at all good at identifying them. We have been pleased to spot a small number of swifts circling above the garden recently, and wonder whether they are here to enjoy some of our flies?



Last year we noticed a few voles about, some coming out in the day. This year we have dozens! Mostly they seemed harmless – until they burrowed under and came up inside the strawberry bed where they nibbled or devoured nearly every strawberry, leaving almost none for us. I still do not know whether they are bank voles or meadow voles. John Oubridge, 8th July 2022.



Book Review

***Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart**

This, Scottish-American author Douglas Stuart's first novel, was greeted with universal critical acclaim and won the 2020 Booker Prize. It reflects his life growing up in a Glasgow slum in the late 70s to 80s with a single alcoholic mother, who later died as a result of her addiction. He was discouraged from studying English literature at university by a teacher who said it would "*not suit someone from his background.*" I wonder if that teacher has eaten their words?

Young Hugh (Shuggie) Bain is a child growing up in similar Glasgow squalor in the similar surroundings of 1980s post-industrial deprivation, where the law of the jungle prevails. He is struggling to find a way of dealing with his mother's alcoholism and surviving the harshness of his surroundings.

It has to be said that the unrelenting grimness of the reality portrayed in *Shuggie Bain* is hard to swallow. Here we have ubiquitous promiscuity and domestic violence, sex used as a transactional tool for obtaining the basics of life, drug and alcohol abuse, toxic masculinity, communities predicated on violence and cruelty – nothing to break the gloom. How then does the Observer describe it as "*A novel of rare and lasting beauty*"?

It must be because of the slick writing:- of a garage worker, "*Red-haired, stocky and flat-faced, his head joined directly to his body, as if a neck were an unnecessary luxury*"; of the mothers on the estate, studying Freemans catalogues to find a way of buying Christmas presents for their children, "*If he got this and she got that, then what would they themselves do without? It was a mother's maths.*"

But also because of the pathos of this small child, under-sized and "*poofy*", who struggles daily to do right by his mother, who returns from school each day to carefully read the signs that experience has taught him will reveal the state of sobriety or otherwise of his mother. His devotion to her and his struggles to shoulder the adult burden of living with an alcoholic are both pitiful and moving. Their mutual helplessness forges a tender relationship that it is entirely credible.

Many of the characters are unattractive in the extreme and could have become caricatures, but as the tale unfolds, you sense the shared humanity and emotions, their basest behaviour only a stone's throw from that of those born into more privileged places and times.

A worthy winner of its accolades, but not to be read if your mood is low – it will plummet. I have a comic novel up my sleeve as an antidote to the gloom.

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

In the far corner of our garden is a sizable walnut tree which has never really produced many walnuts – until this year. I have no idea what age the tree is, but they don't produce large crops until they are twenty years old. Our meagre crop always gets consumed by hungry squirrels before I can get to them. I am so excited by this year's crop that I am attempting to pickle a couple of pounds of them. When I was growing up, my dad and I always looked forward to the single jar of Opies pickled walnuts that he would treat us to at Christmas to eat with the left-over turkey. The rest of the family wouldn't touch them – they are quite tart and they do look unappetisingly like pickled brains.



To pickle them they must be picked in June or very early July before the hard shells have started to develop inside the green husk. After stabbing them all over with a darning needle, they are steeped in brine for 10-14 days, changing the brine after a few days. Mine are soaking at the moment looking like strange, black-spotted bird's eggs. In a few days I will be rinsing off all the brine and leaving them on a tray in the sun to go black. Finally, they are simmered in pickling vinegar before being transferred to jars and stored for a couple of months before eating. It sounds a bit of a rigmarole, but it isn't really a lot of work and I am looking forward to tasting our bounty.

Walnut trees ultimately grow to 20-30m tall and up to 18m spread so eventually we will have to remove it unless Western Power persuade us to do so before – they *have* tried! You need at least two trees for good pollination; fortunately, there is one nearby in our neighbour's garden.

Occasionally I discover a seedling walnut tree in the garden - I assume the nut has been dropped or even buried by a squirrel. Last year I carefully dug one of these up for my husband who is attempting to bonsai it. I am not sure how successful this will be as the leaves are so large; his little oak trees and maple tree are looking rather better than the walnut.

There are several explanations of the saying 'The wife, the dog and the walnut tree, the more you beat them the better they'll be'. Some say that beating produces better crops, others that it breaks shoots and encourages fruiting spurs. However, the explanation that I favour is that beating the tree damages the bark, which distorts the grain in the wood. Walnut wood is highly desirable and a distorted grain is even more valuable.

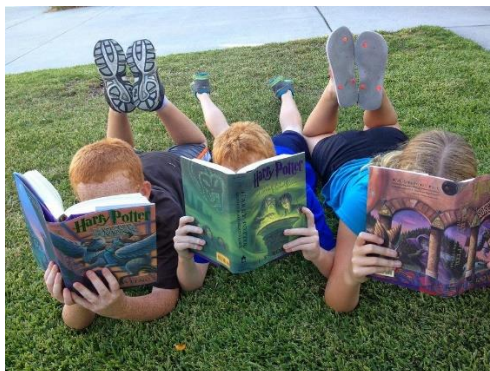
The old damson tree in the duck run has also produced a good crop this year but in this case a good crop is not such a good thing as, after a night of rain, one of the branches became too heavy and came crashing down on the little henhouse. As this is the second branch the tree has lost and the trunk is no longer vertical, I doubt if it will last many more years.



Elsewhere in the garden we have been removing branches from a *Cornus mas*, partly to make a more balanced shape but mainly to allow light to reach the ferns and shrubs below. As a bonus, we gain a few small logs and some kindling for the log burner next winter.

Julie Davies

A peek in the bookshop



What nicer in these summer months than sitting out in the garden, under the shade of a tree, a gentle breeze blowing and a good book to get stuck into. Here's a few to look out for in the bookshop that may pique your interest.

No sooner had ***The Escape Artist*** by **Jonathan Freedland** been published than it sold out, I don't think we've ever had so many requests for a book that we didn't have in stock! It's the incredible true story of Rudolf Vrba who along with fellow inmate Fred Wetzler broke out of Auschwitz to alert the world to the horrors of the Holocaust. Finally, his heroism is being acknowledged.

Three of my colleagues are currently reading ***Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*** by **Gabrielle Zevin** and they all highly recommend it. Due for publication in July, apparently it is a love story, but not one you've read before. It "charts the beauty, tenacity and fragility of human love and creativity" according to the publisher and is a BBC Radio 2 Bookclub pick too.

Now is the time to catch up on some of the great books that were pre-Christmas hardback publications that are out now in paperback. Most of the autobiographies that were best sellers for us at Christmas, like **Miriam Margolyes**, **Bob Mortimer** and **David Grohl**, are having a second lease of life as paperbacks.

Also out now in paperback (and very fancy edging for the indie bookshop editions), ***The Circus of Wonders*** by **Elizabeth MacNeal** is a visual treat as well as a cracking read. It's the story of Nell who was sold to the circus as a freak in the late 1800's by her father because of her speckled skin. What starts as a devastating betrayal, as her fame grows, and she begins to thrive on the circus atmosphere, you start wondering if actually it was the best thing that could have happened to her.

The Summer I Turned Pretty is now streaming on TV and the series by **Jenny Han** is selling well to the young adult market.

For the very young folk Simon & Shuster are offering buy one get one free of their picture books in the shop, we're already having to restock as they're proving very popular. The ***Izzy Gizmo***, ***Supertato*** and ***Runaway Pea*** series are part of this range.

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

Julie Hudson

More Well-known Sayings

Last month's article about the curate's egg led to some speculation in the community as to whom I referred as "one of our well known and distinguished neighbours". There are many, of course. I undertook to cover this month the origin of "no names, no pack-drill", so here goes:

Pack-drill was a punishment given to soldiers in the British Army, requiring them to undertake drill (exercise) in full uniform and carrying a heavy pack. "No names, no pack-drill" is a saying used to indicate that the names of those who have committed a misdemeanour will not be mentioned, in order to spare them punishment.

Have you ever thought about the origin of "like looking for a needle in a hay-stack"? We will all recognise this as referring to something that is impossible to find. It is very topical as many readers will have been making hay in the glorious weather that we have been enjoying. Apparently, in years gone by, when hay was stacked outside and the stack was covered by a tarpaulin, it was the usual practice to use a long pole with a spike (or needle) on the end to bore a hole horizontally through the completed stack. A rope was then threaded through this hole to hold down the tarpaulin. Sometimes (perhaps often!) the spike came off during the boring process and it was then, of course, almost impossible to find.

I will conclude with what is, for me, the joke of the month:

A man went into the pub with his pet newt. He was greeted by the barman, who enquired as to what he would like to drink. The man replied, "A pint of bitter for me and a half for Tiny".

"Why do you call him Tiny," asked the barman? "Because he's my newt," the man replied!

I hope you will find these ramblings like the curate's egg.....

Peter Garratt

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Plants for sale in St. Weonards churchyard. Donations to St. Weonards church can be left inside the church. Either in the metal coin box or by machine donation. If anyone has surplus plants they do not require they would be gratefully received. Many thanks. ***Lyn Cain.***

Chuckle Corner

From Jeff Kacirck's FORGOTTEN ENGLISH

Phonographer – One skilled in phonography – a shorthand writer.

The Death of Mary Pitman (?-1857)

Wife of the developer of the most commonly used form of shorthand, or tachygraphy, Sir Isaac Pitman (1813-1897). In 1837, he published Stenographic Sound Hand, the forerunner of his system, which was developed by Samuel Taylor. Later, the clerk- turned-schoolmaster devoted his life to refining, writing about and lecturing on what was once a secretary's most useful tools.

He also took on spelling reform, which was all the rage in England and America at the time. English words were once spelled in many different ways. The pronoun "she" for example, could be written 60 different ways and reportedly there were as many as 500 permutations possible for "through". Pitman's insistence on English spelling changes was apparent in the epitaph for his wife, who was buried in Bath:

*In memori ov Meri Pitman,
Weif of Mr Eizak Pitman,
Fonetik printer ov this siti (city).
Deid 19 Agust, 1857, edjed 64
"Preper tu mit thei God". Emos 4:12.*

How did the farmer fix a hole in his trousers? With a cabbage patch.

Dates for the diary:

August

Tue 2 Garway Coffee Morning
Sun 7 Lammas Service
Wed 10 Stitching
Wed 24 Stitching
Sat 27 Fun Day Garway
Mon 29 Fete Orcop

September

Thu 18 FAREWELL TO FRANCES PHILLIPS
Wed 24 Quality and Vintage Fayre Orcop

West Mercia Police-Beware Scam

Phone calls are being made from fraudsters claiming to be police officers from London. They are attempting to persuade people to make bank transfers using several different fake reasons, including checking serial numbers and cloned cards. Detective Sergeant Jon Cooper said: "No police officer from any force or department will ever ask you to make a payment, withdraw or transfer money or ask for your bank account details. "These scams can be very elaborate and convincing but it's extremely cruel, often but not always targeting older, vulnerable people. Please let your elderly family, friends and neighbours know and what to look out for. "We are currently investigating these scams and urge anyone who has received suspect calls to please get in touch. "If you receive a call that you're not sure about, please simply terminate the call and also pass on the information to friends, relatives and neighbours and advise them what to do. "Please remember the police will never contact you asking for your bank card or cash. If someone does, it's a scam – provide no details, hang up and report it immediately to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or 0300 123 2040."

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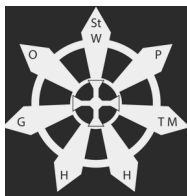
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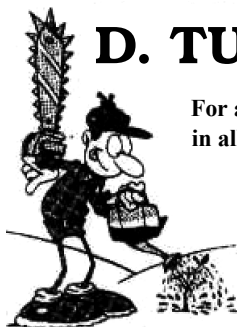
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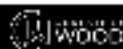
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