

PARISH NEWS

OF

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

SEPTEMBER 2022



PAT MACRAE

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CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

Churchwardens

St. Weonards	Richard Mynors.....	01981 580208
	Anna Williams	01981 580352
Orcop	Margaret Fletcher.....	01981 540790
Garway	Vacant	
Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm	01989 730201
Hoarwithy	Peter Pember.....	01432 840254
	Jeff Goulding.....	01432 840492
Hentland	Robin Symonds	01989 730439

Local Contacts

Editor Parish Magazine	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
Group Choir	Richard Mynors.....	01981 580208
Bellringing	Peter Hallowell	01981 580203
Royal British Legion	Bea Morris.....	07932 068363
Orcop Evergreens	Gill Bannerman	01981 580685
Woman's Fellowship	June Griffiths.....	01981 580353
Youth Group, Tear Fund	Fay Rowlands	01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings	Jude Loveridge.....	01981 241614
St Weonards Hall Booking	Anna Williams.....	01981 580195
St Weonards Pre-school	Anna Williams.....	01981 580352
Singing Tree Choir	Hilary Smallwood	01600 614012
Garway Hall Bookings	hires@garwayhall.org
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones.....	01600 750273
@Garway	Graham Bevan.....	01981 580215
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson.....	01600 750465
Much Dewchurch Gardening Club	Linda Ashton.....	01981 540804
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Rigler.....	07940 308696
Dore Community Transport	0345 2020144
St Weonards Group website	www.stw.org.uk

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

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

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
Garway:	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:	Margaret Oubridge Tretire Smithy	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

Rural Dean: Rev Sean Semple
Rector of Ross on Wye
01989 562175

Please see St Mary's Ross website for more details or contact your churchwarden.

Farewell from Frances Phillips

Dear Readers

As many of you will have heard, I am retiring from being a 'voluntary vicar' for this group of parishes at the end of this month, and Les and I are moving off Garway Hill and down into Ewyas Harold, to benefit from the various services and amenities there.

I started training for ordination in 2010, immediately after retiring from my 'proper' job as a GP. I have often been asked whether I missed my medical career, but my answer has always been 'no', because in ministry I have been able to continue doing what I loved best in medicine - i.e. getting to know the people I was looking after, listening to their stories, understanding their family relationships, seeing where they come from and wondering where they are going, and sharing their good times and their bad times with them. Being a priest has a great deal in common with being a GP.

Because I have had to work part-time in my present role, I have not been able to do as much as I would have liked, and I have sometimes had to say no to requests for weddings and funerals. But for those which I have been able to do, it has been a great joy to be part of them: to witness the happiness of a wedding couple, tying the knot in front of their family and friends; or to share in the joy of the arrival of a new baby in the family, when it is brought to church for christening. And I feel privileged to conduct a funeral when someone dies, especially if I have known them during their lifetime, and to hear the reminiscences and memories and stories about them being shared, and to see the way in which even sad occasions like these can be very positive in bringing families and friends together, and in helping to support those who have been bereaved.

So I would like to thank all the many people who have supported and helped me in this role over these last 12 years: you know who you are!

The St Weonards group of parishes will probably have a new vicar (a real one!) by the end of next year, and I know you will give him or her your support in the same way. **Frances**

!!!! Farewell to Rev Frances Phillips !!!!

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.

Future Vicar/ Parish Profile/ Statement of Needs

Discussions are taking place across our parishes to draw up Parish Profiles and a Statement of Needs to give potential candidates who would consider becoming our vicar, information about our communities. We also have the opportunity to make statements about the sort of person we hope to attract.

It would be great to have as many contributions as possible from a range of people. Please get in touch with your churchwarden to give your views.

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



13th September Christine Davies 01981 580 129

Service Rota

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

September 4th	10 am	Holy Communion, Zoom
September 11th	10 am	All Age Service and Baptism, St Weonards
	11 am	Holy Communion, Orcop
September 18th	10 am	Final Family Holy Communion with Frances, Hoarwithy
	3 to 5 pm	Farewell tea for Frances, St Weonards
September 25th	9.15 am	Holy Communion, Hentland.
	10 am	All Age Service, St Weonards

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the relevant church warden. 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:

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

Much Birch Surgery – Seasonal Flu and Covid Vaccinations

This Autumn, Much Birch will be holding our usual flu vaccination clinics for patients over 50 and those under 50, with underlying health conditions.

We also hope to be able to provide eligible patients with the Covid Autumn Booster vaccination though are still waiting for confirmation of National Guidance on this. We will let our patients know as soon as we possibly can.

Invitations to flu and covid vaccination clinics will be sent out by text message to those with mobile phones. Please ensure our team are aware if you have recently updated your mobile number.

If you do not have a mobile phone number, you will be contacted by telephone or by post.

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

The Lammas service, held in Frances's wood, celebrated the first fruits of the summer. We were a goodly crowd and plenty of people brought their well-behaved dogs for blessing, and to enjoy the cool of the beautiful wood. Frances encouraged us to take time to stop, sit, listen and look around at the beauty of God's world. In these troubled times it was so helpful to hear a local good news story. A field near Frances has been unploughed for many, many years and yields a wonderful variety of wildflowers and seeds. It is now to be protected, and much co-operation on the part of the farmer and others has made it possible for the seed to be collected. This will be used to create another wildflower meadow in St Weonards.

Anna Williams and I as churchwardens hosted a triennial 'Visitation' by the archdeacon. He inspected all our parish documents, including our registers, legally required, and found them to be satisfactory. These formal visits, which used to be regular, but were suspended, have now been reinstated. They are an opportunity for the diocese to show its support for the work of parish officers, and to ensure that all legal requirements are met. We also discussed the various repairs needed for our church and the ongoing search for a new vicar.

We are looking forward to welcoming the Thornley family for George's baptism on 11th September which will be taken by Bishop David Thompson. Do come and support Sam and Bianca on this special occasion.

We look forward to the opportunity to say a proper farewell to Rev Frances Phillips on Sunday 18th September. In the morning she is celebrating a family communion at Hoarwithy Church at 10.00am. In the afternoon from 3 to 5 pm we shall be having an informal tea and cakes in St Weonards Church when we can show our appreciation. Contributions of cakes would be most welcome! We look forward to seeing you there.

Richard Mynors

Dates for your diary:

Friday 14th October 6.00pm

Harvest Service followed by supper. Led by retired Bishop Michael Westall.

Saturday 12th November

***Come and Sing* Messiah Part 1 in St Weonards Church in aid of our building repair fund.**

Food Bank

Many people donate goods at supermarkets for the food banks which are busier than ever and expect to have an increased demand in the autumn. We also have a box for goods in St Weonards Church which is taken to the Hereford Food Bank. Please ensure that any contributions have a long date on them, or they cannot be used. Tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned fruit and toiletries are some of the items needed. For more information look on their website. ***Fiona Mynors***

GARWAY

Garway Fun Day August 27th



Look on Facebook and for more details contact Thomas.team@outlook.com

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.

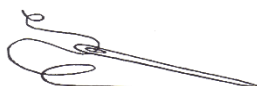
admin@garway.hereford.sch.uk

Mark Bevan Chair of Governors on 01600 750623.

Julie Jones – Head teacher on 01600 750273

Christine Davies - Clerk to Governors 01981 580129

Garway Stitchers



Garway stitching group meets once a fortnight on Wednesday mornings 10.30 – 12.30.

September dates are 14th and 28th. We are working on a series of community embroidery panels depicting life in Garway.

All are welcome to join us and add your own piece to the panels or bring your own project if you prefer.

For more details, contact **Tracy** 01981 580263.

Community Coffee Morning



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.

Tuesday 6th September, 10 am

in Garway community hall

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

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



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH 7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00

THE DUKE

Ever fancied holding the government to ransom? Well, this film offers you a blue-print of how to do it. It's the improbable, but absolutely true, story of a Newcastle pensioner who, in 1961, decided to pop down to London and steal a Goya portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery. Somehow, Mr Bunton (played wonderfully by Jim Broadbent) managed to pull it off. The police suspected a professional gang, but eventually found out that an odd-ball ex-bus-driver with a mission had done the whole thing. A long-time campaigner for the elderly, Kempton Bunton aimed to hold the government to ransom: if pensioners get free TV licenses he will give the Goya back. His arrest and trial had all the characteristics of a classic British farce. Playing opposite Jim Broadbent, as his long-suffering wife is Helen Mirren, grouchy, cynical but principled, endlessly trying to keep her exasperating family solvent. This was the last film of director Roger Michell

(Notting Hill) who died before the final print was finished. More than an amusing ramble through British eccentricity, the end of the film packs a surprisingly moving emotional punch. And its politics speak the difficulties of this autumn of 2022. As ever, we'll be offering wine, teas, coffees and a whole range of delicious cakes to all cinema goers in our wonderfully warm eco-hall. Do join us. You can find out more on www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks



Now that the hot weather has left us for another year, you'll need a little warming up in order to face the winter months with some hot music. Garway Live starts again on Saturday October 1st with the return of our own musical maestro Mr, Danny Chang. Danny is bringing his band "Searching for Hollies" to the hall as a warm up for their nationwide tour, so once again Garway Live has secured a premier performance of this band. Obviously they will be playing all the hits of the "Searchers" and the "Hollies" plus some tracks by "Crosby, Stills and Nash" so expect some close harmony singing. The next event is on November 19th when we welcome the "Will Kileen Band". Will is a highly acclaimed Irish acoustic blues guitarist, singer and songwriter with a totally unique style, Celtic roots mixed with American blues.

We are also trying a bit of an experiment by having one or two people performing in a more intimate form in the bar, starting with Tony Hopkin doing covers from the 50s to the noughties. Pink Floyd, The Jam, Beatles, you name it, he will play it and it all starts on Saturday September 17th. Hoping to see you at as many of these events as you can manage. **Graham Bevan**

(Editor's comment: I am not sure the weather is that cool yet? As I write the heat is rising towards 30C!)

Live Music and Storytelling Show Comes to Garway Hall

Arts Alive are bringing fairytales to grownups at Garway Community Hall on September 23rd, with 'The Beast In Me' performed by *The Devil's Violin*. The evocative theatre show combines storytelling and live music. Epic narratives are brought to life by master raconteur, Daniel Morden. With sublime stringed accompaniment from virtuoso musicians Sarah Moody on cello and Oliver Wilson-Dickson on violin.

The Beast In Me is a fascinating tapestry of interweaving tales from long ago. Once again, this talented trio have created a charming, chilling, and thrilling evening's entertainment from the most basic of components - beautiful music and enchanting words.

For 15 years the group has created magical performances, dazzling audiences all over the UK and beyond. What better way to spend an evening than in the company of a masterful storyteller complemented by gifted musicians? This is a rare opportunity to experience again the power of a great tale well told.

Reviews:

'A scintillating combination of music, sound and story.' *The Times*

'One of the most singularly captivating and compelling live acts you could ever wish to be trapped in a dark room with.' *Crack Magazine*

For more information and to buy tickets visit www.artsalive.co.uk.

The Devil's Violin was formed in 2006 by Daniel Morden (the 2017 recipient of the Hay Festival Medal), composer / cellist Sarah Moody (credits with Kneehigh and Travelling Light theatre companies), and co-composer / violinist Oliver Wilson-Dickson (also performs with the bands ALAW and Mabon).

Arts Alive is the rural touring scheme for Shropshire and Herefordshire, bringing a full range of professional performances - theatre, music, dance, comedy, and children's shows – to village halls and other community venues throughout the two counties. www.artsalive.co.uk

ORCOP

It was an amazing shock for me to answer my phone on August 9th to Revd Moses, whom I had not heard from for 15 years. He was our House for Duty priest during Revd Kay and Revd Elaine's ministry. We met next morning in Hereford and he visited some of our churches, including Orcop, that afternoon. He sends greetings to all our churches. He is now Diocesan Bishop of MBEERE with the Anglican church of Kenya. When Revd Moses came to our Benefice he was like a breath of new life. This is what I hope for Orcop and our Benefice in the next year.

The annual Orcop Fete is to be held as usual on August bank holiday Monday, which falls this year on 29th August. This magazine may reach you before then. If so, please come to the Fete!

The Revd. Dr. Fran Phillips retires this month after many years of service to our parishes, not least to Orcop. Please see arrangements elsewhere in this issue to mark her retirement.

Our famous Orcop engine driver, Angus Brymer, celebrated his 90th birthday on July 23rd. We wonder whether he was served breakfast on a fireman's shovel to mark the occasion? We extend to Angus our best wishes and wish him steam in the boiler for many years yet. **Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden**

Flowers and Cleaning Rota: Mrs. M. Fletcher

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

Orcop Parish Hall wants friends!

We are looking to recruit "Friends of the Hall" The idea is to have a list of locals who are not interested particularly in becoming a trustee of the hall but who would be happy to lend a hand to help with events. We would approach you before an event asking if you would be available to help; it could be to make a cake or that you can help on the day by running a stall or manning a station, perhaps you are great at marketing or social media. If you would like to join us, please send an email to gill.bannerman@outlook.com

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 contact: petamary@hotmail.co.uk

OWL GOOD NEIGHBOURS COMMUNITY LUNCH

Owls are pleased to announce that their very popular community lunches will start again on Wednesday 7th of September. Held in Orcop Parish Hall at 12.30 for 1pm we provide a two course home cooked hot meal for £8. All are welcome to join us, no need to book. However if you have special dietary requirements please let us know so your needs can be met. Ring Jane 01981 241310 or Dexi 01981 540268. The lunches will continue now until the end of the year.

They are usually on the first Wednesday of the month although this may change for the Christmas lunch in December. **Jane Rigler.**

Orcop Neighbourhood Development Plan – Update July 2022

The Reg 16 consultation is undertaken by the Herefordshire Council Neighbourhood Planning Team. Herefordshire Council received the Reg 16 Orcop Neighbourhood Plan and it has been placed on their website:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/directory-record/3092/orcop-neighbourhood-development-plan>

A representative also visited Orcop to put up the site notices.

The consultation began on 15 June 2022 and will finish on 27 July 2022.

Following the consultation, the Team will make a recommendation regarding the Plan's progress to the Examination stage.

Reg 17 is the independent examination of the NDP. Herefordshire Council will pay for this and supply the relevant documents to the Examiner.

For any questions, please contact Mark Hearne. clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org

Tel: 01981 251887 www.orcopparishcouncil.org

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCLOYD

On the 23rd July, a meeting was held for our Benefice in Orcop Village Hall, when we met with the Archdeacon, Derek Chedzey to consider the future plans of the Diocese for a new priest in charge, to be appointed by the Bishop. This appointment would be for a priest whose time will be divided each week between the Ross Deanery, and the St Weonards Benefice, and they will be housed in St Weonards Vicarage.

We were invited to form groups with people from different parishes to discuss what things about our Benefice are attractive and encouraging, and also, those things which might prove off putting.

Our church wardens will also be meeting in due course to consider these same points, and a small group of people will ultimately be asked to produce a Benefice Profile in order to publish this post to potential applicants, by the Autumn. It is hoped that a successful applicant will be appointed by the Bishop in spring next year.

Our evening service in Pencoyd church on July 24th was led for us by Rev Tiffany Jackson from Ross; Frances took a communion service for us on August 21st.

On Sunday September 18th, Frances will take her last service in our Benefice at Hoarwithy Church at 10.00 am. Then between 3 and 5 pm that afternoon, there will be a farewell tea for her at St Weonards Church, which will be an opportunity for us all to show our appreciation for all she has done for our Benefice in the years following her ordination, and most especially in this last year since Elizabeth Cathie's retirement. As our assistant priest, she has looked after us all month after month, so this farewell tea will be a great opportunity to thank her, and wish her, and her husband Les much happiness in their new home in Ewyas Harold.

This last Sunday, August 7th, was another "last" occasion, as Frances and Les hosted the last. "Service in the woods", the woods having been planted by Frances back in 1996. The Lammas service has been held for many years there, when we give thanks, through readings, prayers and hymns, and through the symbolic sharing of a loaf baked by Frances, for all God's gifts of his creation. A number of people had brought with them their pet dogs to receive a blessing, (and a little of the loaf!) and they all behaved impeccably!

Meg Oubridge

Date for the diary: Friday 2nd October Harvest Service with supper afterwards at Much Birch Village Hall. More details next month.

HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

Date for the diary: Hentland - Sunday October 30th 11am Harvest Festival and lunch

Wildlife in our Garden

Our garden is full of holes at the moment. There are three sizes: the smallest are about 2 cm in diameter, go vertically down and appear to be quite deep; the middle size are about 4 cm across and go down diagonally; the largest are up to 10 cm wide and are just shallow pits which don't lead anywhere. I am confident the small ones are made by voles of which we must now have a substantial population. Voles have some holes just behind the wall on which we put out seeds, and from time to time one will pop out onto the wall and remove a seed. The middle size holes I think, are probably made by rats. The large ones are a bit of a mystery; as far as I know squirrels are not burying nor digging up nuts at this time of year, but we have seen more rabbits about lately, so maybe it is they, though why they would make a shallow pit but not bother to continue burrowing, I have no idea. Any suggestions?



Last month I said we had not had very many young birds being fed by parents this year. An exception to this is dunnocks. We now have a family coming to feed on the seeds we put out. I always used to think of dunnocks as very shy, inconspicuous birds, hunting under hedges in the shade, but these are very happy to be seen, and rather like robins and chaffinches, do not immediately fly away when they see a human approaching. They have also moved from hunting under the hedgerow to pottering about around the flowerpots with the wrens.

Though not strictly wildlife, back in June I wrote about the acer with a branch which had a ring of bark stripped off it, and I was surprised that it seemed to be growing normally. Well, it has now undergone a change: while the other branches bear leaves which are big, deep green and presumably healthy, the ringed branches leaves are smaller, paler and have a pink, autumnal blush at the tips. I think they may be lacking some minerals, especially magnesium which I understand is an essential element in chlorophyll.

John Oubridge 8th August 2022.

(Editors' note: Seeking a photo of an acer I inserted acer into the online stock of photos and computers popped up! How our vocabulary has changed with IT..!)

Book Review

***This Much is True* by Miriam Margolyes**

How to write a review of this famously crudely outspoken actress's autobiography that will pass muster for a parish magazine? Deep breath – here goes!

Margolyes was born at the end of the war, the only child of second generation British Jewish parents. Her father, who hailed from Glasgow, was a doctor and her mother, to whom Margolyes was devoted, bought and sold property - and was, by all accounts, a force of nature. Both parents had high aspirations for their daughter, aspirations that were steeped in snobbery – they wanted her to meet the right people and to speak with the right accent, hence many years of elocution lessons and a place at the prestigious Oxford High School. She must have been an impossible pupil, who perpetrated an incessant stream of practical jokes and insolences and was not slow in voicing her opinions. She recognized herself as being short and fat and hopeless on the sports field but found other ways of making her mark.

When Cambridge was mooted as the next destination, Margolyes' mother invited Isaiah Berlin to dinner and brazenly asked him to sign the university sponsorship form – she did not know him; he did not know Miriam – but he kindly obliged. With a mother like that, who could fail?

She arrived on her first day at university smoking a pipe – a calculated decision intended to make an impression. Of course, as an aspiring actress, she joined the Cambridge Footlights, but sadly at a time when women were not welcome. The men ignored her with a “*studied cruelty*.” Sharing a stage with famous names like Cleese, Oddie and Chapman was not a joyful experience. She describes them as “*total shits*” Only Brooke-Taylor later apologized.

She name-drops incessantly, having rubbed shoulders with the famous both on stage and in film, and modelled nude for Augustus John as a student. She does not hold back on her opinions of these people and thrives on undermining their images - she is also thought to be the first person to use a certain 4 letter word on TV, whilst representing Newnham College on University Challenge in 1963.

However, her behind-the-scenes descriptions of the process of acting are fascinating, the cast becoming a temporary family with the same passions and animosities - and the sad parting when the run is over. We know her best in character roles, but it is interesting to learn that she kept herself in luxury in the US for many years by means of voice-overs for cartoon films and adverts.

When she “came out” to her parents, she caused immeasurable distress, and she is plagued with guilt over her mother, whom she adored, and who shortly afterwards had a stroke from which she never fully recovered. “*I realise now that telling people things they can't deal with is an indulgence.*” But it does not seem to have stopped her voicing her opinions, however personal and potentially hurtful, at the drop of a hat.

Margolyes can be sensitive and insightful about literature and theatre and about life - “*We are all scared. We are all secretly shaking with fright inside, uncertain of what we should be doing, saying and thinking; anxious about what our lives are going to be.*” But moments later she falls victim to the irresistible desire to be outrageous and plummets once more into fart world. One minute she is whipping off her top at an interview and thwacking her substantial boobs onto the table, the next she waxes lyrical on the subtleties of the acting process and the beauty of Shakespeare's words and characterizations.

She is fiercely proud of her Jewish heritage, in spite of her atheism (“*I think laughter is better than God.*”) – “*I push being Jewish down people's throats; it's my way of saying: Hitler did not win*” Wherever she is she joins the local synagogue and she keeps all the Jewish feast days and traditions. “*I can't let it be. Why should I let it be when, in my lifetime, six million people were murdered because of it?*” And she is equally vehement about the fate of the Palestinians when the Zionists reclaimed Israel: “*That's where, as a people, we Jews fell down, and where Hitler won. He changed us from being a compassionate nation into a destructive, uncaring and inhumane one. The tragedy of the Palestinians is just as much the tragedy of the Jews.*”

In spite of insistently declaring herself to be gay (her partner Heather has been in her life for over 50 years), she has a bizarre relationship with the male member (“*Such an odd dangler to have*”) and, if she is to be believed, doles out frequent casual manual and oral favours to random unknown men in passing. It is interesting to speculate as to why she feels the need to do this – and to brag about it.

This book created something of a stir when it first came out as Margolyes claims that her US therapist (wow-what a job that therapist had taken on!) had assisted in the death by suicide of 42-year-old cellist Jacqueline du Pré, rather than her dying of multiple sclerosis, as stated on her death certificate. Where does the truth lie? – is this simply another Margolyes attention-seeking ploy or is she relating the truth?

The entire book suffers with this paradox – we know Margolyes will do anything to be noticed, so how much of it are we to believe? She has been seduced by her own outrageous image, and whilst insisting that this is not all she is, she will belie this in her next sentence. She is a strange mixture of the frankly rude (plonking herself down on a man's lap in the tube because he would not get up for her) and the warmly sociable – “Most people like to pounce on an empty [park] bench, but I long for human communion – that to me is Holy Communion.” There is much here to enjoy with fascinating insights into an actor's life and the strange world they inhabit – all overlaid with an insecure character who has created a persona that she cannot quite shake off, and probably does not really wish to – she is making a very good living out of it. So here we have her: a talented actress, compassionate, caring, thoughtful, full of life, inquisitive, politically aware – does she really need the “potty mouth” that has now become her trademark?

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

My garden is not looking itself; it has not been enjoying the sunny weather one little bit. The annuals have flowered and gone to seed too quickly, the sunflowers have flowered, wilted and died, my favourite clematis has turned crispy, the hydrangeas (fourteen of them at the last count) are wilting and the apples are falling off the trees before they are ripe. Despite the 2 cubic metres of home-made garden compost that I add to the borders every year, the soil has turned to dust. Every year I fill the gaps with colourful rudbeckias but this year I just used up the opened seed packets left over from last year - which didn't include rudbeckias – and the result is an August garden lacking its usual cheerful yellows, oranges and russets, and it doesn't feel right at all.

It is not all doom and gloom though. The roses are better than they ever been, especially the *Rosa x odorata* 'Mutabilis' which has not stopped flowering. One of my David Austin English roses, *Rosa* 'Canterbury' is the best it has ever been and now, in early August, it is flowering abundantly. Its pretty single pink flowers are delightful. Roses with fewer petals tend to be more drought tolerant and, as I prefer single roses, I have inadvertently chosen roses that will survive the lack of rain. I suspect too that I have trained them to survive without much water. When I plant shrubs, I give them a good watering and then generally don't water them again. If the weather is extremely dry, I might give the most vulnerable ones that have just been planted a good drenching but generally I never water our borders. I don't want the plants to get lazy; I want to motivate them to send down roots and find their own water. My method seems to have worked with these roses anyway. Water is precious and the fact that our water is on a meter does limit our enthusiasm for filling watering cans.



Although some of the annuals flowered quickly and died, I am pleased with *Amaranthus caudatus*. I have never grown these before but received a free packet of seed with a magazine. What a fun plant it is, with its long - extremely long - red tassels. I planted out the young plants, watered them and left them to it - and they are thriving. Very impressive.

One of the best shrubs for dry weather was our *Cistus x purpureus* which was planted eight years ago in an old galvanised dustbin next to the log store. It tolerated the most appalling neglect, as we rarely remembered to water the poor thing, but every year it displayed the most beautiful vibrant pink papery flowers. I am using the past tense because, despite all that, it had become a nuisance; it had grown too large and we could no longer open the log store door. Two days ago I cut it down, emptied out the soil and removed the bin. We can open the door now but I feel like a murderer; I have destroyed a perfectly good plant but, needs must; it

was a case of the wrong plant in the wrong place. However, if you are looking for drought tolerant plants, I would certainly recommend this one!

Well, who spotted the error in my walnut pickling method last month? Anyone who is an ardent maker of pickles will know that you don't, of course, simmer your walnuts in the pickling vinegar. I should have said that you simmer the pickling spice in the vinegar and then pour the hot vinegar over the walnuts in their jars. I do hope that I am not responsible for ruining anyone's pickles! I have high hopes for my own walnuts – the first super-heatwave that we had in July was perfect for drying the walnuts which obligingly went black and shrivelled until they looked just like the ones in the shops.

Julie Davies

A peek in the bookshop



Tickets go on sale for the Cheltenham Literature Festival on 7 September (or 31 August if you're a member) and the line-up looks exciting and enticing. Running from 7-16 October there are some big names to see, including; **Stanley Tucci, Bono, Lenny Henry, Susie Dent, Anton Du Beke, Victoria Hislop, Richard(s) Cole and Osman, David Dimbleby** and so many more. Try to come and visit our new bookshop in Montpelier while you're in town!

September and October are the busiest months for new titles being published. Look out for **The Bullet that Missed**, the third in the Thursday Murder Club series by **Richard Osman**; **The Ink Black Heart**, a new epic Strike crime mystery by **Robert Galbraith**; and **Undoctored** by **Adam Kay**, another memoir by the doctor turned author reflecting on his life after leaving the NHS frontline. And if you're after something brand new, **Isaac and the Egg** by **Bobby Palmer** has been described as one of my colleagues as "Amazing! It's equal parts quirky, funny and original, and also an incredibly moving depiction of grief".

For the younger readers, **Julia Donaldson** has come up trumps again with a new title called **The Baddies** due out at the beginning of September. Fans of the One of Us is Lying series by **Karen McManus** will be excited to hear that the next in the series, **Nothing More to Tell**, is also out soon.

Also good news for anyone interested in joining either the Monmouth or Ross book group: after two and a half years absence we're back! Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the shop, the Ross shop will be reading **Hamnet** by **Maggie O'Farrell** and the Monmouth shop **The Fortune Men** by **Nadifa Mohamed** in September. Contact the shop for more information.

Hope to see you in store soon! **Julie Hudson**

TALES FROM THE NORTH

We have just returned from a wonderful holiday in the far north of Scotland, staying in a croft at Drumnaguie, north of Kinlochbervie. We attended the Durness Gathering, where there were amazing feats of strength and endurance and the grandchildren participated in the junior athletics with some success. Many readers will recall Geoff Capes, a multiple award-winning shot-putter, who went on to win the accolade of "The World's Strongest Man". Over the period 1981 to 1987 he competed as a professional on the Highland Games circuit

and participated each year in the Durness Gathering, where he set the record for tossing a 20Kg weight (about the weight of a sack of cement) vertically over a horizontal bar. His amazing record of 16ft 2 inches stood for about 35 years. **Just imagine casually tossing a bag of cement 5 metres vertically.** The Durness Games attracts foreign professionals. This year a giant turned up from the Czech Republic. He won many of the “heavy” events and, amazingly, broke Geoff’s record by a full foot, with a throw of 17ft 2 inches!



We went north in our tiny campervan and stayed the first night on a delightful site near Skipton, in the Yorkshire Dales. We had dinner in the local pub, where many examples of Yorkshire wisdom were inscribed on the ancient beams. Perhaps the best of these, which I reproduce here because it might be of significance to our Herefordshire farmers, goes as follows: **Ye should never go t’auction wi’ a noddin’ acquaintance.**



Heading further north, my next tale relates to a wonderful shop in Stockbridge, Edinburgh, run by a Mr. Corson. Corsons Hardware is unusual, in that the shopkeeper strives to prevent the customer from buying anything. It is a sort of upside-down marketing. By way of illustration, I relate the tale of my fellow grandfather (Grandpa Tony), who recently went into Corson’s to buy jam pot covers.

The dialogue was more or less as follows:

Tony: Have you any jam pot covers please?

Corson: Yes (Silence)

Tony: May I purchase some?

Corson: Yes. After some rummaging, Corson returns with one small packet of jam-pot covers.

Tony: Have you any more?

Corson: No.

Tony: Why not?

Corson: Why d’you think?

Tony: Well, it could be because you can’t get any more, or because you are about to retire and running down stocks, or perhaps because you can’t find them.

Corson: Aye, it’s one of those.

As a result of his unusual marketing technique, Mr. Corson has become quite famous, to the extent that there is an on-line game called of course “CORSON”. It is a game for two players, one of whom is the customer, trying to buy something, and the other the shopkeeper, trying to ensure he leaves the shop empty handed. If you are interested in playing this game, you will find the rules at <https://citythreepointzero.wordpress.com/2012/09/08/corson-the-rules/>

Peter Garratt

Help with IT!

Computer Café for older people

Age UK Herefordshire and Worcestershire are expanding their digital inclusion service by launching a new Computer Café in Llanwarne. Starting on Thursday 1st September, the sessions are aimed at older adults who wish to increase their confidence with devices such as laptops and smartphones. The service will teach users how to perform tasks such as ordering groceries online, setting up social media accounts and accessing health services with the aim of boosting independence.

The Computer Café will run from 11am – 12pm from Llanwarne Village Hall, Llanwarne, Herefordshire HR2 8JE.

To find out more about the cafe and to access the range of services which Age UK Herefordshire and Worcestershire offer please call – 0800 008 6077

Measurement Puzzles

I wonder if like me your mind sometimes slips when measuring things? I still order meat in pounds and have to do some serious *translation* when cooking. My grandchildren are tolerant as we discuss the different quantities for their cakes! I was amused to hear from one of my daughters recently that on holiday in France she ordered 2 kilos of prawns... and realised her mistake when they appeared on the scales. I advised a demi-kilo would perhaps be more appropriate!

But what about temperatures. Occasionally about them in terms of Fahrenheit? As I write in August the thermometer inside our house is rising inexorably - 26 Celsius now and by this evening...30 or more probably. In one way this does not sound too much, but translate it to 86 and that sounds much more. On holidays in the Lake District as a child we thought it was pretty hot if it went up to the dizzy heights of F68 or C20, but I have no memory of sun cream as part of our packing! Travelling as a student in the USA F35 or C95 felt astounding and somewhat frightening. Now we seem to be getting used to higher temperatures which do sound more challenging in Fahrenheit, so perhaps I should just keep thinking cooler in Celsius!

Fiona Mynors

Plants for Sale.

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

Which is faster, heat or cold? Heat because you can catch a cold...
What falls but never hits the ground? The temperature.
What did the tornado say to the sports car? Want to go for a spin?
What did the farmer call his cow? Pat.

Hereford Cathedral Events

Waste Not, Want Not : Monday 12 September to Saturday 31 December | Mondays to Saturdays, 10am – 5pm

The exhibition this autumn in the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library will showcase items from the collections that have reused or repurposed older materials and given them a new lease of life. From old books and archives to the careful use of parchment, to reframing stained glass fragments and the reuse of silver and gems – there are many ways that the cathedral of the past ‘wasted not’. **Normal admission charges apply**

Open Gardens: Wednesday 7 September, 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 last Open Gardens of the year on Wednesday 7 September!

Tickets cost £5 and we recommend booking in advance, please visit:
www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/open-gardens-wednesday-7-september

Life & Learning Talk: The Czech Holocaust Survivor Torah Scrolls: A Story of Bravery, Memory, and New Beginnings. Donal Savage | Wednesday 14 September, 7pm

In the observance of the Sabbath, Jews are not supposed to work or spend money (even carry money). The early 19th Century Prague rabbis made an announcement that people were banned from going to the Prague coffee shops. So, obviously, plenty of Prague Jews were going to coffee shops on Saturdays. By the middle of the 19th Century the rabbis announced that Jews in the city should really not be in the coffee houses on Saturday morning, when they should be at services, and that women were banned all day Saturday from the coffee shops. Coffee shops were winning...

Donal Savage is the projects director at Memorial Scrolls Trust. With a degree in philosophy and in librarianship, he is enthralled to work with the largest collection of Torah scrolls in UK.

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/the-czech-holocaust-survivor-torah-scrolls

Gala Organ Concert: Peter Dyke: Tuesday 13 September, 7 pm

Join Peter Dyke as he performs a Gala Organ Concert on the evening of Tuesday 13 September.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of César Franck, whose music for the organ is richly colourful and often profoundly moving. Peter Dyke will play Franck's final works, his Trois Chorals. Each of these has an original hymn-like melody at its heart, but is clothed in symphonic colour and development to create an emotional journey. The most famous of these, the third Chorale, was completed only while the

composer was on his deathbed but ends triumphantly and defiantly. The concert will include a large screen projection from the organ loft.

Tickets £12, or £5 with a valid student ID. Please book in advance via the website or on the door:
www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/gala-organ-concert2022-peter-dyke

Escape Room: Thursday 15 September, and Friday 30 bookable sessions between 2pm - 6pm.

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 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/news/hereford-cathedrals-escape-room

Heritage Open Day – Astounding Inventions: Saturday 17 September, 10am – 3pm

To celebrate this year's theme for HOD, we will be exploring the astounding invention that is our Chained Library. Join us for a day of free activities exploring the locks and mechanisms that make our Chained Library so special.

Drop-in anytime between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 17 September where the Hereford Cathedral team will be based in the North Transept with a range of activities to discover and enjoy. Try your hand at cyanotype prints; hear about our new Escape Room game; match the lock to the key and listen to a special talk about the library by our Archivist, Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe. Why not head across to the Chained Library & Mappa Mundi exhibition as well?! **No booking required. Free entry. More information on the website:**
www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/heritage-open-day-2022

London Concertante: A Night at the Opera by Candlelight: 24 September 2022, 7.30pm

London Concertante present a sensational evening at the opera with an array of the finest opera arias and overtures, including works from Puccini, Verdi, Rossini, and Mozart – some of the best from Madame Butterfly, Turandot, Tosca, The Barber of Seville, Carmen, Cosi fan Tutti and so many more.

Presented by Candlelight with some of the country's greatest opera singers, in the stunning setting of Hereford Cathedral, this truly is an evening not to be missed! **For more information and link to box office:**
www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/london-concertante-a-night-at-the-opera-by-candlelight

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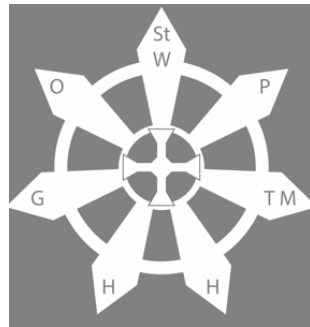


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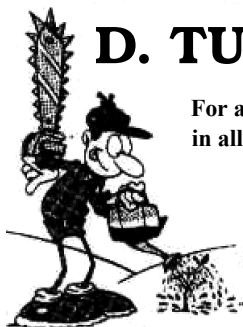
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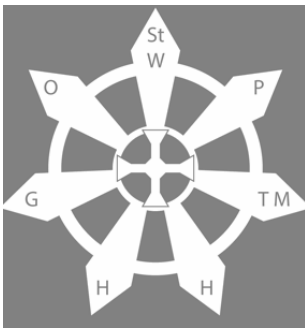


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