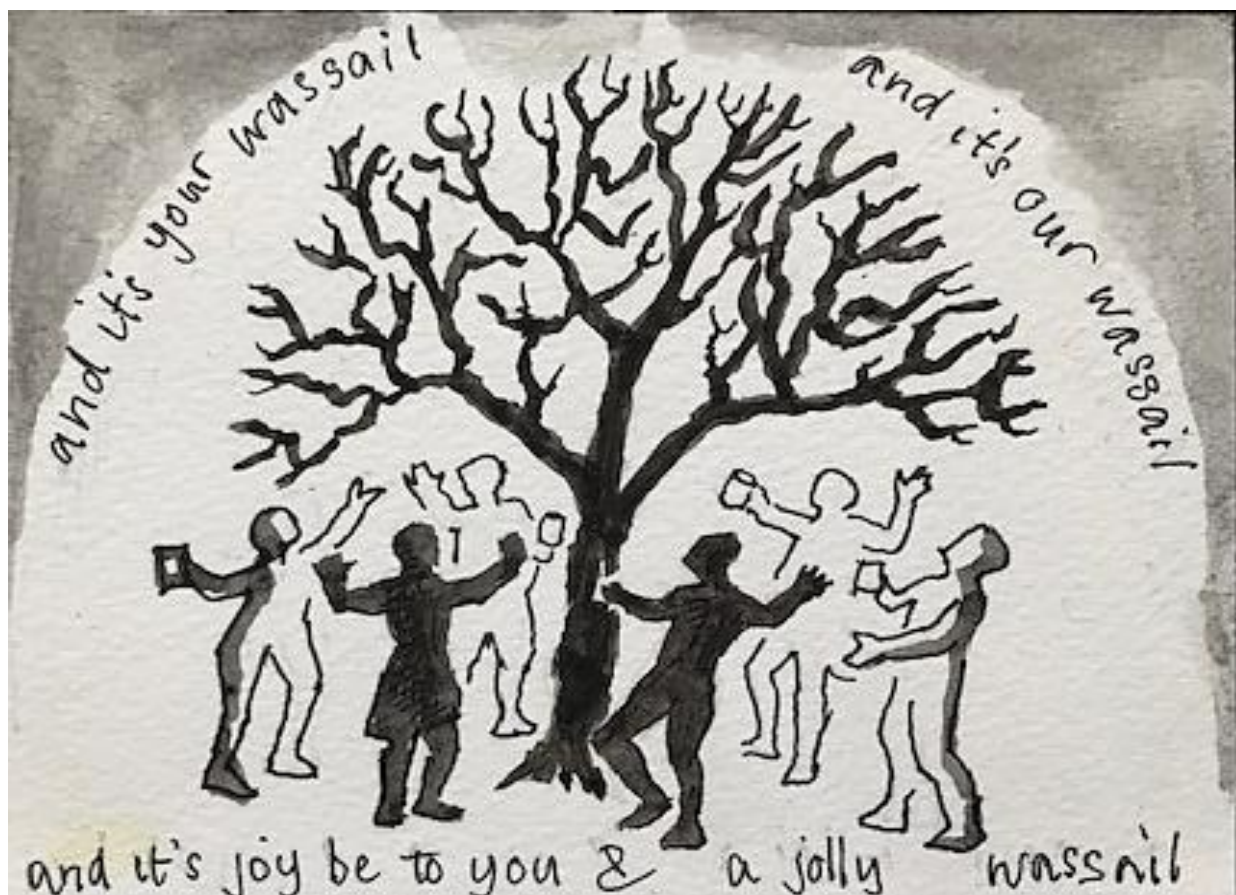


PARISH NEWS

OF

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

JANUARY 2023



WASSAILERS BY PAT MACRAE

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Gardening Club		
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
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 or
		Email: 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 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 **5th of the month**:

Magazine Editor	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
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Hentland/Hoarwithy:	Mr and Mrs Pember	01432 840254 One Eleven, Hoarwithy
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Tretire/Pencoyd:	Mrs Meg Oubridge	01981 580233
St. Weonards:	Mrs P Craig	01981 580433 8 Mount Way St Weonards

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St. Weonards:	Mark Hearne	01981 251887 clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org
Llanwarne:	Mark Hearne	01981 251887 clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk
Ballingham Bolstone & Hentland:	Nicky Mackenzie	07581 353103 clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk

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.

The Bishop's Letter

Most years when I was a parish priest in Sussex a group of us used to go carol singing. We'd visit homes and the local pubs. Rather than asking for money for a charity or church funds we would finish by giving out mince pies. This always threw people. They wanted to pay for them. They couldn't believe there wasn't some sort of catch. I'm sure it would be even worse were I to do it today. We've got so wary of scam calls, texts and emails, we are immediately suspicious of anything that seems too good to be true.

We often refer to Christ's coming at Christmas in terms of gifts. The word became flesh and dwelt among us. Unbidden and unsought, Christ comes to earth to reveal what God is like in a way that eludes human reason. The Christian story is something no one could have made up as a recipe for a restored relationship with God. But gift and the allied term grace are what it is all about.

As the new year begins, we are acutely aware of life's intractable problems. How on earth are we to solve the climate crisis, the economic crisis, the international relations crisis brought on by the war in Ukraine? All these problems seem unsolvable given normal patterns of human behaviour. How can a baby born in the backwater of an ancient empire 2000 years ago have anything to say about any of them? But the gift of Jesus is simple without being simplistic. The heart of most problems is the problem of the human heart. Jesus offers us the gift that meets the needs we seek to fill with rapacious consumption. He offers the security that frees us to love. He offers us the peace that in trust releases generosity. He offers the forgiveness that releases us from defensiveness and self-justification. The Gospel is good news because it meets the deepest needs of the human heart. This is where the real transformation of individuals and society is to be found.

+Richard

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



10th January Liz Lloyd 01981 580 002

Volunteers are needed for the monthly collection of the Garway Prescription box from Ewyas Harold, Golden Valley Surgery.

There is already a rota of volunteers in place, but a few more would be most welcome. If you are able to help and for more details, please contact Carolyn Trew on 01600 750227

Magazine News

We were most grateful to Louise Brosnan for her lively and amusing illustrations for the magazine cover. We welcome Peter Garrett back to the 'cover team' and would welcome other contributors who might would like to join the team.

Could I remind everyone that, if at all possible, please send WORD documents as our software cannot copy PDFs.

Subs for 2023 are due this month which have been held at £7.00, despite rising costs.

Please pay via BACS transfer if possible.

St. Weonards Group Magazine Sort Code:20-00-85 Account No. 70786276.

Please advise your distributor if you have paid in this way.

Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque given to your distributor. Cheques payable to **St. Weonards Group Magazine**, please.

Thank you for your continued support.

Grants

Profits from the magazine are distributed each year in small grants to local community/charity organisations. Please apply to Peter Garrett before the end of December, explaining what you plan to do with the money.

Peter Garratt garratt_peter@hotmail.com

SERVICE ROTA FOR JANUARY

January 8 th Sunday	10.00 am	St Weonards, All Age Service
January 15 th Sunday	10.00 am	Holy Communion, Hoarwithy
January 22 nd Sunday	9.15 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Hentland, Holy Communion, St Weonards, All Age Service Pencoyd, Evening Prayer
February 5 th	10.00 am	Tretire, Benefice Candlemas Service

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:

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday 8th January 3pm - Rev'd Paul Arnold (covenant Service)

Sunday 22nd January 3pm - Mr Mike Owens

Village Pages

ST WEONARDS

In church, twice each month, we have the opportunity to worship and share fellowship afterwards. We catch up with people's news, and find out how they are coping with their lives in these complicated times. We are treated to a feast of cakes, usually from the Williams family, but others as well, and chat over coffee and tea. This picture shows us enjoying the occasion! Do join us.



Our All-Age congregation

We welcomed Bishop Richard to take the baptism of Max Partridge. The Partridge family and our usual congregation filled the church, and we think there were about 30 children with their parents! A goodly crowd! A feature of our All Age Worship is that we usually start with an action song, led by Alex Herbert. It's wonderful to see how everyone of whatever age from 3 to 85+ joins in with great enjoyment and it's certainly a lively way to start the service!



Fay's Churchyard Bingo

The churchyard bingo was a great success and raised an amazing £1693! We are so grateful to Gwyneth Williams, and her team for organising it, Fay's family, and to all those who came to support and contributed so many wonderful prizes.

The carol service was well attended and we enjoyed having our Christmas Choir to lead the singing and for Alex Herbert leading our service. The children made their Christingles and adults were able to join in with their own candles!

As always, we are so grateful to Gillie and her flower ladies for all their work in providing the church with wonderful decorations and this is particularly special at Christmas. The church looked superb.

Our popular crib service will be on **Christmas Eve Crib Service at 4.00pm**. This is ideal for families with younger children. If you come a little early you might enjoy some special refreshments!

Our **Midnight Communion at 11.00pm on Christmas Eve** will be taken by Bishop David who has generously agreed to help us.

Each year as a church we contribute to charitable causes, local, national and abroad. We prefer to have some personal knowledge or link of the organisations. This year we are supporting:

- A young man who has turned his life around through the work of Pine Lakes Foundation Matters.
- Through the Christian Missionary Society, Rev Simon & Sarah Cawdell from the Hereford diocese are going to work in Uganda. (They will be coming to speak to us at an All Age Service soon)

- Hereford Food Bank.
- Farming Minds – mental health support locally with farming community.

As you know we have had trouble with the chancel floor rising up. Having removed a few wooden blocks and a little concrete which seemed to have expanded, the floor has subsided significantly. This is such good news. We may not have to replace as many expensive Victorian tiles as we had feared. It also means that we may be able to use the choir stalls for Christmas. Good news indeed!

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Richard Mynors, churchwarden.

St Weonards Academy School News

During November, pupils across the whole school enjoyed creating beautiful artwork poppies to pay tribute to Remembrance Day. They also took part in BBC Children in Need *Spotacular* by wearing spots and bright colours. The older children took part in the Herefordshire Marches Federation of Academies annual Netball tournament at Lord Scudamore in Hereford.

With the end of term quickly approaching as we go to press, there is much excitement building within school for the wonderful festive activities. Once again, we are delighted to be able to take the pupils from school over to St Weonards Church for a festive visit, the kitchen on site at school are cooking up a delicious Christmas Lunch for staff and pupils to enjoy, and this year we are taking part in St Michaels Hospice Rudolph Run. Staff and pupils will be turning into Rudolph and friends and prancing around the school grounds! Maybe next year we will be able to invite the school community and friends to join us.



The stage is set and ready to host the Christmas Nativity. We look forward to inviting all our school family in to school to watch their children take part in this traditional festive performance.

We would like to wish all the readers of the Parish News a very Merry Christmas and happy new year. We invite anyone who would like to know more about St Weonards Academy or Shining Stars Pre School to get in touch.

Mrs Anna Williams, Office Administrator. Tel: 01981 580352

Email: admin@stweonards.hmfa.org.uk

Hereford Food Bank

People have been generous, and we took four bags of supplies to the Hereford Food Bank before Christmas. The Food Bank provides emergency food parcels throughout Hereford and surrounding areas.

They are at 41 Monkmoor St, Hereford HR1 2DX. 01432 607011

At the moment they are in need of: Tinned meat Tinned carrots Hygiene products

We have a box in church if you want to leave items which are well in date.

Please help if you can. **Fiona Mynors**

GARWAY

Garway School and Pre-school

The road past school is narrow and busy. Parents and children are trying to get to and from school safely. Governors are concerned at the speed of traffic passing, and the challenges of parking. We would ask everyone in the community to help us protect pupils and their parents by driving slowly past the school and taking real care with their parking.

On a happier note, so much has happened this term that it is hard to select any one excitement about which to write! The Christmas lunch, the nativity play, the choir's singing at the Village Christmas, walking round the village to see the decorations, the panto visit- these are just a few of the events that the pupils have enjoyed. We are grateful to the PSA for their support and to Miss Jones and her team for making everything happen and hope that they have an excellent Christmas and New Year and a little time to recover!

Fiona Mynors (Governor)

Garway Stitchers



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

January dates are 4th and 18th . 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.

Friends of Garway Church
Templars Weekend

June Saturday 23rd – Sunday 24th 2023
Garway Church and Garway Common

Clive Kelly and friends will tell us how the Templars
came to be in Garway

Be stallholder with a medieval connection; bring your
soaps, honey, crafts and toys to sell
We'd love to have a hog roast too.

To get involved, contact **Lesley Whistance** on 07854412727



Tuesday January 10th 2023
7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00

BRIAN AND CHARLES (PG)

For everyone in our audience who's been secretly inventing a robot with artificial intelligence in their garden shed, (and don't pretend there aren't some of you who've been doing that), our January film, Brian and Charles will strike a chord.

There can be no better way to start the new year than a night spent with this affectionately barmy film with a heart. Brian is a Welsh rural inventor of useless things: who wouldn't want a pinecone bag or a belt for carrying eggs? But one day he triumphs when his urge to create a friend to fill a lonely void in his life combines with some serendipitous manipulation of an old washing machine to bring to life a walking talking robot who goes by the name of Charles Petrescu. Charles turns out to enjoy disco parties and boiled cabbages and has the kind of philosophical mind which poses insoluble questions like 'Can birds do what they like?'

All goes swimmingly until Charles gets stropily teenager-like and wants to fly the nest, preferably to Hawaii which he's seen on the telly. This rebellion, mixed with the vindictive intervention of the local bully, makes for potential disaster and an end to Brian's unconventional friendship.

It's the most endearing and funny of mockumentaries; an absolute delight. Do come, bring your friends, and we'll be letting all robots in for free. As usual, no boiled cabbages, just delicious cakes, wines, teas and coffees served up by the Flicks team. More information on www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks



GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP

Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.30pm
in Garway Community Hall
Snodhill Castle

Tim Hoverd, lead of Herefordshire's Archaeological Project will bring us up to date with this tale of a castle forgotten and neglected for 350 years now emerging as one of the oldest and most intriguing of Norman castles in the whole of Britain.

Refreshment will be served – Free to members and £5 for visitors who are very welcome.

GARWAY'S TALK HUB!

Returning 17th January 2023



Tuesdays* 09:30 to 12:00
(*except first Tuesday of month)

Garway Community Centre,
HR2 8RQ



ALL WELCOME

DROP IN AND SAY HI!

PLUS... "Sign Posting" facility available via the Talk
Community Hub database for services in Herefordshire

Plus!!  Tuesdays 10:00 - 12:00

New Green Garway Book Group

We're going to be starting **Green Garway Book Group** in 2023, meeting on the second Monday of each month in the snug at the Garway Moon at 7.30pm.

We'll read books that are all about the outside world and to get us thinking and challenging: nature writing, travel & exploration, environmental, biography, societal, fiction and non-fiction. And a good excuse for a natter and catch up too.

The book group for **January** will be on **Monday 9th** and we'll be talking about ***I Bought a Mountain*** by **Thomas Firbank**.

If you're interested in coming along please join the Facebook group called Green Garway Book Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/489872936450081>

If you're not a Facebook user, please send us an email using greengarwaygb@gmail.com and we'll add you to our mailing list.

Everyone welcome - do come along, tell friends about it and share your thoughts.
Julie Hudson

Garway Live

There's no Garway Live this month because of the Burns Celebration, however these are the bands booked for this year so far. February 25th "The Attention Seekers". March 18th we welcome back "The Offshoots" also returning on April 15th another fabulous act "The Roving Crows". Then on June 17th "The James Oliver Band". A great start to 2023 with some amazing groups, make sure to make a note in your diary

Burns Celebration

On Saturday January 28th Mr. William Braid will be hosting a Burns Celebration Evening at Garway Village Hall. The evening will consist of a three course meal with local entertainments, the cost will be £25 and for an extra £10 you can enjoy a tasting and brief description of three rare single malt whiskeys. This will be a ticket only event, tickets must be purchased at the latest by 4pm on Friday 26th with any special dietary requirements. Tickets can be obtained from William Braid, Christine Davies, Graham Bevan, Louise Williams and Claire Harris, or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/atgarway There will be a prize of a bottle of single malt for the most notable Scottish attire.

The doors will be open at 6.30 and the meal will start as soon as people are seated. This is intended to be a celebration of the village and a prize raffle in aid of the newly formed Garway Croquet Club will be held and in order for us to give something to people less fortunate, the proceeds from the evening will be shared between "We are Farming Lives" who do a lot of valuable work locally for many people and on the international front "Médecins Sans Frontières"

ORCOP

The annual British Legion act of remembrance at the crossroads on 13th November was exceptionally well attended, with 38 gathering to remember the fallen. Perhaps the Ukraine war has concentrated our minds on the terrible hardships and sacrifices that are endured in times of conflict. Thanks to all who attended this moving ceremony and for donations totalling £155 to the Poppy Appeal.

We thank Viv Morgan and Thelma for erecting such a splendid Christmas tree outside the Baptist Chapel. It is much appreciated and admired by all.

As another year goes by, we must also thank Guy and Mary Thomas for allowing us to use the parking space in front of their barn.



Whereas we remain hopeful that we will have a new vicar late in 2023, it has been decided that there will not be a second Sunday communion service in January, February or March. It is not viable to heat the church at great cost, nor is it reasonable to expect a retired or visiting vicar to turn out, for the few who might attend in these winter months.

Finally, Regina Brymer thanks everyone who attended Angus's funeral, for the phone calls and cards, and for the generous donations made in his memory to Dore Community

Transport and Orcop Church, which totalled approximately £1000. The PCC are most grateful for the Church's share of this substantial donation at a time when regular income is very limited. **Margaret Fletcher, Churchwarden**

Orcop Church – Cleaning; Mrs L Wilkinson

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel

Another year has gone by and fortunately a year where we have managed to stay open all year. Times have still been strange and we have had to adapt to various rules and guidance, such as no singing, only singing with masks (difficult!) and social distancing. If nothing else we have discovered, like all other denominations, that we are flexible! Also, like other chapels and churches, we are finding these times extremely difficult financially but are still just managing to keep our heads above water.

As we are unable to finance the grounds maintenance as we have done in the past, we are grateful for the occasional grass cutting and strimming by local people and families attending the graves. We pass on our thanks to the Sayce Family who have kept our exterior hedges tidy.

In the past twelve months the interior of the chapel has changed slightly in that we have inherited the chairs from Ewyas Harold Chapel to join our own comfortable seating. It was a difficult decision to replace the remaining pews, but it has made the small space more comfortable and adaptable. All of the pews (bar one which we have kept) have remained local or have gone to families that attended the chapel at some time in their lives. This was important to us, and it is good to know that they will be cherished for many years to come. Additionally, the money from the sale of the pews will be used for much needed repairs to the chapel. **Ruth Maskell**

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCLOYD

Sunday November 27th was the start of the Church's year as Advent Sunday and we celebrated it at Pencoyd Church with Evensong led by Elizabeth. We began the service by lighting the first candle on the Advent Ring. Originally this was a pagan custom with people lighting candles around a wreath through the dark winter months. At some time during the Middle Ages, the wreath was embraced by Christians and a tradition evolved into the now-familiar Advent ring which is full of symbolism. Traditionally, the Advent Ring is a circle of greenery, which represents that the creator God is eternal. In it are placed four candles and one is lit on each Sunday in Advent.

At Pencoyd this Advent service, we followed the tradition that the first candle represents the Patriarchs, such as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the second candle represents the Old Testament Prophets, the third Candle represents John the Baptist, and the fourth candle represents Mary the Mother of Jesus. On Christmas Day, we light the fifth candle in the

centre of the ring which is the Jesus candle, lit on his birthday, representing the light of the world. So, if you come to the service at Tretire at 9.15 am on Christmas Day, you will see the lighting of the Jesus candle.



The other custom which Elizabeth has invited us all to follow this year during Advent, is one we followed several years ago now, called The Reverse Advent Calendar. Reverse in several ways. Instead of opening a door and finding a piece of chocolate, (or in our children's day, just a picture!) we start with an empty box. Starting on 1st of December, we buy an item of food, or other necessity like toiletries, and put it in the box, and repeat every day till Christmas Day. We take our full box of items to Tretire Church, and all of them will be taken during early January to the food bank in Ross.

Hopefully, many of you read about this suggestion on a slip put into your December magazine. But if you didn't get to see it, or just didn't get around to it, but read about it now, it isn't too late to participate. So, do bring any donations to Tretire church and put them into the containers provided, and your gift will be taken to the food bank. There will undoubtedly be many needy families in and around Ross who will have a real struggle this Christmas, and it would be so good if our community could show them that spirit of generosity that the season of Christmas symbolises. So, do please join in with as little or as much as you can manage, a late Christmas present for a needy stranger.

If this magazine reaches you before Christmas, then I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Margaret Oubridge

Wildlife in our Garden

The first half of November was unusually warm. Even so, most of the insect life has gone to sleep for the winter. Just a few species remained on standby and reappeared when the sun broke through, the odd bumble bee and red admiral for example. Twice on warm days a queen wasp which had begun to lie up in the house, woke and started to buzz around. I rather unkindly put it outside, hoping it would find the shelter of a shed or tree good enough for its needs. I don't mind wasps in the garden; after all, they do a good job clearing up all kinds of rubbish, but I don't like the idea of someone accidentally putting their hand on a sleepy wasp in the fold of a curtain and paying the price!

About ten days ago the weather turned cold, and as it did so the bird life around our feeding station suddenly got a lot busier. There were more of the usual, chaffinches, dunnocks, robins and tits, but also some which had been busy elsewhere all summer and autumn,

blackbirds (two pairs), collar doves (three pairs), a male woodpecker, which now visits every day, usually quite late in the morning, and just once, on 25th, a lone fieldfare.

We have not been putting out nuts through the summer, just seeds. I thought we might try “kibbled” peanuts (recommended by RSPB) this winter, but were surprised how small the pieces were. We found that they just fell out of the squirrel-proof nut feeder, so we bought a squirrel-proof seed feeder instead. This does work but is not perfect; sometimes the nut pieces get stuck up in the barrel which has to be knocked to get them down to the holes for the birds to reach them. Nor are they universally popular. The blue tits like them, but the great tits still prefer the seeds, and the woodpecker either has not yet discovered them or has decided he prefers seed too!

One day, we watched the woodpecker take a drink from the bird bath, then appear to almost fall off. It hung on to the rim with one foot and, upside down, suspended by one leg, it stayed quite still for about 15 minutes before flying off. Perhaps this behaviour is normal for woodpeckers, but we’ve never seen it before. I suppose they’re usually hidden from view up in the trees.



I am always surprised by how striking a fieldfare looks when seen at close range. Larger than its relatives, blackbirds and thrushes, it has dramatic markings: dark striations on the upper breast and fierce eyes accentuated by a strong pale stripe above. It bounces around on the grass, chasing off all the smaller birds, even though it shows no interest in feeding itself. Bossy, I call it! But out in the fields with the rest of its flock, they can be so well camouflaged, and it’s so hard to judge scale, that I find them very difficult to identify. Little blobs of grey in the distance; well, they could be pigeons. And when they fly, it’s the same problem. Could they be starlings? If anyone can tell me a reliable way of identifying fieldfares at a distance, I’d be very glad to hear of it.

John Oubridge, 29th November 2022

Surprise visitor

I always read John’s contribution with interest. Although we have bird feeders and greatly enjoy watching our visitors, including a pair of beautiful woodpeckers, I am not knowledgeable about birds as he is. However in early November we were surprised by one large, unexpected visitor- a heron. We have seen herons on the stream and in the fields round about, but not so near habitation.



Although there is a pond in the grounds of Treago, some distance from where we now live, the herons have had their fill of the goldfish, so we assumed there was little to interest them here! For about a week, the heron stalked proudly past our windows early each morning, up towards the wooded area behind our house. It stood for some time, doing nothing but seeming to watch us as we peered at it. If we made a false move it flapped off. Obviously, it lost interest in us as it stopped coming. We wonder if it will visit us next year. Let's hope so as it was amazing to see such a large bird so close.

Fiona Mynors

Book Review

***Diary of a Somebody* by Brian Bilston**

Bilston is known as the "Banksy of Poetry" and Twitter's unofficial Poet Laureate, with over 100.00 followers. After publishing his first volume of poetry *You Took the Last Bus Home*, he has moved on to this his first novel.

The protagonist is Bilston himself who decides to get a grip on his shambolic life and makes a New Year's resolution to write a poem a day. Newly separated and drifting through life and a dull job he is optimistic that this decision will change his fortunes. His time is taken up with buying books, tinkering at his office job (in his "*officle*"), attending seances at the insistence of his slightly batty elderly neighbour, going to a poetry club to gaze in rapture at Liz (the object of his desires), groaning over the sickening new partner his wife has found (a motivational speaker for goodness' sake), stroking his cat and receiving weekly visits from his teenage son, who, to Bilston's disgust, wants to revise for his exams rather than chill out. There is indeed a poem a day, all witty and amusing in varying degrees, with some small gems – the titles raise a smile, sometimes more so than the content of the poem: *Not Drowning but Waving*, *Mansplaining at the Ghostbusters Training Academy for Women*, *Beer Mat's Last Theorem*, *Do not go, lentil, into that good pie*, And droll aphorisms: "*Life is a parachute; it gets you down*" – "*Inside every opportunity is a disappointment waiting to happen*" – "*No matter how big the problem, it is never too late to run away.*"

Poetic and prose examples are essential here so you get the drift:

Of his neighbour who is notorious for failing in the essential task of getting his bin out on the pavement on the right day: "*I tried to write a poem using a metaphor that might somehow*

connect the contents of a bin bag to a more profound statement about the modern human condition, but I threw it away because it was rubbish.”

“Duvet, you are so groovet, I’d like to stay under you, all of Tuesdet.”

And so it goes on. Confession here – I stopped chuckling about a third of the way through. His striving to be clever simply became tedious. To quote Bilston himself: *“The strength of enjoyment derived is inversely proportional to the quantity of words on the page.”*

The wit and whimsy come thick and fast in this book: clever but best consumed in measured doses, which rather defeats the object of a novel.

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

A work colleague once said to me, ‘I have always fancied having a greenhouse, but it would just be one more room to clean.’ That left me feeling so sad as she was missing out on hours of enjoyment and relaxation. Even if I only had a pocket handkerchief of a garden, I would find room for a small greenhouse. Nowadays, there is much talk of the benefits of being amongst nature or in the garden and, much as I love being in the garden, either working or just sitting, I find that time spent in my greenhouse is the most enjoyable and relaxing of all.



The moment I step into my greenhouse I relax and feel calmer. Everything slows down and I can happily potter for an hour or two. I sow a few seeds, prick out seedlings, pot on young plants, write plant labels, remove a few dead leaves and bask in the warmth. And yes Jo, I sweep the floor, tidy the staging and clean the windows; and I enjoy every minute.

My greenhouse is a shabby specimen though, rather elderly and nowadays somewhat wonky. Its original location had become shaded by trees and shrubs, so I removed the glass, manhandled the intact frame to the back garden and reinstalled the glass. Over the last ten years, the frame has become even more distorted, and the glass has slipped so much that the rain pours in. It still serves me well, but every year I debate whether to invest in a new one. Well, this year I have. I have never been tempted by Black Friday sales before, regarding the whole thing as a con. However, the years are racing on and realising that I might never get my new greenhouse, this November I couldn’t resist the half price greenhouses on offer. I will keep the faithful old one; despite its failings it is still useful. The new smart green octagonal one will be in a far more scenic part of the garden. No views of

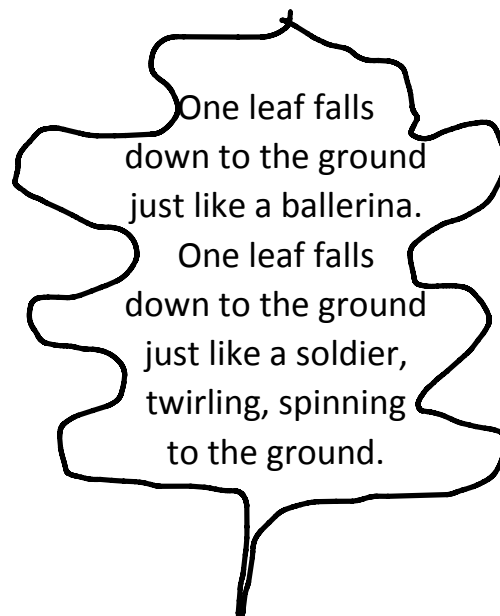
dustbins, boilers or water butts from this one. On one side, there will be a view of lawn, shrubs, flowers and the summerhouse. On the other, the ducks splashing in their tiny pond or rooting for grubs.

We got a man in (well, a mate) to lay some good chunky slabs for the base. It is my job to erect the frame next. Being one of those unusual people who love reading manuals and assembling flat pack products, I am looking forward to it. What I am not so keen on doing is installing the glass, especially the triangular pieces on the octagonal roof.

My husband is thrilled with the new greenhouse; not because we have a new greenhouse, but because there will be less grass to mow!

Julie Davies

One leaf



By N Year 5

A peek in the bookshop



I thought I'd round off the year with a Christmas book quiz for you. Can you work out the book titles and authors of these classic titles, with just the initials to help?

1. TKAMB by HL
2. BB by AS
3. WITW by KG
4. U by JJ
5. TVHC by EC
6. PP by CD
7. MD by HM
8. BNW by AH
9. AOHF by MT
10. LOTR by JRRT

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 11. TLWATW by CSL | 16. CATCF by RD |
| 12. M by GE | 17. TGOW by JS |
| 13. AAIW by LC | 18. TTM by HGW |
| 14. F by MS | 19. WIL by DHL |
| 15. CAP by FD | 20. ICB by TC |

Good luck! All the titles are available to buy at Rossiter Books. Hope to see you in store soon.

Chuckle Corner

A Selection of Choice Chuckles to Brighten the New Year or A Bit of Glee for Twenty-Three. (to be taken in small doses)

Let's start with a few one-liners:

- I hate Russian dolls, they're so full of themselves.
- My wife and I were happy for twenty years; then we met.
- I saw a sign that said, "watch for children" and thought, "That sounds like a fair trade".
- You can never lose a homing pigeon. If your homing pigeon doesn't come back, what you've lost is a pigeon.
- I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner. All it was doing was gathering dust.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
- My dad suggested I should get a donor card. He's a man after my own heart.
- I just deleted the German names from my phone. Now it's Hans free.
- I needed a password eight characters long, so I chose Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.
- Hedgehogs: Why can't they just share the hedge?

Now, a few Steven Wright (US) classics:

- I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.
- Last night I went to a 24hour grocery. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said "Hey, the sign says you are open 24 hours". He replied, "not in a row!"
- When everything is coming your way, You're in the wrong lane.
- Shin: A device for finding furniture in the dark.
- When I'm not in my right mind, my left mind gets pretty crowded.
- What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made the horn louder.
- The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- 99% of lawyers give the others a bad name.

A couple from the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe:

- **Archie Maddocks:** Nothing makes sense to me. We live in a world where we cut down trees to make bird houses out of wood.
 - **Tom Taylor:** With enough revs and determination, any restaurant is a drive through
- And this from the Melbourne Comedy Festival: Suren Jayemanne:** I bought a packet of crisps today. On it was written “sealed for your protection” So, I’ve never opened it. **I could go on, but maybe that’s enough nonsense for now, so I will round off with three short stories:**

1. Chicken Science

Scientists at Rolls Royce built a gun specifically to launch dead chickens at the windshields of airliners and military jets travelling at full velocity. The idea was to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl (commonly known as “bird strikes”) in order to test the strength of windshields. Engineers in America heard about the gun and were eager to use it to test the windshields of their new high-speed trains.

A gun was duly ordered and shipped to the US. When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken crashed through the windshield, blasted through the driver’s seat and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin. The same thing happened in several subsequent tests.

Horrified, the Americans turned to Rolls Royce for comment on the disastrous results and advice on the design of their windshields.

Rolls Royce responded as follows: “Defrost the Chicken.”

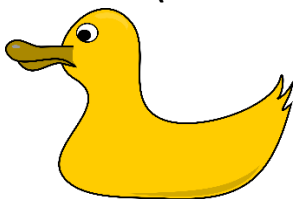
2. A Brush with the Law

A couple of nights ago I had a few drinks with some friends. By the end of the evening, I knew I had had far too many, but still rounded off the session with a double margherita. Knowing full well that I was over the limit, I did something I have never done before: I took a taxi home.

Sure enough, I passed a roadside police check, but they waved the taxi through.

I arrived home safely, which is amazing really, because I have never driven a taxi before and I’m still not sure where I got it from.

3. Dead Duck (This one’s my favourite!)



A lady brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgery. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird’s chest.

The vet sadly shook his head and said, “I’m sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away.”

The distressed woman wailed, “Are you sure?”

“Yes, I am. Your duck is dead”, replied the vet.

“How can you be so sure?” she protested. “I mean, you haven’t done any tests or anything. Perhaps he’s just in a coma.”

The vet rolled his eyes and left the room. He returned with a black Labrador. The dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room, returning a few minutes later with a cat. The cat jumped on the table, delicately sniffed the bird, sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but this is most definitely a dead duck". He then turned to his computer and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.

Still in shock, she took the bill and exclaimed "£150, just to tell me my duck is dead!!"

The vet shrugged. "I'm sorry", he said, but if you had simply taken my word for it, the bill would have been only £20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it is £150".

Happy New Year!

Peter Garratt

Hereford Cathedral Dates

Wednesday 28 December, 3.30 pm : A quiet service of remembrance for parents and families who have suffered the loss of a child, whether recently or long ago. All welcome.

La nativité du Seigneur: Saturday 28 January, 7 pm Peter Dyke, assistant director of music at Hereford Cathedral, performs Olivier Messiaen's organ masterpiece La nativité du Seigneur, which consists of nine movements or 'meditations' inspired by the birth and life of Christ. **Tickets to be available via the cathedral website.**

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Dates for the diary:

January 2023

- 4th Garway Stitchers**
- 5th COPY DATE FOR THIS MAGAZINE**
- 9th Green Garway Book Club**
- 10th Flicks in the Sticks, Garway: Brian and Charles**
- 17th Garway Talk Hub**
- 17th Garway Heritage Group**
- 18th Garway Stitchers**
- 23rd Templar Weekend – Garway Church and Garway Common**
- 28th Burns Celebration**

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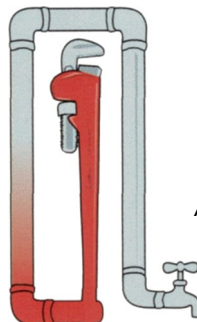


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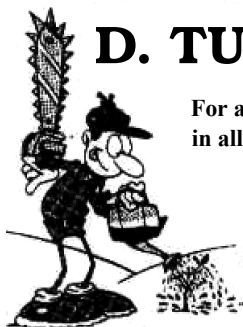
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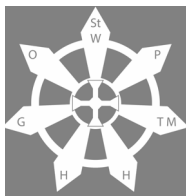
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