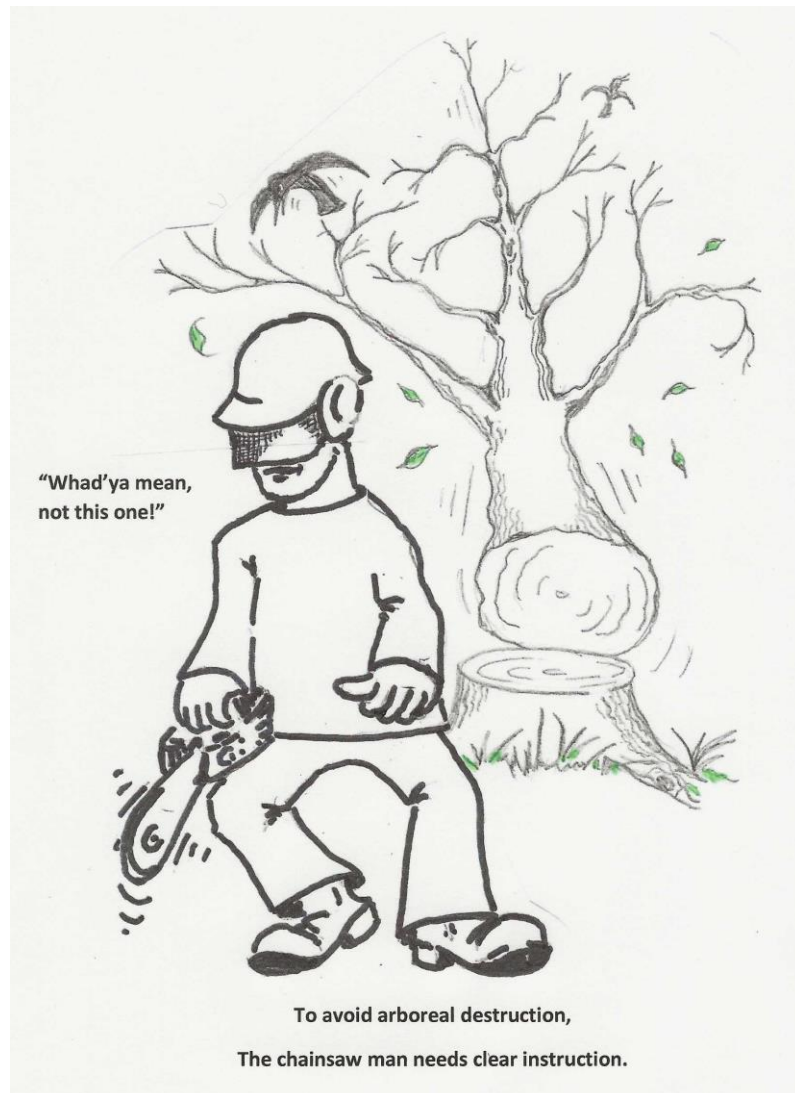


# PARISH NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2023



PETER GARRATT

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## CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

### Churchwardens

St. Weonards	Richard Mynors.....	01981 580208
	Anna Williams .....	07779 006994
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
Youth Group, Tear Fund	Fay Rowlands .....	01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings	Julia Garlick . enquiries@orcopparishhall.org	01981 580515
St Weonards Hall Booking	Anna Williams.....	07779 006994
St Weonards Pre-school	Anna Williams.....	07779 006994
Singing Tree Choir	Hilary Smallwood .....	01600 614012
Garway Hall Bookings	.....	hires@garwayhall.org
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones .....	01600 750273
@Garway	Graham Bevan.....	01981 580215
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson.....	01600 750465
Much Dewchurch Gardening Club	Linda Ashton .....	01981 540804
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Rigler.....	07940 308696
Dore Community Transport	.....	0345 2020144
St Weonards Group website	.....	www.stw.org.uk

### HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

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

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### Samaritans

National Helpline .....	08457 909090
Hereford .....	116 123 free calls
.....	0330 094 5717 local call rates apply jo@samaritans.org
HOPEline UK (Prevention of Young Suicide).....	0870 1704000 01978 367333

### Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South local policing teams

Sgt Emma Freer, PC Kirsty O'Brien, PC Jim Phillips, PCSO Lowri Anderson, PCSO Adam Westlake, PCSO Christina Howard, PCSO Hayley Cohen and PCSO Christopher Yarwood. How to get in touch:101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime. herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk www.westmercia.police.uk

**Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.**

## MAGAZINE CONTACTS

Contributions to the Parish news can be given to your parish representative by the **5<sup>th</sup> of the month**:

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

Contributions by email to [archenfieldmag@btinternet.com](mailto:archenfieldmag@btinternet.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

<b>Garway:</b>	Mark Hearne clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	01981 251887
<b>Orcop:</b>	Mark Hearne clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org  Parish council website <a href="http://www.orcop.wordpress.com">www.orcop.wordpress.com</a>	01981 251887
<b>St Weonards:</b>	Mark Hearne clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org	01981 251887
<b>Llanwarne:</b>	Mark Hearne clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	01981 251887
<b>Ballingham, Bolstone &amp; Hentland:</b>	Nicky Mackenzie clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk	07581 353103

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

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# PARISH NEWS

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## THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

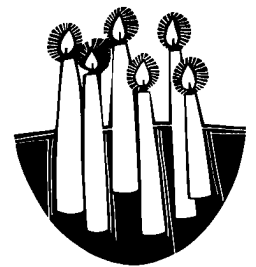
Rural Dean: Rev Sean Semple  
Rector of Ross on Wye  
01989 562175

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

### A CANDLEMAS LETTER

Hello fellow churchgoers!

*I hope this magazine finds you well and that you had a wonderful Christmas season. Can you believe it's already February and Candlemas is upon us? Time sure does fly, doesn't it?*



It's all right: don't have a heart attack! That wasn't really me speaking but an Artificial Intelligence program following my instructions to write a chatty magazine article for Candlemas... It's scary how much these programs can do now. An average student essay is within their grasp for instance. But the truth is, they often don't pass the "sniff test". They just aren't really human, however clever they are at feeding the internet back to us.

Which takes me back to Candlemas, because Candlemas – the Feasts of the Presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary – is our yearly celebration of a very real baby and a very real mother going to a very real Temple to perform the rituals their religion required: presenting sacrifices to God and praying for purification for Mary (as recorded in Luke chapter 2), 33 days after the equally physical circumcision and 40 days after the birth.

This is no escapist world of twinkling candles and chatty platitudes, but the real world full of joys and sorrows that we know today. And it celebrates, as you well know, not a mythical God but a God who has become fully one with us, blood and gore included. God with us in both our joys and sorrows. God with us a New Year unfolds.

Ritual sacrifices and cleansings are no longer part of our religion. Nor do we bring our stock of candles to church for blessing (made from the tallow of the slaughtered pigs ...). What the Feast does offer is the opportunity to take a deep breath of God's Spirit and turn bravely from the cosiness of Christmas to face the more challenging days of Good Friday and Easter and all they represent, taking with us not a just a candle in our hands but the light of Christ in our hearts. That's what we'll be doing at Tretire on Sunday 5th February at 10am if you're free to join us.

**+ David Thomson (Hon Ass Bishop in the Diocese in retirement)**

### An online week of Accompanied Prayer

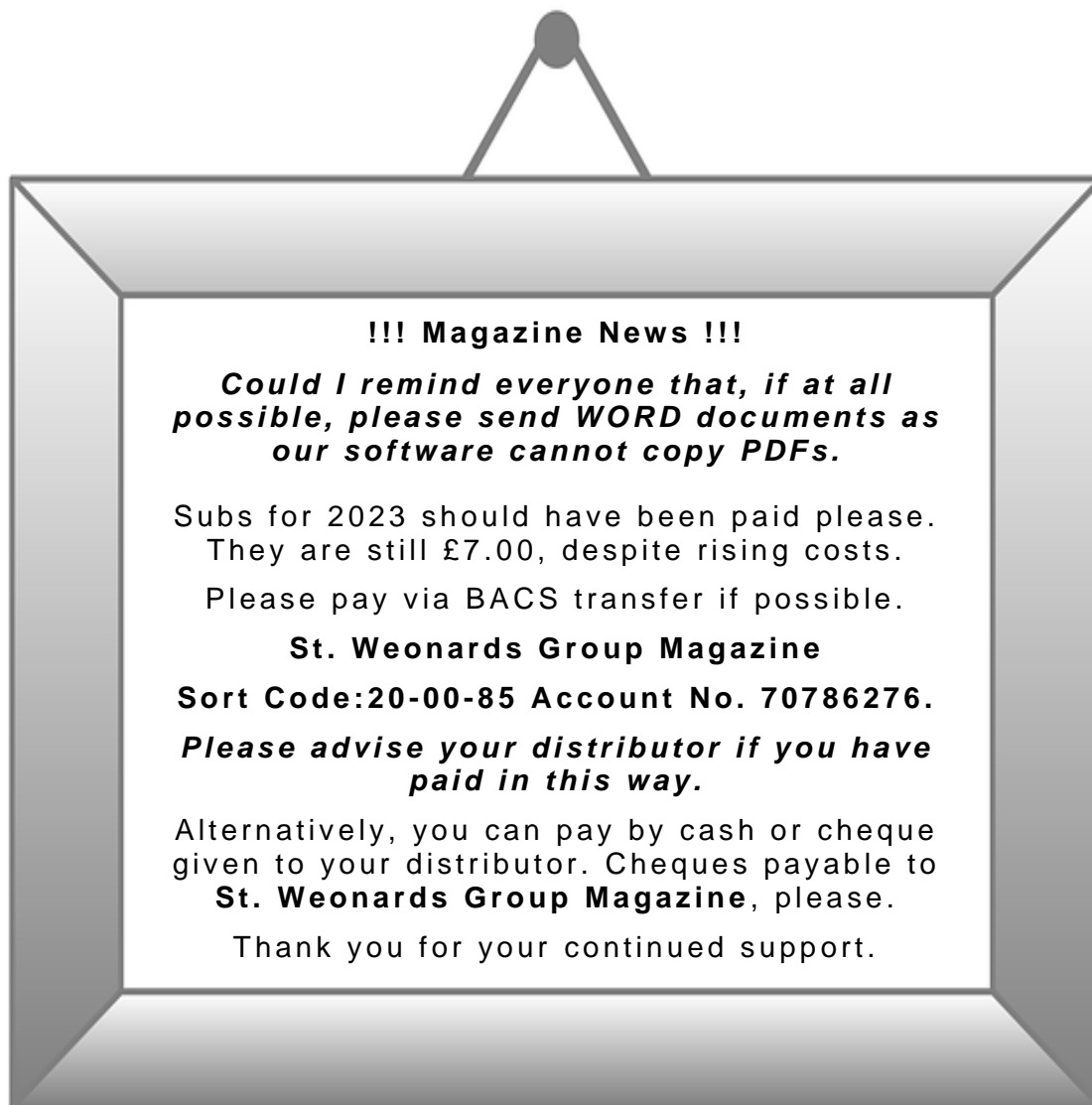
Bishop Richard has called for a Year of Prayer for 2023. One of the first events in which we are invited to participate is a Week of Accompanied Prayer, which is being delivered online. The team of Prayer Guides have experience in doing this, and participants have found it helpful in being able to join in from home.

St Weonards' local people may remember taking part in a week of prayer a few years back: if you did, and you found it beneficial to your spiritual life, please talk to your friends and recommend it!

A lot more information can be found on the Diocesan website about what such a week entails. As one of the guides, who isn't a churchgoer, I'd like to emphasise that this is open to all - you do not have to be a churchgoer or even a member of the Anglican church. Any one who wonders "what is prayer? How can I draw closer to God? What's the link between faith and daily life?"

Information can be accessed from this link: <https://bit.ly/onlineWAP>

Pat Macrae, [patfmacrae@gmail.com](mailto:patfmacrae@gmail.com) 01981 580438



## PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



7th February Tony Phillips 07971 550859

## Service Rota

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

February		
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Tretire, Benefice Candlemas Service
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	St Weonards Confirmation & Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Hoarwithy, Holy Communion
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Hentland, Holy Communion St Weonards, All Age Service Pencoyd, Evening Prayer

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 12<sup>th</sup> February 3 pm  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 3 pm

Revd. Paul Arnold (Holy Communion)  
Mr Wilf Prosser

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# VILLAGE PAGES

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## ST WEONARDS

Christmas is a busy time for everyone and church is no different. We had a packed church for the crib service! Excited children dressed up to illustrate the Christmas story, and we sang carols and learned a new action song shared onscreen. Before the service there was time to catch up with family and friends as we enjoyed the delicious cakes and special biscuits generously provided by the Williams family.



Our Midnight Christmas Communion was such a special occasion with a large congregation led by Bishop David. With all the lights extinguished, except for one candle held by Bishop David, he challenged and encouraged us to remember that despite all the difficulties and dark events that are happening in our world, God's message of light and love shines through for all of us. The choir carols, *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, gave time for reflection, and everyone joined in cheerfully singing the carols. At midnight, Bishop David lifted our hearts even higher as he wished us all a *Happy Christmas* from the altar! We are so grateful to him and Jean for coming out on a winter's night to support and guide us so joyfully and thoughtfully.

We were also delighted to welcome the Rev Judy Dinnen to take our Epiphany Communion when she shared with us her thoughts on gifts and their relevance to the story of the arrival of the Wise Men at Jesus's birth.

On Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am, Bishop David is leading our Candlemass Service at Tretire Church. Do come and if you would like to join the choir for this occasion do ring me on 01981 580 208 or [fionamynors@btinternet.com](mailto:fionamynors@btinternet.com). We will sing one anthem and lead the singing and all are welcome to join us.

On Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am, Thomas, a regular member of our All Age congregation is to be confirmed by Bishop David. This will be a communion service as well, so do come and join us to celebrate with Thomas on this special day.

The advertisement for our new vicar's post was advertised in the *Church Times* in January and we await the results. All being well, a shortlist will be drawn up, and candidates will have an orientation day in our parishes and interviews in March. We pray that this process will lead us to the appointment of a new vicar to lead our parishes by the summer. **Richard Mynors, Churchwarden**



### **Tree planting in St. Weonards**

Come and help us restore an ancient woodland! We would love help to plant the young trees - a mix of over 20 native species, from crab-apple and spindle to wild service tree and guelder rose.

Planting dates are the Saturdays either end of half-term: 18th and 25th February, morning and afternoon sessions.

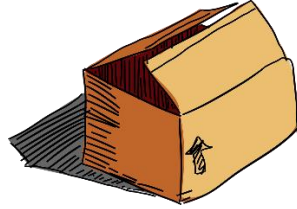
You'll be able to follow the progress of the trees in the years ahead as a public footpath runs right through the wood.

Everyone is welcome to plant just a few trees, or come for a couple of hours and set yourself a challenge! Instruction provided, but please bring a sharp spade!

Please get in touch if you'd like to come and join us, so we know numbers: contact Alex on 07890160632 or [alexmynorsherbert@outlook.com](mailto:alexmynorsherbert@outlook.com).



## Hereford Food Bank



We are still collecting items in church for the Food Bank. Many thanks to those who have contributed so far. The Food Bank provides emergency food parcels throughout Hereford and surrounding areas. They are at 41 Monkmoor St, Hereford HR1 2DX. 01432 607011

They are always in need of tinned meat and hygiene products

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

## GARWAY

### Garway School and Pre-school

A new year and a new term welcomed the pupils back to school with the exciting news that Miss Edwards and her partner are engaged! Many congratulations.

Different groups of pupils will be swimming and taking part in Forest School this term. All the information you need on the many and varied activities are in the newsletter published each week. Many thanks to Chris Davies for her work on these letters.

If anyone has wool of any type or colour for the new woolcraft club that would be so helpful. AND we need around eight tonnes of soil to fill the hole outside Class 6. Subsoil would be fine if not too stony, but not building rubble. Please contact school if you have any spare.



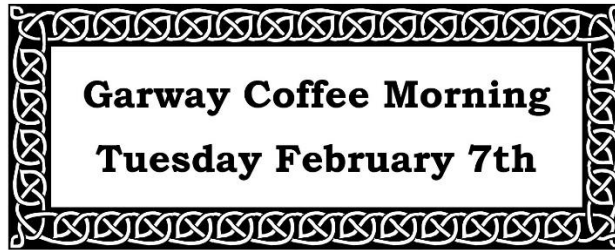
Unfortunately many people are still unwell and clear advice has been given by the UK Health Security Agency about any children who are not fully fit.

*'If a child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.*

*Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practise regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.'*

Following this advice will help to limit the spread of infection in school and to the community beyond.

**Fiona Mynors**



**Join us for coffee/tea and cake, good company and warmth!!!!**

**David Steiner from Monmouth based charity**

**Hands Around the World will be with us, and there will be  
a stall with African crafts, cards etc.**

**All welcome from 10.15am**

**Post Office and free library**

### **Garway Stickers**



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

February dates are 8th and 22nd. 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.



**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14TH**

**7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00**

**HIT THE ROAD (PG)**

*Hit the Road* is a gem of a road-trip movie from Iranian film-maker, Panah Panahi, whose famous father, Jafar, is currently in prison in Iran, serving a six-year sentence for enquiring after the fate of other imprisoned Iranian directors. You may remember his wonderful film, *Taxi*, which we showed a few years ago. For his son to make this film is, in itself, an act of artistic bravery. It's easy to love the film's family of four who have borrowed an SUV to make a long trip across Iran. They are journeying for a reason that only becomes clear in due course. The car's being driven by the adult son, who clearly wants to be anywhere other than in a car with mum, dad, six-year-old minx of a brother, and the family's rather sick dog. In the course of the journey, stories and reminiscences are shared while the younger son displays his childish wonder at the mysteries of the world and offers his own idiosyncratic interpretation of them. It's a film that constantly touches the sweet spot between laughter and tears and is also beautiful to look at as the travellers move from parched brown scenery to a lush greener landscape which seems to signify an optimistic outcome for their trip, despite more sinister harbingers which pop up and keep us guessing about what exactly is happening to this family.

Do join us for this wonderful film, plus all our delicious cakes and refreshments served from 7pm and during the interval. Follow us too on [facebook.com/Garway Flicks](https://facebook.com/GarwayFlicks).

**SAVE THESE BORDERLINES DATES – GARWAY hosts two films for the UK’s largest rural film festival:** Friday March 3rd - Garway Hall, AFTERSUN. This multi-award-winning independent film has as its cinematographer, Garway’s own Greg Oke, son of Margaret and Nick. The film received universal acclaim from critics, and was named one of the best films of 2022 by the National Board of Review and was awarded top place by *Sight and Sound* on its poll for the best films of the year.

Friday 10th March at Garway – UTAMA. A Bolivian farming couple’s traditional way of life is threatened by disastrous drought. Can they continue or will they be forced to move to an alien life in the city? Both films begin at 7.30pm. More information in March.

#### Green Garway Book Group

The next Green Garway Book Group will be on Monday 13 February at 7.30pm, in the snug at the Garway Moon pub. The book we'll be discussing in February will be *The Book of Trespass* by Nick Hayes.

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

For further information join the Green Garway Book Group on Facebook or email us at

[GreenGarwayBG@gmail.com](mailto:GreenGarwayBG@gmail.com)

*Julie Hudson*



After William's Burn's Celebration, it's back to the bands and we start the year with “The Attention Seekers” on **February 25<sup>th</sup>**. As usual, they are a very accomplished band playing a variety of covers from some very different acts including, Stealers Wheel, Dire Straits Chuck Berry, Bad Company, Elvis Presley plus many more. They like to adjust their set to suit the audience so it should be a great night to dance the night away or just sit back and listen to fabulous covers.

On Saturday **March 18<sup>th</sup>** we have the return of “The Offshoots”, who played here in May last year and anybody who came to that performance will tell you that you're in for a good night.

**GRAHAM BEVAN**

### **GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP**

Tuesday 21 February 2023, 7.30pm Garway Community Hall  
**CHRISLETON**; its unique heritage



2,000 years in a Cheshire village will be brought to life by David Cummings. An enthralling tale of the days when 6 gallons of wine cost £2. 5s 0d but a housekeeper earned £3 for 6 months' work

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

### **BROAD OAK NEIGHBOURS' EMAIL GROUP**

Broad Oak now has a new email group which was set up to communicate with as many villagers as possible to enable us all to 'keep in touch' about very local matters. All the houses within the village centre received a note through their letter boxes inviting them to join the group. The idea to communicate locally originated when I felt that our phone box could do with a rather large refurbishment and felt it was a good idea to find out what other people thought too.

A note to the Parish Council revealed that others had also requested some improvements to the box. It was also established that the Community Heartbeat Trust had adopted the box, in case at any time in the future, locals might wish to install a defibrillator inside.



A meeting with some of the email group identified a number of other local issues and ideas for improvement resulting in an action plan being created. A bulb planting session took place, with around 500 native bulbs planted on the common areas and next a clear up took place to tidy up a small portion of overgrowth on the common land - coffee, tea and cakes were shared and some special community spirit was created.

A further meeting took place with a member of the Broad Oak and Garway Commoners' Association to identify as clearly as possible our Common's boundaries and also the areas of land that aren't registered as common but are Parish Council owned.

The Parish Council have given the go ahead to begin repairing, redecorating and installing a defibrillator in the old phone box and they also promised a sum of money towards this - along with other projects for the village, which are likely to include; an oak bench; a plaque or notice about the millennium Oak tree and the buried capsule; a vegetable swap area; and a notice board. A further idea is to have an oak sign with 'Broad Oak' carved upon it (we have a large oak plank available but do not know of any wood carvers).

Following the recent water supply issues, it may also be an idea to ask Welsh Water to provide water bottles at an agreed 'drop spot' on our 'layby' as many residents did not receive any deliveries of water.

It is planned to have our first session to work on the phone box very soon and to proceed with the arrangements for a defibrillator. We will send out a request for volunteers for each project, but nobody should feel obliged to help. We have also received a very generous anonymous donation towards these projects. Also we are hoping to hold some fund-raising events very soon to cover all the costs.

If you would like to join our neighbourhood email group, or have any ideas for the village or for fundraising, please email me, Julie Martin at [broadoakneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:broadoakneighbours@gmail.com) or on 07745843428 if you would like to be kept in the loop by alternative means, or if you didn't receive the note through your letter box.

## ORCOP

Despite our current lack of a parish priest, and my recent surgery, which put me out of action for a while, Orcop Church managed two very successful pre-Christmas events.

Community Carols, on 17<sup>th</sup> December, was well supported and evidently enjoyed by the congregation, within which the broad "Orcop Community" was well represented and in good voice. Thanks go to all who decorated the church so beautifully, read and sang! Special thanks go to Chris Northam, whose organ playing always stimulates rusty voices.

The "Shepherds' Play", on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, saw the church packed to capacity, with many standing, and having to step aside to allow the cast to pass as they sang and paraded around the aisles. Special thanks go to David Donaldson for taking on the project and to all the Steiner friends and colleagues who lent their support, experience and encouragement, not to mention the props. The lovely voices of Jane Bovell and Judy Harry contributed greatly to the emotional impact of the play and, of course, Tim Bannerman performed as one would expect from such a star of stage and screen....., once he had mastered the star scissors! Richard had a challenging role in accompanying on the keyboard for such a disparate and sometimes querulous cast, but carried it off with his customary aplomb. As for the shepherds, well, what can be said, except that their personal hygiene habits were disgusting.

Finally, a big Thank You to Chris and Tricia for hosting the post-performance invasion.

These Thespian endeavours raised a total of £325.00 , which were split 50/50 between Hereford Food Bank and upkeep of Orcop Church.

**Margaret Fletcher, Churchwarden**

**Flowers and cleaning rota: Dexi Garman**

### Orcop Parish Hall

**Warm Space** at Orcop Parish Hall with Coffee & Cakes in collaboration with OWLS

Every Thursday morning 10.30 – 12.30

Transport by arrangement - call Gill or Tim Bannerman 01981 580685



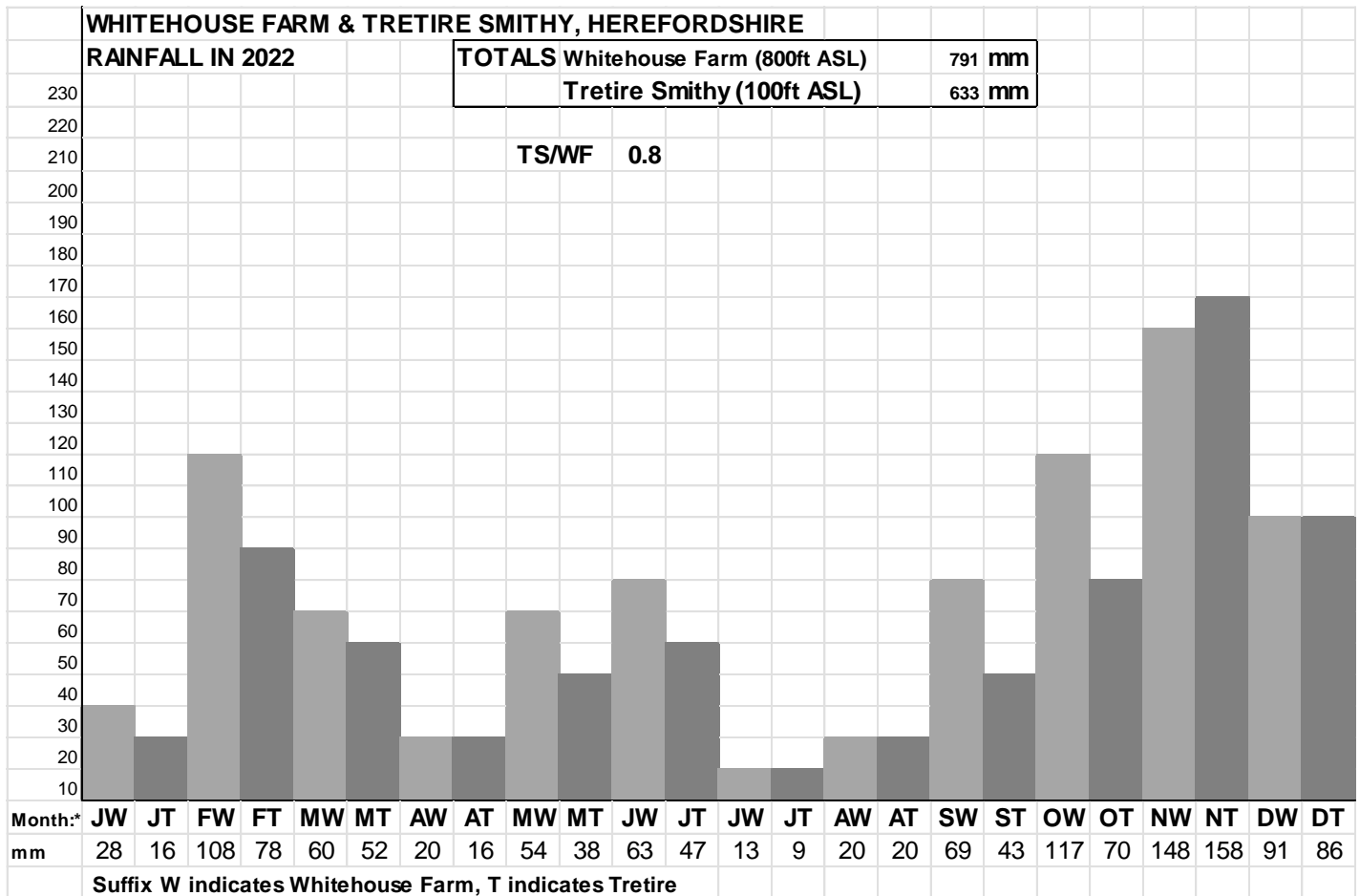
March: Seed and Plant swap, look out for more details

## RAINFALL IN 2022 – Another dry year

As for the past ten years, this commentary is based on records from Whitehouse Farm (on the southern rim of the Orcop Basin at about 800ft elevation) and those kindly provided by John Oubridge for Tretire Smithy (Elevation about 100ft). The two sets of monthly totals are summarised on the bar chart below. I have records for Whitehouse Farm from 2009 to 2022. The average rainfall over this 14 year period is 928mm.

2019 and 2020 were very wet years and 2021 was relatively dry, with total rainfall about 10% below average. 2022 was drier still, at about 15% below average. The year started with an unusually dry January and the spring and summer were exceptionally dry, with only 34mm of rainfall on average over the months April to August. The most notable feature of the 2021 record was the reversal of seasonal expectations, in that the wettest month by far was May and the driest by far was November. In 2022, a more normal pattern emerged from the very dry January, with winter rainfall predominant. There was virtually no snow in 2022 until December, when a light covering (about 10mm as snow, equivalent to about 2mm of rain) persisted for some 10 days due to exceptionally low daytime temperatures.

As usual, comparing the Whitehouse Farm and Tretire records is interesting. In 2022 there was again good agreement between the two. They followed a similar pattern with the Tretire annual total about 80% of that recorded at Whitehouse Farm. The monthly totals for Tretire were consistently close to or significantly lower than those for Whitehouse Farm, except in November, when Tretire recorded a higher monthly total, probably influenced by heavy local showers.



**Peter Garratt**

## TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

Our stalwart team came together on Friday Dec 23rd to thoroughly clean St Mary's Tretire before filling it with festive decorations and candles ready for the service on Christmas Day. 35 people came to the service which was led for us by Rev Brian Phillips, some of whom were joining us from other churches in the benefice, as this was the only daytime service on Christmas Day. It was lovely to welcome some young families and to join in singing really familiar Christmas hymns together.

There has been a really good response to the "Reverse Advent Calendar" appeal, and in early January we were able to take a very good selection of foods and personal necessities such as toiletries to the Community Larder at St Mary's Parish Hall in Ross, and to the Ross Zero Waste Food Hub. I know many people regularly donate to the Community Larder, but I suspect that many people, like us, had not come across the Zero Waste food Hub. We visited it briefly early in the New Year and were very impressed with what we found there. It seems that it was originally started as the Haygrove Community Gardens Charity and aimed to "offer support to those who would benefit from the therapeutic nature of horticulture". A group of volunteers meets there to support those with learning disabilities, mental health issues, Dementia, and the long-term unemployed.

The Zero Waste Food Hub was launched there in November 2020, with the intention of saving the vast amount of food from supermarkets, which, on reaching its sell-by date still unsold, was being sent to landfill. A number of stalls were erected in the garden and the food was collected from the supermarkets and handed out to needy families and individuals from Ross. It has been in action ever since as food is distributed every weekday morning from 10.30 till 12.



By April 2022, 27 tonnes of food had been given away to over 8, 000 people in the Ross District. It is not a food bank, and no evidence of income is required. The two main objectives of the scheme are to stop the incredible waste of supermarket food and to address the food insecurity in the area with the rising cost of living. But anyone can turn up any day and share the donations of that day.

In March 2021, the volunteers initiated two new stalls: - a Home Cooking stall, where recipes for cooking vegetables and fruit and making meals out of leftovers are shared with customers, and some cooking equipment is donated.

Secondly, a Grow your Own Food stall, to support and encourage people to create areas in their gardens where they can grow their own vegetables and fruit, and give them helpful tips and advice on sowing seeds, and provide some second-hand garden tools when available. There are now 40 volunteers helping with the stalls and a monthly gardening club and cooking club attended by up to 50 children. 40 people regularly attend the Therapeutic Gardening Club. People coming to the stalls are given hot drinks, often soup and a roll.

On the evening of Christmas Eve, because of the long weekend of supermarkets closing, volunteers collected almost 2 tonnes of food from supermarkets in Ross, Monmouth, and Ledbury! 150 customers were served free food.

We really feel this is an initiative well worth supporting, so were keen to donate some of your gifts collected over Christmas there, as well as to the Community Larder.

My best wishes to you all for a Peaceful and Happy New Year. **Margaret Oubridge**

# HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

## Can you help?

At the Queen's Coronation in 1953 our Parish put on a Mummings play called

### **"George and the Russian Menace"**

It was a piece adapted by Mr A. R Williams who lived in Hoarwithy at that time and was performed by local people. I am trying to find Alan's script which may or may not be usable (as times have changed in 70 years).

If it can be found I am hoping we can reprise it for King Charles 111 coronation. If you can help please let me know. Peter Pember 07970 840254 [peter@pember.plus.com](mailto:peter@pember.plus.com)

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February Hoarwithy 10am Holy Communion** Celebrant the Very Revd. Sarah Brown, Dean of Hereford Cathedral.

## The Dason Wassail

The Dason Wassail was revived on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, after three years of the pandemic no go. Thirty-seven people attended plus four children and the total profit raised came to £793.50. This consisted of £137 on the door, £290 for the always-popular Chinese Raffle, £155 on two auction lots, including a watercolour of St Dubricius church and a fine white orchid, both presented, and £127 on the retail counter run (and mostly stocked) by Val Lilwall. The funds will all go towards the continuing restoration work at Hentland, including the lychgate. **Robin Symonds**

## A New Year's Resolution

Does anyone else get that uncomfortable feeling sometimes, that something you believe in now requires you to take a stand?

On Christmas Eve I woke up thinking "I'm going to have to go to the next Extinction Rebellion event in April. And what's more, I'm going to have to tell people I'm doing this - and not just on XR's Facebook site!" The thought wouldn't go away, so I've been trying to find the right words for a statement which is not intended as a rallying cry, or a political harangue. Whether these are the 'right' words or not, here are my thoughts.

You've probably heard of Extinction Rebellion, though probably not much lately, as other bad news has crowded into the headlines. You might be uncomfortably aware that in spite of the war in Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis, the many strikes, the changes of government, that the Climate and Ecological Emergency, recognised by our government after the first Extinction Rebellion event in 2019, has not gone away. Like me, you might have pushed it to the back of your mind, as other 'emergencies' have appeared.

I'm not an expert. I'm not a natural rebel. I'm a very privileged, well-educated, comfortably-off person, who cares about the Earth, and its future, and the future of its inhabitants. I am baffled how to express that care effectively. I am baffled that so many of us are committed to doing our bit, in not flying, picking up litter, monitoring the state of rivers, feeding the birds - but that it's not enough.

I am baffled to read that fossil fuel lobbyists outnumbered representatives from any one nation at COP27 meetings. I am baffled to hear that the primary government response to XR is to introduce laws which will make it harder to protest. I am distraught to hear our young people deciding not to bring children into the world, because of the climate crisis.

I wonder what you think, or feel about this, and whether you would see yourselves putting thought into action, and how you would act.



In answer to that call that I felt on Christmas Eve, I will go to the April 21st Rebellion in London, to stand alongside others, to bear witness to our sense of emergency, to ask by our simple presence for change.

*"No-one is too small to make a difference."* Greta Thunberg **Pat Macrae** patfmacrae@gmail.com

### Wildlife in our Garden

Although the cold snap before Christmas only lasted a few days, and it's been a very mild January so far, the flurry of birdlife around our feeders and on our wall has continued. The species are much the same as last month but with some notable absences and one addition. The fieldfare has not been back. We have not seen a nuthatch, a female woodpecker, a coal tit nor the moor hen all this winter. A cock pheasant has started coming again.

There are never fewer than two collar doves. They are surprisingly argumentative and often chase one another off the wall. We don't know whether they are two males, two females or one of each. We could say the same about the blackbirds, but at least we do know they are mainly males that do the bossing about.



There have been visits from a sparrow hawk on several occasions, not on the feeders of course, but either dashing by them or sitting in wait nearby. We rarely see him or her catch anything, but we sometimes find dismembered corpses of birds in other parts of the garden. Pigeons are the most common victim. Are they too big a prey for a sparrow hawk? Or a kestrel? If so, what else would venture into our garden?

We have seen little else but birds. However, when the snow lay on the lawn in December there were many tracks to be seen. Unfortunately, our tracking skills are minimal, but we thought we saw those of rabbit (probably), fox (quite likely), and small deer (muntjac perhaps). We don't quite know what the rabbits or deer come for; so far we've seen surprisingly little damage to our plants.

**John Oubridge** 4th January 2023

**Garden News:** *Don't worry this will return, but Julie says her garden is hibernating so she has nothing to write! This will make us even more pleased to see what comes next month! Editor's comment.*

### Book Review

#### ***Lanterns Across the Snow* by Susan Hill**

What a gem of a book this is – it fills my heart with joy just to think about it. It has been on my bookshelf for many years and delights us all every Christmas.

Hill has a prize-winning repertoire of novels in several different genres and is also well known for her Simon Serraller detective series.

But *Lanterns Across the Snow* is in a genre of its own. It is not exactly a historical novel, but gently draws us into one Victorian Christmas in the life of Fanny, a nine year old parson's daughter living in a country vicarage, through her recollections as an old woman: *"Last night the snow fell. And then I began to remember. I remembered all the things that I had forgotten. Or so it had seemed. But not forgotten after all. They were all there, stored away like treasures."*

*"Christmas Eve was the best of it all, the waiting and laughing, the sense of excitement through the house, like one of Nancy's pots kept simmering..... and she saw a gleam of brightness cast forward from the*

*blazing gold of Christmas Day,..... like a bright bright room, an Aladdin's cave of treasure; the tree with its candles and the banked-up fire all glowing, and the pile of shining presents, and the Christmas table, heavy with good things, the smells and the laughter and the love, and oh the bright brightness."*

As well as being full of lyricism and beautiful descriptions of the snowy countryside, this book takes us into the profound mysteries of life and death – there is a death and a birth on Christmas Day, and Fanny's vicar father is involved with both, much to Fanny's chagrin. How dare they take away my father on Christmas Day!

But the next day, Fanny goes with her father, out into the deep snow, to visit the families and Fanny finds the strength to play her role in comforting the widow: "... remembering Seth himself and how she had liked him, Fanny bent down and put her arms around Mary Locke, and hugged her as tight as she could, smelling the cupboard smell of the best black shiny dress." And she goes up the stairs with her father to say her farewell to Seth Locke. "I shall remember this. I shall always remember." thinks Fanny.

And then, carrying gifts of food and baby clothes, on they trudge to the Tumneys, where a new Christmas baby has arrived. Their many children come out to meet them, "inquisitive, large-eyed, but silent." Fanny takes in the poverty of the surroundings, "a damp, dark little place, close to the pond and set against a high bank that dripped dank growth and creeper." And for the first time Fanny grasps the social inequities around her: "And Fanny felt suddenly angry, that Thomas Tumney could not work, and so they had to be poor and wait for other people to bring them food, and ashamed that she had so much, clothes that were warm and bright....and rooms that were full of space in which to be." "I shall remember this too she thought, remember the hot crowded room and the smell of so many children and the wet dog and the boiling bones..."

That Christmas was a turning point in Fanny's life, with her new knowledge and understanding engraved on her mind: "And after that, it seemed, I left behind my childhood, that magic time, set within a circle and lit from within, so that the memory of it, coming to me down all the years, is golden as the light of a lantern falling across the snow."

My hardback copy of this small enchantingly lyrical book is blessed with the most beautiful black and white wood engravings. I cannot recommend it highly enough. A present for a loved-one next year maybe.

**Hilary Smallwood**

### **A Peek in the Bookshop**

I hope everyone has had a good start to 2023. How did you do in the Christmas Quiz?

Answers:

1. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
2. *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell
3. *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
4. *Ulysses* by James Joyce
5. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
6. *Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens
7. *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
8. *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
9. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
10. *Lord of the Rings* by JRR Tolkien
11. *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis
12. *Middlemarch* by George Eliot
13. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
14. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
15. *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
16. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl
17. *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
18. *The Time Machine* by HG Wells
19. *Women in Love* by DH Lawrence
20. *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote

The two celebrity Richards, Osman and Coles, with their cosy crimes *The Bullet that Missed* and *Murder at Evensong* were the top sellers for us in 2022 with **Julia Donaldson's *The Baddies*** the best-selling children's book. *Tomorrow, And Tomorrow, And Tomorrow* by **Gabrielle Zevin** was the Rossiter Books staff pick of the year.

Looking forward to some great new titles being published this year, will **Prince Harry's *Spare*** be one of them? The jury is definitely out on that one but I'm sure **Margaret Atwood, Jane Harper, Salman Rushtie** and **Michael Rosen** won't disappoint.

Hope to see you in store soon. **Julie Hudson**, Bookseller at Rossiter Books

## Chuckle Corner

What do snowmen eat for lunch? Icebergers of course!

Who delivers presents to baby sharks? Santa Jaws!

Where do snowmen go to dance? Snowballs!

Why does Father Christmas go down the chimney? Because it soots him!

What happens to naughty elves? They get Santa's sack!

What does equinox mean? It's when a horse comes to visit.

### News from Hereford Cathedral

Hereford Cathedral is delighted to have received two accolades from the tourism industry for its services to visitors during 2022.

Global travel website Tripadvisor has recognized the Cathedral as a 2022 Travellers' Choice award winner. The award celebrates businesses which have received consistently positive reviews on Tripadvisor over the last twelve months and identifies Hereford Cathedral and its Mappa Mundi & Chained Library Exhibition as one of the top 10% of visitor attractions worldwide. Challenging as the past year was, Tripadvisor cited Hereford Cathedral as standing out in delivering positive experiences to visitors with its welcome, its guided tours and the Cathedral Café.

"Congratulations to the 2022 Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Winners," said Kanika Soni, Chief Commercial Officer at Tripadvisor. The Travellers' Choice Awards recognize the best in tourism and hospitality, according to those who matter most: your guests. Ranking among the Travellers' Choice winners is always tough — but never more so than this year as we emerge from the pandemic. Whether it is using new technology, implementing safety measures, or hiring outstanding staff, I am impressed by the steps you have taken to meet travellers' new demands. You've adapted brilliantly in the face of adversity."

Shortly after that, the Cathedral learned it had also been shortlisted as one of six finalists for Best Historic Attraction or Venue in this year's Group Leisure & Travel Awards, confirming its position as one of the leading destinations for group tours and excursions in the country.

Owen Towndrow, Visitor Engagement Officer at Hereford Cathedral, is delighted; "Our volunteers and staff at Hereford work so hard to make sure visitors enjoy their visit, whether they are learning about the cathedral's history, being wowed by the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library, enjoying a coffee or lunch in the Café, or climbing the tower for amazing views. A lot of work goes into making sure our visitors, whether just walking in or on a bespoke tour, feel welcome from the moment they step into the Cathedral, and it is wonderful to be recognised in this way."

Editor's comment: If you have not visited the cathedral recently do consider it. Their website gives plenty of information about what is happening with something for all ages. After Dean Sarah led our All Age service, Anna Williams (churchwarden) went with her children to two craft workshops which they greatly enjoyed. Although a number of cathedral volunteers gave up as guides because of Covid, new ones including young people have joined the team. New volunteers are always welcomed, as guides or to get involved with educational work. Do get in touch with the cathedral if this might be of interest. As with any organisation, safeguarding of young and vulnerable people is key to their work, and necessary checks and training are required to join the cathedral volunteer team.

### **Courier Fraud Alert**

West Mercia Police have seen a recent increase in reports of fraudsters operating in Herefordshire, claiming to be from various police services around the country. The crime, known as 'Courier Fraud' has seen the elderly and the vulnerable targeted in Ross on Wye. The police urge everyone to pass on the information about bogus callers to relatives, friends and neighbours who may be at risk to such scams. While these locations have been targeted it is likely other areas will be in the future, so please remain vigilant wherever you live.

The recent trend is for the criminal to telephone a home and say they are a police officer from a UK police force or from New Scotland Yard, for example, and that the victim's account has been compromised. The victim is then instructed to visit their bank and withdraw money cash and to deliver them to a courier using an agreed password. There are variations of this scam. The solution? **"Hang up the telephone"**. The simple fact is that no police officer, legitimate bank/building society or business will ever phone you to ask you to give them your bank details, your PIN, or hand over your cash. The police will investigate. However, to help them, get in touch with friends and family to warn them of the risk and to know what to do. These scams can be extremely convincing and manipulative.

While it is difficult to tell how genuine these calls are, they are all, without exception, people pretending to be police officers. Don't trust anyone who calls you about your bank details. If you want to check they are legitimate, find their number via directory enquiries and call them back. If you think someone is trying to scam you, hang up and tell someone straight away. Don't be pressured. Give yourself time to stop and think. **"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 and hand nothing over, hang up.** Report it immediately to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or 0300 123 2040 unless you are in immediate risk or feel threatened, in which case always call 999. *Advice from Golden Valley Police*

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

#### **February 2023**

- 5 Benefice Candlemas Service, Tretire
- 7 Prescription Collection; Garway Coffee Morning
- 8 & 22 Garway Stitchers
- 12 St Weonards confirmation and communion service
- 13 Green Garway Book Group
- 14 Flicks in the Sticks
- 18 & 25 Tree planting in St Weonards
- 19 Hoarwithy Holy Communion
- 21 Garway Heritage Group - Chrisleton; its unique heritage
- 25 Garway LIVE!

#### **March 2023**

- 3 & 10 Borderlines
- 18 'The Offshoots'
- Tbc Seed and Plant swap, Orcop Parish Hall

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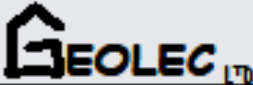
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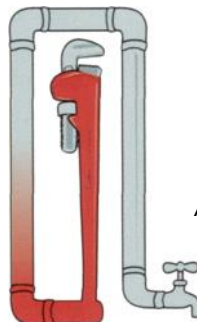


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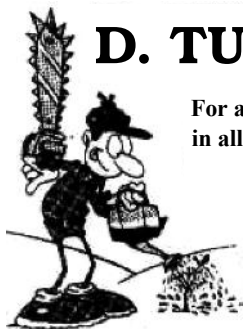
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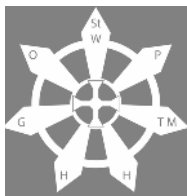
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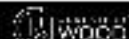
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