

PARISH NEWS

OF

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

MAY 2023



Illustration by Pat Macrae

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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 Hereford	08457 909090 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 your local SNT or report a crime.

[herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto: 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

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

VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS www.stw.org.uk

PARISH NEWS

THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

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.

Letter from Archdeacon Derek



I remember this time last year we were about to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the sense of excitement and joy at marking 70 years of her reign. Probably none of us could have imagined how quickly the national celebration was to be turned to national mourning as we marked her funeral so shortly afterwards. I was struck in the midst of a period of mourning how we suddenly had a day of proclamation as King Charles was proclaimed as the new monarch and a new King took the throne.

This month we will have the Coronation, and very publicly, King Charles III will be crowned in Westminster Abbey with great pomp and ceremony. As a nation we seem to excel at these public state occasions, and the Church of England and faith are at the heart of them. They are moments of national pride and celebration, and this will be no different as we come to together to mark the occasion.

As Christians it is right and proper that we should pay respect to those who rule over us, but we should also remember that we belong to another Kingdom, and our ultimate allegiance is to another King. In Jesus's trial before Pilate, we see this tension between the kingdoms of our world and the Kingdom of God which come into stark contrast. Jesus is specifically asked whether he is a King.

"So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my

servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” John 18:33-38

Jesus makes the point to Pilate that his is not an earthly political kingdom, but instead he is the King over and above all earthly realms and kingdoms. In our modern political world we do not any longer believe in the divine right of kings to rule over us, but as people of faith we recognise that we follow an eternal King who will one day return to rule over our whole world. The writers of the New Testament recognised this, and Paul in particular in his letters reminds us that as people of faith we are ambassadors of Jesus’s Kingdom. Ambassadors are not citizens of the country they live in, but representatives of another Kingdom. Our churches are in that sense embassies of the Kingdom of Heaven, and we are its diplomats, pointing others to our kingdom and its values. Peter writing to the early church tells us that we are strangers and foreigners in this world because we have become citizens of another country. I particularly like how the Message puts this:

“Friends, this world is not your home, so don’t make yourselves at too comfortable in it. Don’t indulge yourself at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life in your neighbourhood so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they will be won over to God’s side and be there to join in the celebration when Jesus arrives.” 1 Peter 2:11-12

As Christians we are called to a life of service and this will be mirrored in the Coronation, as the King will not only promise to rule his earthly nation, but submit himself to the values of God’s Kingdom. We too are called to joyfully serve our communities and one another. My prayer is that through the words of the Coronation service, we might all be reminded to commit ourselves in Christian service to Jesus and to each another. We are reminded too that at Jesus’s name every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Him as lord.

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:9-11

As we celebrate the Coronation in our communities we pray.

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus, for as you were sent by the Father, so you send us. Equip Charles our King and all your people with the gifts to fulfil our calling, that we may love as you loved, serve as you served, and willingly follow wherever you lead. Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

Archdeacon Derek

SERVICE ROTA FOR MAY

Sunday 7 th	9.30am	St Weonards Celebration Coronation Service.
Sunday 14 th	10.00am 11.00am	St Weonards All Age Communion Orcop Communion
Sunday 21 st	10.00am	Hoarwithy Communion
Sunday 28 th	9.15 am 10.00am 6.30pm	Hentland, Holy Communion St Weonards, All Age Service Pencoyd, Evening Prayer
Sunday 4 th June	10.00am	Garway Benefice Service

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

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday 14th May 3pm Mr Adrian Williams Sunday 28th May 3pm Rev'd Paul Arnold
(Holy Communion)

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



23rd May Chris Strange 07970614933

Magazine News

Please send WORD documents as our software cannot copy PDFs.

ST WEONARDS

Sunday 7th May



Celebration Service St Weonards Church 9.30am
Led by Bishop David Thomson

Community Bring and Share Lunch

Treago

12.00 to 2.00pm

Please contact Fiona

fionamynors@btinternet 01981580

to discuss what you would like to bring and for planning for numbers

Easter was a busy time as always. The Garway School Easter Egg Hunt at Treago was well attended despite it pouring with rain until just before everyone arrived. Mud rolling on the terrace slopes is always exciting for the children although parents watch with some apprehension!

The Lent Lunch went well, and people were most generous so that we were able to give £215 to the Hereford Food Bank. Many thanks to all who came to support this event.

Alex Herbert devised and led the reflective Last Hour Service on Good Friday. With carefully chosen readings, prayers and music, we had the opportunity to remember the turmoil of the last hours of Jesus's life.

The Easter Sunday celebration service, led by Bishop David was a joyful occasion, and we are so grateful to him for coming again, and to Peter Hallewell and the bell ringers for welcoming us before the service. As always it was wonderful to arrive in church to find it so beautifully decorated. Thanks to Gillie and all her team. As usual after the service we were spoilt with cake, coffee and tea. The Williams/Lewis family are star bakers, and we benefit from their generosity if keeping us well supplied. Many thanks.

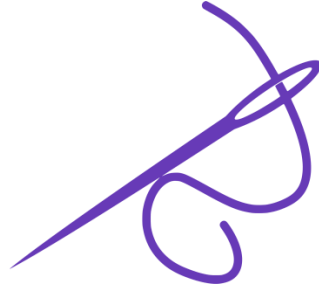
We hope that some candidates for a potential vicar will be interviewed this month. Do come along the St Weonards Village Hall (unless the electrics are being modernised so we might be in church) on Monday 22nd May at 4.00pm for a cup of tea and to meet the candidates.

It seems a short time since we were celebrating the Queen's jubilee, and we now have a new king on the throne. As in the poster above, do come to the special service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles and the community lunch. It helps if we know approximate numbers and what food you would like to bring. *Please get in touch.*

Richard Mynors, churchwarden.

GARWAY

Garway Stitchers



Garway stitching group meets once a fortnight on Wednesday mornings 10.30 – 12.30. Our next dates are 3rd 17th and 31st May . At the Community Centre. 10:30 – 12:30

We are in discussion with the trustees of the community centre to find the best way to display these beautiful panels which have been sewn by members of our community. The amazing embroidery reflects the history and life of Garway Village, and it will be so good that they will be enjoyed by as many people as possible.

Please do come along either for the chat, or even to do a bit of stitching. 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.

Garway School and Pre-school

Pupils and staff were busy with all the lovely Easter activities which included much music and dance. Pre-school, Year 1 and Reception children were thrilled by the visit of two kids (the goat variety!).

At the beginning of next term older pupils are raising money for the much-loved summer residential trip. They are doing useful things like car washing and selling pre-loved items. Do look at the newsletter on the school website if you would like to help them.

The Easter Egg Hunt at Treago, run by the PSA , was a great success raising in excess of £1200. The rain held off, and intrepid egg hunters roamed the garden and rolled in the mud down the terraces!

The school is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the school building. If you were a pupil or a parent, do you have photos or other mementos of your time at the school? A celebration is planned, and all memories would be gratefully received.

Pleas send them to hilarysmallwood@gmail.com.

Fiona Mynors

Garway Coffee Morning

Tuesday May 2nd
10.15am onwards



All the usual fun good company,
home-made cake, library, Post Office.

And a Coronation theme.

We look forward to welcoming everyone.

If you prefer a quieter session for a chat or maybe a game of dominoes, or the challenge of word puzzles, then the Tuesday TalkHub coffee mornings are for you. At these, you will also have access to the Community Laptop for information about Herefordshire Council services and local activities.

Garway Coronation Celebration

Sunday 7th May



in Garway Community Hall, 2 – 6pm

Something for everyone, young and old cream teas, cake, pizza, bar, Kelsmoor ice cream, Coronation quiz, games for young and old, music and dancing, fancy dress, home-made crown competition – time to get making!



TUESDAY MAY 9TH
7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00

THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN

Nominated for nine Academy Awards, THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN is the story of a male friendship gone bizarrely wrong on a remote, fictional island off the Irish west coast. Colm and Padraic have been inseparable, until unaccountably, Colm, the fiddler and thinker, refuses to speak to his uncomplicated friend, Padraic, because he has suddenly decided his drinking partner is rather beneath him and too dull. The Irish Civil War is taking place on the mainland and the men's sudden falling-out mirrors events going on across the water. Cut through with dark humour and a central Gothic, (close your eyes) event, this film

was named by many critics as one of the best films of 2022. It is in the same vein as director Martin McDonagh's cult hit, *In Bruges* although here the events take on mythic proportions. Both the leading actors, Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson, plus the supporting actors, who play islanders caught up in the cross-fire of this fateful bromance, deliver brilliant performances. The music and scenery are also stunning. Our last film for the season before our summer break, this is a one you won't forget. As ever, we'll be giving you a chance to enjoy our fabulous cakes, teas, coffees and wine before the film and during the interval. More information and a trailer can be found on www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks

Green Garway Book Group

In March we discussed our first fiction title at the Green Garway Book Group: *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver.

A beautiful tale of three strong, independent women in a small rural setting among the Appalachian Mountains who are living their own lives with a very keen awareness of their place in nature.

Barbara Kingsolver was previously a biologist, and her knowledge clearly comes through in her writing. This was first published in 2000 and really ahead of its time in its assessment of the importance of biodiversity and sustainable farming that is much more the trend today.

We all enjoyed the book. The author seems to care more about her female characters who are wise and inspiring than the men folk who are just there to support the plot. We empathised with her being treated with suspicion by her sisters in law and the difficulties she faced as an outsider trying to settle into a well-established farming family.

The descriptions of the scenery and natural world are often stunning and it's also very educational. There are some clever comparisons to coyotes and moths too.

Some of us felt it could have carried on a bit more and that the end was a bit rushed and it's quite raunchy in places too!

Rating: 4/5

If you're interested in joining the book group you can either join our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/489872936450081> or send an email to greengarwaybg@gmail.com. We read books about the outdoor world, nature, social issues, travel, fiction and non-fiction. Everyone is welcome.

We meet at 7.30pm on the second Monday of each month in the Garway Moon. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

Mon 8 May - *Underland* by Robert Macfarlane

Mon 12 June - *Islands of Abandonment* by Cal Fly

Julie Hudson



Saturday 17th May

Here's something different. We have booked the "James Oliver Band" for May's performance. James has been recording at our own Danny Chang's studio, and Danny can't speak highly enough of him. He's been on Cerys Mathews' show on Radio 6 Music several times and so far has played over 2000 gigs around Britain, Europe and the U.S.A. The music press is full of praise for his guitar playing, and is comparing him with some of the best in the world. Couple this with his infectious wit between numbers and you will have an evening to remember.

Don't miss this on Saturday 17th May with doors open at 7-30 and the band on stage at approx 8.00pm. All this plus Mark's bar with the entrance price being kept at £12 with under 18's at £6. You can also buy your tickets in advance at www.ticketsource.co.uk/atgarway Hope to see you all there.

Graham Bevan

Archenfield Arts Festival Day May 20th, 11am-5pm Garway Church



This is your chance to have a go..... sing, play, read, recite in front of a small friendly audience. All ages, all standards, experienced and beginners. solos or groups.

Come along and perform, or sit back for a day's entertainment from neighbours and friends. Refreshments, hopefully out in the sun, so come and make a day of it! Accompanist available. **Hilary Smallwood** 01600 614012, hilarysmallwood5@gmail.com

FORWARD NOTICE: FRIENDS OF GARWAY CHURCH

IS HOSTING A MIDSUMMER MEDIEVAL FAYRE ON GARWAY COMMON

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND THEIR TIME IN GARWAY.

LEARN FASCINATING FACTS THROUGH COSTUME, WEAPONRY AND GENUINE CRUSADER ARTEFACTS.

On the afternoon of **Friday June 23rd** Clive Kelly 'The Re-enactor' will be meeting children from Garway School at Garway Church for a talk and a tour. We hope to welcome other visitors to a second talk, later in the afternoon.

On **Saturday June 24th** Clive and his team will join us at a Medieval Fayre to be held on Garway Common, where he will deliver three presentations throughout the afternoon and will also be available for photographs.

To make this a truly memorable occasion we are hoping to offer stalls and demonstrations to create an authentic Medieval atmosphere and showcase the skills of the artisans in medieval Britain. If you have any skills/products you could offer or know of anyone locally who would enjoy taking a stall or helping on the day please contact us.

Activities for adults and children will provide entertainment for all. Possible demonstrations might include candle making, leatherwork, blacksmithing, spinning, weaving...we are open to suggestions.

Other stalls will reflect the changes to diet, medicine, etc during this period as influences from the East and from North Africa made their way into Western culture through southern Spain and returning crusaders. A herb and spice stall will reflect the flavours of the period a will freshly baked biscuits and gingerbreads. There are many recipe ideas online, or recipes can be provided. Can you help?? Do you have green fingers or cooking skills??

Do you have any skills in Medieval music making, or know of anyone who has?

We hope to make this an important fundraising event whilst having fun and maybe having some of our perceptions of the period challenged!

Find out more hilarysmallwood5@gmail.com

ORCOP

There is a lot happening in late April, as advertised last month, but all after the copy date for this May issue of the magazine. The big event in May, of course, will be his Majesty's Coronation. So, there will be much to report next month.

Meanwhile, over the past few weeks Orcop Church has been used as a venue for training CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) "citizen science" volunteers for water quality testing on tributaries of the River Wye. The data they gather will be used by the Environment Agency to determine the sources of the pollution that have ruined this beautiful river. The training is done in groups of four or five in the porch, followed by a guided tour of the church itself. So this is an activity that will not only contribute to the recovery of the Wye, but also raise awareness of our beautiful historic Church.

***Margaret Fletcher* Churchwarden**

Church Cleaning Rota: Flower and Cleaning Rota: Mrs S. Griffiths

Sunday May 7th Orcop Village Hall

invite you to
"Toast the King"



We would love you to come and celebrate this historic occasion with us at this FREE event. We are planning a 'Royal Ramble', follow the route, finding the clues along the way. Starting point; Orcop Village Hall from 2:00pm

Meet back at the Hall for a complimentary Cream Tea at 4:00pm (If you don't fancy the walk, just come for the cream tea and toast)

To finish, we toast the new King Charles with bubbles.

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



On the Value of Education

We have recently returned from a short trip to Zimbabwe. This beautiful country has the soils and climate to be the bread-basket of Africa. Instead, it is plagued by rampant inflation and widespread poverty. Both the current president, Emmerson Mnangagwa and his predecessor, Robert Mugabe have been frequently attacked in the British media for maladministration, corruption and violent repression of their opponents.

However, whilst these criticisms are no doubt justified, there are many positive aspects to life in Zimbabwe, especially in the rural areas. For example, the people tend to be irrepressibly cheerful and will sing and dance at the slightest provocation, their use of the English language is exceptionally fluent and expressive and thirdly they hold firm to values which we in the United Kingdom have lost or forgotten.

Soon after independence in 1980, the government embarked on a programme to bring free schooling to every child. This was a truly remarkable success and Zimbabwe now has primary schools at 5km intervals, meaning that every pupil can walk to and from school. There is fierce competition amongst parents to have their children properly educated. Around the National Parks, some children get up at 5am to draw

postcards for sale to the tourists, so as to raise the money needed to buy pencils and exercise books, before walking to school.

How very sad then to read that around 1.6 million children in England (22% of the total) were persistently absent in the last school year, meaning that they missed 10% or more of sessions. More than 120,000 children missed half or more of sessions, up from 60,000 in 2018-19.

Peter Garratt

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

Last month was so quiet that I didn't submit a page for the magazine, but since then, we have had our Lent lunch on March 11th at the home of Elizabeth Malcolm in Michaelchurch, to which we were invited to bring donations for the people of Ukraine. The lunch was really well attended, and we had joining us, Kate and Neil Fowler who head up Ross for Ukraine, and who answered our many questions about their involvement in collecting and taking donations to the people of Ukraine. They, and some other drivers, go across Europe to Ukraine several times through the spring and summer months, once driving conditions are favourable, and take their transit van full of the donations they have collected, to a village close by Kiev, where they are distributed to the neediest.

We were particularly grateful to Kate and Neil for joining us that morning, as they had come straight from the hospital where they had left their daughter and newly born grandson who were quite poorly. But the work they do for Ukraine is really important to them. So they said that they wanted to come to the lunch to encourage us to go on collecting food and toiletries for them, also torches, batteries and candles, to help the people through the many power cuts they are subjected to. I did submit a list of items required in the March edition of this magazine, so do please go on collecting for them, and take them to Kate Fowler at KTS crafts in Ross, or leave them in the container provided in Tretire church, and we will take them to Ross.

Since then, we have had an evening service at Tretire, but services are few and spread throughout the Benefice, as our interregnum continues. The last advertisement for the post of a new Vicar in the St Weonards Benefice, printed in the Church Times, had no applicants respond, and the post has been re-advertised for applicants to visit the Benefice in mid-May.

On 26th April. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm in Orcop Village Hall, and all parishioners are invited to attend from 7.00pm when refreshments will be served. This is an important meeting for all villagers who care about the future shape and nature of the church life in their community. If there are aspects of church life in your parish which bother you, or you think could be handled better, then come along and have your say!

Margaret Oubridge on behalf of our PCC.

HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

Future Events

Hentland Church 7.30pm Saturday 15th July. The Musical and Amicable Society period instrument ensemble, with Hannah Davey soprano will perform Wedding Cantata *Weichet nur* BWV202 by J S Bach, with other works of the baroque repertoire including an oboe concerto and Handel arias.

Hentland church 3.00pm Saturday 23rd September. *Music in Quiet Places* with David Gallichan who will talk about the fine 1869 organ by J W Walker which he rebuilt after many years of silence, with performance by organist Kevin Holmes.

Details of tickets for both performances will be published in June Parish News.

Robin Symonds

Wildlife in our Garden

Last month I gave an account of what we had been trying, and largely failing, to do in our small field, or paddock. What I didn't say was that a few years after coming here we decided to have a pond dug in its lowest part which is often marshy. We hoped a pond would both improve drainage by providing somewhere for water to go and be beneficial for wildlife. So, we hired a man with a digger who dug out a hole roughly 14 metres by 8 metres, with sloping sides, about 2 metres down in the centre. He also left a small island which we thought would be of use to any ducks trying to nest away from predators. He spread out the soil in a low bank on the far side. Its nearest side is about 7 metres from a stream which divides the field from our house. We wondered whether it would fill with water naturally or whether we would have to divert some water from the stream, in at one end and overflowing out at the other. In the end we didn't have to do anything. It soon filled with water which seems to go up and down with the water table.

The island was a mistake. It rapidly became colonised by Water Hemlock. I can't reach it to clear weeds. No ducks have ever tried to nest on it, nor anywhere near the pond, though most years a pair of Mallards come to investigate. They seem to prefer the stream. Another result I had not anticipated was that the rhizomes of yellow Irises which were dug up, got broken into bits when they were spread out with the soil. Far from dying, they all produced vigorous plants the following spring which took over that part of the field, along with masses of Water Hemlock which also acquired a new lease of life.

Within a year the banks of the pond had become colonised by an extremely tough grass or sedge which within a few years had spread both down into the water and over much of the damper part of the field. A few years ago Bull Rushes also appeared spontaneously. (Perhaps their seeds were brought by birds.) Both of these invaders have proved impossible to control. Attempts to plant attractive marginal plants have failed. In the second year, I was excited to see frogspawn (or was it toad spawn?) all round the shallows, but it soon disappeared. I never saw a single tadpole and no spawn since.

Overall, our pond has been a disappointment. It did nothing to drain the lower part of the field which has remained marshy for most of the year. All through the summer we can barely see any water because of the rushes and sedges in it, so it is not at all picturesque. I have not noticed any change in wildlife. There could be more invertebrates hidden in the water, but dragonfly and damsel fly numbers have not gone up. There are still frogs in the stream, but I've never seen one in the pond. Toads and Common Newts have declined. The only water bird that appeared was a Moorhen, which for a few weeks last summer ventured up the

garden to feed on the seeds we put out. It could well have been living on the stream; we never found out.

I often wonder whether the results would have been different if we had made inflow and outflow channels, and whether wildlife would have liked it better. I don't think we will dig them now, so maybe we will never know.

John Oubridge 2nd April 2023.

Book Review

***Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens**

Kya Clark is born into a troubled family in post-war North Carolina, where they live in a glorified hut on the local marsh. Her father, once rich, fell on hard times and brought his wife and children to this isolated place, where family life falls apart under the influence of his drinking and violence. Over time they all leave, except Kya who is left behind to raise herself from a very young child. Dodging the education department officials, she earns her keep fishing for mussels and selling these on to "Jumpin'", a black man who, shunned by the village, runs a small local shop selling petrol for the boats that use the lagoons and marshes, and basic food requirements. Kya too is shunned by the villagers, labelled the Marsh Girl, and treated with suspicion.

Her only friend is local boy Tate Walker, who coaxes her into conversation with gifts of feathers – a perfect lure for nature-loving Kya. Their paths diverge when he leaves for college and Kya is left as prey for the local buck, Chase Andrews.

Fast forward to the 1960s and Chase's body is found at the base of an abandoned fire tower in the swamp. Kya is the sheriff's first and only suspect.

The book is full of stereotypes: poor black families and rich middle class narrow-minded upright citizens who protect their children from the dangers of any fleeting association with the Marsh Girl. But the overwhelming redeeming feature of the book is the lyrical description of the marsh and its wildlife which peppers this novel. The author is herself a renowned naturalist, zoologist and conservationist who spent a large part of her life in near or true wildernesses both in America and in Africa where she and her husband worked to conserve lion and elephant habitats – the parallels with her protagonist are clear. And her love of the wild shines through the character of Kya. Owens' story is somewhat marred by the fact that she and her (now estranged) husband are still wanted in Zambia for the alleged murder of a poacher.

Kya, having been steeped in the life of the marsh and isolated from human company, acquires her life lessons from the world of nature around her: *"Most of what she knew, she'd learned from the wild. Nature had nurtured, tutored, and protected her when no one else would."* But it was not always a very helpful learning ground for establishing relationships with her fellow humans: *"Female fireflies draw in strange males with dishonest signals and eat them; mantis females devour their own mates. Female insects, Kya thought, know how to deal with their lovers."*

There is some good writing here, and a well-constructed and suspenseful courtroom sequence. It is definitely worth a read – or a watch, as this novel has been turned into a successful film.

Hilary Smallwood

Fickle February followed by Muddy March

Somebody up there must have read last month's article about the lack of rain in February.

The February total of 4mm was followed by 105mm in March!



So, a joke about the Great Flood might be in order:

After the waters had subsided and the animals had left, Noah was sweeping out the ark, when he noticed a couple of snakes curled up in the corner. Addressing the snakes, he said "Why are you still here? The waters have subsided and you can go now."

One of the snakes replied "Well, you told us to go forth and multiply and I am afraid we are only adders".

Peter Garratt

A Peek in the Bookshop

Here's a preview of some new books coming out in May – do get in touch with us if you'd like to reserve any and I'm happy to deliver locally to Garway.

New Fiction – Yellowface by Rebecca F Kuang: In a change of style from Babel that was quite a hefty science fiction tome published last year, Rebecca F Kuang brings us Yellowface. Described as 'darkly comic' and 'a razor-sharp riot', this is a spiky and sinister tale about white privilege and set in the world of publishing.

New Non-Fiction – But What Can I Do? by Alastair Campbell: As a big fan of The Rest is Politics podcast where Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart engage in lively debate and strive to disagree agreeably, this book is part call to arms, part practical handbook for anyone who wants to make a difference in the political world.

New Children – Billy and the Giant Adventure by Jamie Oliver: Turning his hand from cooking to writing, this is Jamie Oliver's debut book for 7–11-year-olds. With magical battles, a long-lost mythical city, fantastical flying machines, epic feasts (I thought something culinary may make an appearance!) and one GIANT rescue, this is an adventure that won't be forgotten.

Event – Robin Ince, 7pm, Wednesday 10th May at Bridges, Monmouth Come along and listen to Robin Ince talking about his book Bibliomaniac which takes the reader on a journey across Britain as he explores his lifelong love of bookshops and books – and also tries to find out just why he can never have enough of them.

And finally, some exciting shop news: we will soon be opening our fifth store in Malvern!

All books and tickets for the event are available through Rossiter Books. Hope to see you in store soon!

Julie, Bookseller at Rossiter Books

(Editor's comment: as a former English teacher and an avid reader, I am so pleased to hear about the success of an independent book shop. Contrary to popular myth, reading is not dead yet!)

Tractor World

In March I spotted that the Malvern Show Ground was the venue for Tractor World. I have to admit that I am not a tractor aficionado, although plenty rumble past our house. However, since a young age, my grandsons have endeavoured to educate me in their important differences, other than the fact that I know our local farmers by the colour of the tractors they drive! I decided that I needed a new view on these machines and my grandson was keen to go. I mentioned it to Sarah Partridge, who quickly said that Philip loved tractors, so our fate was sealed.

A cold March day found us at Malvern in the company of about 500 men and a handful of women (no loo queues!), hundreds of tractors and heaps of old metal! The variety of tractors, almost all vintage, was astonishing. Most had been lovingly restored, and their owners sat beside them watching our reaction with pride. Sarah and I pottered behind our two men who discussed the niceties of each tractor, their engines, power and identified their ages with great skill. For us it was people watching at its best! Apart from the sheds of tractors, the white floored main building, usually used for the food hall, was also full of more tractors and model farms. It was astonishing!



But what about the heaps of old metal? Of course these were potential spare parts, some being auctioned alongside tractors-how could I not realise!

The food stalls, ranged near the auction provided us with delicious burgers. We didn't spot anything like a veggie meal. It was wonderful to see so many people obviously enjoying themselves and sharing their huge enthusiasm for some amazing machines from all around the world.

I was fascinated to see this odd machine. Can you imagine what it does-perhaps you can guess? Answer next time.



Thanks to Philip for driving us. If you want something to do with a tractor/machine mad person, dare I say, probably a man, Tractor World is the place to go, even if there is snow on the hills!

Fiona Mynors

Garden Notes

January and February always drag for me, and this year March has been so wet that I have not been able to get out into the garden as much as I would like. Then suddenly, magically, we have a beautiful sunny day when it is warm enough to potter amongst the borders all day and even sit on a bench with a cup of a tea. The garden responds too: the primroses and primulas are all in flower, as are delicate lemon-yellow miniature narcissi; the brunnera has produced its dainty forget-me-not blue flowers and silver-splashed leaves and I notice all the violets - mostly white ones here – which seem to lurk in the undergrowth the



rest of the year. In amongst all the soft colours, is a flower which is such a startling red that it stops you in your tracks, saying 'Just look at me!'. It was given to me three years ago by a friend and it has been bulking up nicely. Last year we had just two flowers but this year it has produced a dozen so far. It's obviously an anemone but I am not sure which one. I am guessing that it is *Anemone x fulgens* (scarlet windflower or Blood Drops of Christ) or possibly *Anemone pavonina*. Whatever it is, it is so stunning that I am looking forward to being able to divide it and plant more. It flowers as early as February, and you can't help but smile when you see it. The 12

shiny petals are such a vivid pillar box red that the colour almost hurts your eyes. The flowers don't have the white eye that anemones often have (in the photo that's the sun glinting on the shiny surface), and I think it is that simplicity and the contrast of the black stamens against the vibrant red that make it so eye-catching.



I have written before about how thrilled I am when plants seed themselves around the borders. I love to see the foxgloves and primroses multiplying but this year I have noticed new seedlings that I have never seen before. In the photo, amongst the primroses is a California poppy seedling, but that huge leafy plant in the centre is the one that has had me puzzled. They are popping up all over that border and nowhere else in the garden. Last year I was given a few plants of *Ammi majus* and I am assuming that's what these are. It just proves that autumn sowing is by far the best way to produce strong sturdy specimens of this plant.

Last month I mentioned that I place my propagator in my studio which has the most even temperature in the house. It has always been fool proof until the other evening when I went in there to unplug a gadget that had been charging. Thinking the light from the landing was sufficient, I didn't bother to turn the light on. That would have been fine, if only the propagator hadn't been on the floor near to the socket I was heading for. The crash startled the dogs downstairs who announced the accident to the whole village. What else could I do but scoop up the compost and seeds and pile it all back into the trays? The seeds will be all mixed up and some will be at the bottom of the trays, but I am hoping that some still germinate anyway even if I don't know which is which!

Julie Davies

Chuckle Corner

Amazingly, this was seen on a building in London whose brass plate proudly announced:

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When posted on facebook, apart from some comments unsuitable for this publication, one person responded, *My father is a member.*

(Editor: Looking up this company online I realise that I have clearly missed out in life as I have not taken a Diploma in Compressed Air!)

Did you know that there used to be a monthly magazine called *Tarmac*? Apparently, it was a fascinating read for engineers!!

Inevitably this leads to a couple of engineering jokes- no offence meant to engineers!

What is the definition of an engineer? Someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand.

Why was the thermometer smarter than the test tube? He had more degrees.



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Tuesday 2	Garway Coffee Morning
Wednesday 3	Garway Stitching
Sunday 7	Garway Coronation Celebration
Sunday 7	St Weonards Community Bring and Share Lunch
Sunday 7	Orcop Toast: The King
Monday 8	Garway Green Book Club
Tuesday 9	Flicks in the Sticks
Wednesday 17	Garway Stitching
Wednesday 17	Garway Live!
Saturday 20	Archenfield Arts
Wednesday 31	Garway Stitching

Future events for your diary

Sunday 11 June	St Weonards Open Garden, Vintage Tractors and Fete
Monday 12 June	Garway Green Book Club
Friday 23 June	Garway Midsummer Medieval Fayre
Sunday 13 July	Opera Arias at Treago
Saturday 15 July	Hentland Concert
Saturday 23 September	Talk at Hentland
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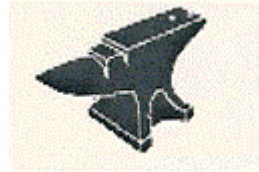
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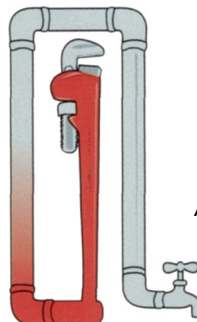


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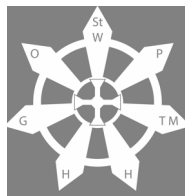
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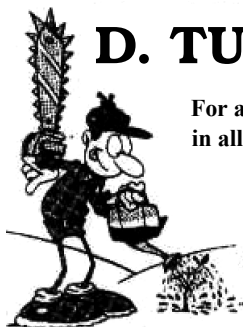
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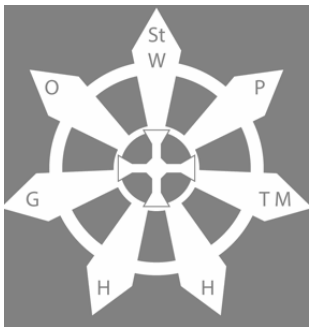
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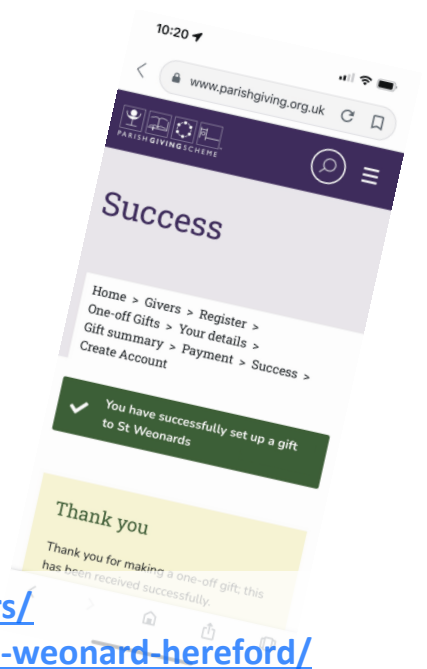
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