

PARISH NEWS

OF

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

JULY 2023



'SUMMER SPLASH' BY PAT MACRAE

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Birch Ward: Toni Fagan (Green) tonifagan@btinternet.com
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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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Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland:	Nicky Mackenzie clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk	07581 353103

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

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

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South local policing teams

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

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

PARISH NEWS

THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

Please contact your churchwarden for information on services, baptisms or weddings.

Letter from Dean Sarah Brown



On stripping the chameleon

I like the idea of chameleons –clever lizards things that allegedly blush camouflage green when they are tongue-lassoing bugs in a bush, or come over all dusty beige when they are skulking in a sandpit (look out toddlers!) or exude an appealing (sorry) oranginess when they are snoozing in a basket of satsumas. (I cannot help but wonder what a chameleon would make of my granny’s rose print patchwork quilt - but that is an experiment for another day when I can catch one.) My point is that they adapt to the environment in which they find themselves and survive because of it. Unless you are hoping to be rescued by mountain rescue, being an orange lizard, (or even a pink skink) in the snow is a high-risk strategy.

Blending in is much safer. We do it too. Not literally but socially. Most of us adapt our behaviour, language and the image that we present to the world so that we fit in with those around us or with their perceptions of us. Sometimes it is about what we look like and what we own, sometimes about how we talk, sometimes about keeping our real opinions quiet to avoid the disapproval of others.

The Church has been blending in to not upset the world for decades and is at risk of blurring into the social wallpaper as a result. Look at all the “shy Conservatives” in elections over the last ten or 15 years, or the lifelong Christians who don’t even tell their best friends that they love Jesus. Sometimes we join in with things we don’t enjoy in order to blend in. And mostly we know when we are doing it and remain essentially ourselves.

But what if the normally khaki chameleon is made to live its whole life in a purple box and forced against its nature to be forever aubergine? For some people the pressure to be a certain way is like that. It is true captivity, even oppression, when people live their whole lives to fulfil other people’s expectations and it can result in serious health and social problems.

If you are someone who lives as a captive chameleon in thrall to someone else or to society, history or a set of circumstances, have a go at asking God for courage to be yourself. Read Psalm 139 and see how well God knows the real you and how he wants you to live your life in all the fullness he created you for. There is only one opinion that matters. His.

And for all you brilliantly well-adjusted geckos out there the real question is how we deal with the different, the difficult and the desperate. The answer, of course, is with love.

Very Rev Sarah Brown, Dean of Hereford Cathedral.

Sunday July 2nd at 10.00am Benefice Communion

Pencoyd Church

This is the only service in our parishes on that day. Come and join us!

LAMMAS SERVICE SUNDAY 30th JULY 10.00am

Come and join us at Treessey Barns HR2 8NA

This service celebrates the beginning of harvest and the fruits of the earth, sometimes called loaf Sunday.

Thanks to Richard and Gwyneth Williams for the use of their barn.

Service Rota for July

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

Sunday 2nd July	10.00 am	Pencoyd Benefice Service
Sunday 9th July	10.00 am	St Weonards All Age Communion
	11.00 am	Orcop Communion
Sunday 16th July	10.00 am	Hoarwithy Communion
Sunday 23rd July	9.15 am	Hentland, Holy Communion
Sunday 30th July	10.00 am	Lammas Service Treessey Barn HR2 8NA (see notices)
Sunday 6th August	10.00 am	St Weonards Benefice Communion

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

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday 6th July 3pm - Rev'd Sheila Macinally

Sunday 23rd July 3pm - Rev'd Paul Arnold (Holy Communion)

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



PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



18th July Liz Lloyd 01981 580002

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

As I write, we are preparing for our annual fete and garden open in aid of church funds. This year we are so grateful to all those who are bringing vintage engines and tractors to make the afternoon even more exciting! The tea team are baking away, and the weather forecast looks fine. More news next month on how it all goes.

On 9th July we look forward to welcoming Rev. Rob North to celebrate communion for us at 10.0am. This is a friendly occasion with families, and it really is all age with people from 4 to 80+! It usually involves a song with actions, traditional hymns and an interactive reflection/sermon which is relevant to everyone. Afterwards we enjoy a good chat over coffee or tea and delicious cakes! If you have not attended one of the All Age services do come and try it.

In collaboration with the Herefordshire Historic Churches, on Thursday July 13th we hope for a warm summer evening. The professional group Wild Arts are bringing a team of nine singers and players to the garden at Treago for an Evening of Opera Arias. The Guardian review stated, A fine young cast excel, with engaging energy and superb singing, the troupe mixes incredibly talented young musicians with the expertise of musicians who have performed on the great world stages. In fact they are going to sing a wide range of songs

with excerpts from Rossini's Barber of Seville to Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Surrey with the Fringe on Top. The gifted cellist Rhys Nicholson will also play. There really is something for everyone. So do come!

People are invited to bring picnics to eat before or during the longish interval. Anna and Martin Williams are kindly providing a bar. The terraces at Treago make an excellent place for a performance and seats will be provided for the performance. (For the picnic you need your own chairs or rugs!) Find more details and to book at hhct.sumupstore.com/product/opera-at-treago-castle-adult

Funds from the evening are shared between the HHCT and St Weonards Church. They will help towards the costs of repairs on the church porch roof. We are most grateful to all those who regularly support the church to ensure that the church is available for future generations.

We are grateful to Richard and Gwyneth Williams at Treasley Barns HR2 8NA who have agreed to host the Lammas Service on July 30th. This celebrates the beginning of harvest, traditionally called Loaf Sunday. Do come and join in this simple service.

Richard Mynors, churchwarden.

GARWAY

Garway Stitchers

Join us for a friendly morning, once a fortnight, to stitch together. Garway Stitchers meets every other Wednesday from 10.30 – 12.30. Our dates this month are 12th and 26th July.

You are welcome to drop in and see us. Come for a chat and a cuppa, or maybe even a bit of stitching. As always you are welcome to bring a project of your own, it doesn't have to be embroidery, bring along your knitting/wool crafts or any needlework that can be done by hand!

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



Garway School and Pre-school

Julie Jones (Headteacher) writes: *It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Peter Jinman, Mrs Eynon's father. Many of you will have known Peter through his various roles, including as a local vet in Ewyas Harold and as a Councillor for the Golden Valley South ward.*

Peter always provided great support to our school and, just last month, was offering advice and representing our best interests in local authority issues. He was a true community champion.

I know you will wish to join me in sending our most sincere condolences to Mrs Eynon, her children and her family at this very difficult time. Our thoughts are with them all.

Before half term Years 5 and 6 spent three action-packed days at Longtown Outdoor Learning Centre. They enjoyed a mountain scramble, gorge walking, high ropes climbing, stand up paddle boarding, orienteering, team challenges, campfires, and more! Throughout the three days, the pupils demonstrated the values of caring, cooperation and courage. No doubt the pupils and their families are so grateful to the staff who accompanied them and made this wonderful experience possible: Mrs Edwards, Bryony, Miss Knight and Miss Randall.

Pre-school News

Pre-school have enjoyed a very sunny grounds week! With the beautiful weather children have been able to spend lots of time outside. They have planted out our sunflower seedlings, played in the well-being garden, had egg and spoon races, played football, and made mud bees in forest school. They were also very lucky to have visits from Max, Elvy's 21-year-old Shetland pony and Logan's 3-week-old chicks!

Don't forget the 60th Anniversary of Garway Primary School Building Friday July 7! Please send any photos to hilarysmallwood@gmail.com.

Fiona Mynors

Green Garway Book Group
***Underland* by Robert Macfarlane**

This book was a pleasant surprise for most of us. The first chapter is incredible, talking about trees communicating underground via mycelium and then we set off around the world, exploring the ground beneath our feet: the potash mines off the Yorkshire coast, the catacombs under Paris, underground rivers in Slovenia, fish vs. oil in Norway, glaciers and hidden detritus rising to the surface in Greenland and how to bury nuclear waste safely.

And wow, his bravery is impressive - some parts get you jittery and sweaty just reading about them, perhaps not a read for the claustrophobic. And we want to meet all the amazing people he did - the guy in the raccoon hat and the wonderfully warm couple in Slovenia.

The writing is poetic and beautiful and there are lots of new words to discover: flensing porpoises, shifting the albedo, clathrate and firns!

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 greenarwaybg@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 10 July - Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons

Mon 14 Aug - Humankind by Rutger Bremen

Julie Hudson



Archenfield Arts 2023

A big thank you to everyone who came along and supported this event on May 20th. The sun shone for us again and so many performers turned up to entertain us all. We had 3 choirs, plus performers aged from 6 to 80. Many thanks to our audience who cheered everyone on; and to our MC Tim Bannerman, who kept the proceedings flowing; and to Chris Northam, our accompanist, who once again devoted so much time to rehearsing with the performers and playing on the day. And we must not forget the Spice Girls who kept everyone fed and watered throughout the day – many thanks. Around £100 was raised for the Friends of Garway Church. It was an uplifting day and a great joy to see the community joining together to celebrate and support local performers. Why not come along next year and share your talents with everyone?

Hilary Smallwood

Broad Oak Neighbours and Friends News

Our little community celebrated Coronation weekend with a buffet picnic and ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly installed public access defibrillator which is situated in the red phone box near the Broad Oak crossroads.

We raised £800 on the day with a buffet picnic, grand raffle and refreshments at Orchard Barn. Although it was a cold, windy and damp day, everyone wrapped up warmly and we sheltered in the marquee, kindly lent to us by the Mynors/Herbert families.

Several local businesses also supported the event, either with generous donations or raffle prizes, for which I am extremely grateful. Their support helped make the day even more of a success.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was well attended and our 'royal' guests cut the golden ribbon on the phone box allowing access to the defibrillator. How lucky we were that our local 'King and Queen' could attend!

There will be a training session on performing CPR and using a defibrillator. This will be held on September 25th in Garway Community Centre and up to 50 people are welcome to attend.

Please call **Julie Martin** on 07745843428 if you are interested in coming along.

A big thank you to everyone who made this project achievable. Our next steps will include an oak bench on the village common, a vegetable, plant and seed swap stall for people to share excess produce, a book swap and possibly a smart village notice board... we welcome all suggestions!

Julie Martin

Garway Fun Day

Saturday August 26th, 2023 Schedule for Competition Entries

Children's Section:

Up to 5 years

1. 4 decorated biscuits
2. A painted/decorated stone
3. An animal made from vegetables or fruit
4. A decorated egg (preferably boiled)

6- 10 years

5. 4 decorated cup cakes
6. A Garden on a plate
7. An animal made from vegetables or fruit
8. A painting of my family.

> 16 years

9. A funny photograph with a caption
10. A picture of my pet (any medium)
11. A decorated Swiss roll
12. Something I have made from recycled materials.

Produce Section

13. Longest Runner Bean
14. Biggest Marrow
15. 5 tomatoes
16. 3 carrots
17. 3 cut Dahlias
18. 5 cut Garden Flowers in a vase
19. Best single Rose
20. Flower arrangement in an unusual container
– no bigger than 45cm x 45cm x 45cm
21. Flower arrangement – a miniature arrangement no bigger than 10cm x 10cm x 10cm

Cookery Section

22. 6 plain scones
23. Loaf of bread (handmade, not bread maker) any flour/flavour
24. Victoria Sandwich – raspberry jam filling, no icing.
25. 6 Shortbread biscuits
26. 1lb jar of chutney
27. 1lb jar of fruit jam
28. A jar of lemon curd

Handicraft Section

29. Something I have revamped/upcycled
30. A piece of macrame
31. A handmade cushion
32. A photograph – ‘water’
33. A portrait painting/picture – any medium

ORCOP

The bells of Orcop Church rang out on 6th May to celebrate His Majesty’s coronation. The ringers also rang at St. Weonards and Garway, so they had a busy morning.

The second Sunday of the month 11am communion service resumed on 12th May after the winter break. The service was taken by the Revd, Crispen Pemberton, whose excellent sermon focussed on the societal impacts of mobile phones and AI, especially on the young.

Thanks go to Chris Northam for availing us of his virtuosity on the organ.

There is little more to report as we enter the “dog days” of Summer. The farmers of the Orcop Basin have been very busy cutting silage. The weather has been kind to them but it is still cold at night and we will soon begin to worry again about the lack of rain.

Margaret Fletcher, Churchwarden

Orcop Parish Hall Committee

The AGM will be on Wednesday 12th July at 7:30 pm at the Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

We would especially love the benefit of new members, to add their views and ideas so, if you are interested in joining the committee, please come along to find out more.

Hope to see you there. Many thanks.

Peta Long

Owl Good Neighbours Family Fun Day Saturday 15th July

Orcop Parish Hall HR2 8ET at 3pm

Food and drink available

BBQ and afternoon tea

Free entry

Indoor and outdoor games

All ages welcome

More information 01981 241310



ICE

"GANTRY SPEAK"

Smart Motorways have attracted controversy because of serious accidents caused by the use of the hard shoulder as a "live lane" in busy periods. It seems that no more will be built with this facility. They are incredibly expensive, but the variable speed limits and driver information displays will no doubt remain. These are often useful, warning of congestion, or an accident ahead. However, Highway Authorities seem to try to justify the enormous cost by displaying "driver information" when they have nothing useful to say. This "Gantry Speak" can be very irritating, as it distracts attention from the road and is often irrelevant or blindingly obvious. The Scottish Highway Authority is particularly prolific in its Gantry Pronouncements. One of my favourites is "DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS". As far as I know, there is no town or village of this name in Scotland (or England for that matter). The "conditions" could include "Never drive at less than 100mph" or "Never use Satnav." Another is "CHECK YOUR EYESIGHT-ARE YOU FIT TO DRIVE?" If one was not fit to drive, one could probably not read the sign. Why do I find these signs so irritating? Is this fear of "Big Brother" or simply the Victor Meldrew syndrome?

I leave the reader to decide.

Peter Garratt

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCLOYD

Another quiet month for our villages, but some of us did get involved in a Benefice event, which was the Archenfield Arts festival, a mini *Eisteddfod* which was first introduced to our Benefice several years ago by Hilary Smallwood. It has been held for the last few years in May, usually in either St Weonard's Church, or Garway Church, and this year it was in Garway.

Individuals or groups are encouraged to perform either musically, or through the spoken word, to a small audience, usually consisting of other participants. This year the youngest performer was a 6 year old violinist, accompanied by his father on the piano, and the oldest probably in their eighties, and all ages in between. Three different choirs also took part, and a regular participant is a brilliant saxophonist. Some read their own poems; some sang duets, some solos. It was a very varied programme with much talent, and it seemed a shame that relatively few people came to experience it apart from the participants. Hopefully, next year it will get greater publicity, and a lot more people may come to appreciate it, and even participate in it!

In our own community of T and P, we are grateful to Christine Snell for organising a tennis tournament to take place on Sunday July 9th. Partners will be drawn from a hat, and the matches will be played in the morning on various courts, with the semi-final and final being played in the afternoon. Entry for an adult is £10.00 and under 12's £5.00. This is open to all players, all ages, all standards, and anyone in the Benefice! So if you enjoy playing tennis see the notice below.

Another time to keep clear in your diaries is the weekend of 21st and 22nd of October. Linda Miles is once again kindly having her Arboretum open to the public, and the PCC will be serving lunches and teas from "Linda's Cafe". Those of you who attended this event back in 2022 may remember Peter and Liz Everall standing with John and myself serving refreshments from "Linda's Cafe". We have a lovely photo of it as a memento.

We were delighted to be able to spend a few days with Peter and Liz in their home in May, and they asked us to give their best wishes to all those who remember them! The other person who sent a similar message, is Sue Pope whom I also visited in May, and we reminisced on days at Treberon. She is very happy in the annexe she lives in next door to her daughter Anna and family, in Fownhope.

Once again, we were so grateful to Elizabeth for leading Evening Prayer at Pencoyd on May 28th; and on June 4th, the Benefice Communion service was held at Garway Church, led by Fiona Mynors. She has been given permission by the bishop to give us Communion by "Extension". This entailed Elizabeth Malcolm going to Ross parish church early that morning to collect bread and wine consecrated by their vicar and bringing it to Garway for Fiona to distribute to the congregation. Alex Herbert, as part of her training for priesthood had prepared a thoughtful sermon relating to John chapter 14 verses 1-14. This helped us to reflect on the use of the word *you* in the bible, which usually refers to a group not an individual, the equivalent of the American *you'all*. This reminds us that God wants to bless us as families and communities.

In July, the Benefice Service will be held at Pencoyd, on July 2nd but it has not yet been decided what form that service will take. This service will also be available on Zoom, thanks to the video equipment and skills of Peter Pember.

So we are very fortunate to have a group of Churchwardens in our Benefice who are doing their very best to ensure that we are able to attend worship in our churches each month, while we continue to be without a vicar.

Margaret Oubridge on behalf of our PCC.

Tennis Tournament and Strawberry Cream Teas
Sunday 9th July
The Hall, Pencoyd, HR2 8NG



All ages, all standards, and all players welcome

Fun Tennis Tournament, partners 'drawn from a hat', matches to be played Sunday morning
With semi-final and final in the afternoon, rackets and balls can be supplied.

Player entries: £10 per adult, £5 under 12 (including light refreshments)

Please call: *Chris Snell 07966 463385*

Entries close Sat 8th July

Strawberry Cream Teas, 2.30 – 5pm

Plant Stall, Grand Prize Draw in the gardens of
by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs D Snow.

Proceeds in aid of Tretire and Pencoyd Churches

HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

Music for a Summer's Evening at St Dubricius Church Hentland 7.30pm on Saturday 15th July

We have an update to our piece in last month's Parish News – or perhaps we should call in an upgrade, for we have added an organ concerto to the programme. 'Ah!' you may say 'a chance to hear the newly-restored Walker organ!' but I am afraid there I must disappoint, for the Walker is tuned to the modern pitch of $a=440$, whereas our players' period instruments are all tuned to baroque pitch $a=411$. So Martin Perkins, concert director and organist, will be bringing his modern electronic organ which is what they are all used to. The voice of his organ can be adjusted to be indistinguishable from the period instrument. It is also portable, so Martin will be glad to see the gentle slope of the church path at St Dubricius instead of the steep series of slopes between sets of steps at Hoarwithy.

Otherwise, the programme is unchanged: Hannah Davey, soprano, who so entranced the audience at Ross-on-Wye Choral Society's Coronation Concert at the end of April, will sing JS Bach's Wedding Cantata *Weichet nur* BWV 202 and some favourite arias from Handel's operas *Iulio Cesare* and *Alcina*. The two concertos to be played are for oboe by Vivaldi and Handel Organ Op4 No 2.

Hentland Church is HR9 6LP. There will be a portalo, and wine and canapés in the interval. With all these exciting extras, we must upgrade the price a little as well – from £15 to £20. Tickets obtainable by emailing robin.symonds@btinternet.com with all enquiries to 01989 730439

Robin Symonds

Wildlife in our Garden

I must start with an apology and a correction of a mistake I made last month: it is not robins who try to time their brood with the hatching of Winter Moth caterpillars in oak trees, but blue tits. I have yet to see any of these caterpillars in real life, probably because I have never resolved to go out and look in the oak trees regularly through the crucial period. Maybe next year?

It is lovely that summer is now in full swing with lots of sunshine in the last three weeks. The garden seems to be loving it too, in spite of only a sprinkling of rain in early May and none at all since 20th. There's a mass

of green foliage about, many sorts of insect, bees and hover flies busy amongst the flowers, and much bird song. I am not going to try to list all the species this month, because for various reasons we have been away for more days than we've been at home during the last three weeks. I am sure we must have missed a lot of wildlife, but it might have enjoyed our absence!



In April's edition I mentioned Ragged Robin, one of the perennial wild flower species that has appeared in our field from time to time. This year, a particularly strong-looking patch of it has come up, in a place where we've seen it in previous years. I counted 19 stems of it, more than in previous years, all in a well circumscribed small area about 40 cm across. This would not be typical of spread by seed, even though it is described as being very attractive to pollinators. I think it must be spreading underground by a growing root system. If it is producing seeds, I can only think they are being swamped by all the competition.

John Oubridge

Book Review

***The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, by Bill Bryson**

With his expected fluent humour, Bryson treats us to a walk through his 1950s American childhood, an era brimful of optimism: *"I can't imagine there has ever been a more gratifying time or place to be alive than America in the Fifties."*

Boyish preoccupations (some of which I hesitate to quote here - *"sofa isometrics"* being high on that list) come thick and fast, with his persona as the Thunderbolt Kid being central to the narrative. Needless to say, the Kid had amazing superpowers, akin to those of Batman and Robin who *"looked unquestionably as if they were on their way to a gay Mardi Gras"*. There are some wonderful pranks, for example entering public toilet cubicles, locking the door behind him, then crawling under the partitions to lock all the doors, and exiting at the last one.... very satisfying. His life's ambition throughout the 50s is to gain admission to the stripper tent at the Annual Show, only to find that the age limit has risen by a year each time, so he can never catch up.

But Bryson also has something serious to say, reflecting on how our capitalist societies got to where they are now: locked in consumerism and imaginary money; and plagued by the arms race which has never gone away. When atomic tests were carried out in the desert near Las Vegas, tourists flocked to watch the bangs, oblivious to their personal danger as well as the implications for humanity. There was a "Miss Atomic Bomb" beauty pageant, and bomb-themed dishes appeared in local eateries. *"People were charmed and captivated - transfixed, really - by the broiling majesty and unnatural might of atomic bombs"*.

He nails the birth of rampant consumerism in the late 1950s: *"We were entering a world where things were done because they offered a better return, not a better world. People were wealthier than ever before, but life somehow didn't seem as much fun. The economy had become an unstoppable machine. what had once been delightful was somehow becoming rather unfulfilling. People were beginning to discover that the world of joyous consumerism is a world of diminishing returnsby the end of the 1950s most middle class people had everything they ever dreamed of so there was nothing much more to do with their wealth than to buy more and bigger versions of things they did not truly require ... having more things of course also meant having more complexity in one's life ... women increasingly went out to work to keep the whole enterprise afloat. Soon millions of people were caught in a spiral in which they worked harder and harder to buy labour-saving devices that they wouldn't have needed if they had not been working so hard in the first place."* Instead of grabbing the chance for additional leisure *"We decided to work and buy and have."* Ouch.

Each chapter begins with a quote from a contemporary newspaper or magazine – who can forget the clip about a teenage girl who was driving her parents' car backwards at speed, because she had gone over the agreed mileage and was trying to “rewind” it? Bryson has an eye for the quirky and must have spent hours scouring the local mags.

Always genial, always funny, Bryson is the perfect host for this trip down memory lane.

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

There are some gardening tasks that really shouldn't be ignored. There is one such task in this garden that I have been ignoring for a few years now and each year the problem has got worse. I'm talking about the dreaded ground elder. I can't ignore it anymore, and much as I would rather be doing other things, I am attempting to dig it all out; every last bit of it. When it was just a small patch in amongst the shrubs it was manageable but because I didn't tackle it then, it has spread into the base of all those shrubs, and beyond. Of course, I am paying for my laziness now. The digging is back breaking and soul destroying but ultimately, when I see all the cleared earth, very satisfying.

As a reward each day, I allow myself a few minutes pottering in the new greenhouse. It is finally finished, although it took four days for the pair of us to install the glass – don't talk to me about sticky foam tape or the fiendishly difficult bar cappings; I never want to see another one. Anyway, it's done now and I am having a lovely time filling it with pelargoniums. The old greenhouse is housing the sweet peppers and tomatoes and a few seedlings but this one is purely to have fun in. You know when you visit gardens and you discover a greenhouse chock full of colourful pelargoniums – well that's what I am trying to create. Instead of installing the horrid wooden staging that was supplied, I collected various items of metal furniture from around the garden – a table, some chairs, a plant stand – and I am using those to display the plants. So, so pretty. I am not being very particular about which pelargoniums; just anything that takes my fancy. So, red, pink, salmon, cerise – anything goes. Except white of course; that would ruin the effect. Zonal, regal, ivy leafed trailing ones, scented leaf ones – I am including them all. I am on the lookout for one or two special ones – the stunning regal *Pelargonium* 'Lord Bute' with its rich black-purple flowers, edged with paler purple and the pretty *Pelargonium* 'Ardens' with its dainty deep red flowers edged with paler red.



Elsewhere in the garden the self-seeded *Ammi majus* have turned into triffids. Ignore the gardening articles that tell you that it is a wonderful plant to use as a filler in your borders with its pretty flowers like cow parsley that will float above the lower storey. Nah, these are 7 feet tall and are floating above the *upper* storey; above the fox gloves, above the delphiniums even. They look great with those – pink foxgloves, blue, purple and white delphiniums and frothy white *Ammi majus* - but I am not sure I will try them elsewhere.

Julie Davies

A Peek in the Bookshop

Here's a preview of some new books and things happening in July – do get in touch with us if you'd like to reserve any books or tickets and I'm happy to deliver locally to Garway.

New Fiction – *The Wide World* by Pierre Lemaitre (translated by Frank Wynne)

This is an epic novel of family fortune, twisted secrets and love. The Pelletiers are a hugely prominent French family living in Beirut. Louis Pelletier has spent years building his soap business, dominating the manufacturing market. Now, he wants to pass on the leadership, but choosing which son to take over from him proves challenging.

New Non-Fiction – *What An Owl Knows* by Jennifer Ackerman

From prehistoric cave paintings to the prints and etchings of Picasso, owls have captivated and inspired us for millennia. Deftly weaving together science and art, Ackerman journeys into the owl's moonlit world and asks: what is it about these birds that so enthralls us?

New Children – *The Truth About Yeticorns* by Rachel Morrisoe (Illustrated by Ella Okstad)

This is a super new rhyming story with cute illustrations for children 3+ a about telling the truth, sibling friendship and the power of using your imagination for good.

Event – Roger Morgan-Grenville in conversation, Rossiter Books, Ross on Wye, Tuesday 11 July at 7pm

Acclaimed nature writer Roger Morgan-Grenville will talk about his new book **Across a Waking Land**. Fed up with bleak headlines of biodiversity loss, he set out on a 1,000-mile walk through a British spring to see whether there are reasons to be hopeful about the natural world.

Fighting illness, blizzards and his own ageing body, he visited every main habitat between Lymington and Cape Wrath in an epic eight-week adventure, encountering the kindness of strangers and the inspiring efforts of those fighting heroically for nature.

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

Julie, Bookseller at Rossiter Books

St Michael's Hospice to open third shop in Ross-on-Wye

St Michael's Hospice has opened its latest new store in Ross-on-Wye, which is be packed with affordable pre-loved treasures. The Cantilupe Road store (HR9 7AN) will be the third St Michael's Hospice shop in Ross-on-Wye. St Michael's has a significant retail presence in Herefordshire and its borders. This financial year it is expected to bring in almost £2 million towards patient care at the Bartestree-based Hospice and within the community.

The latest shop in Ross is in addition to the *Home and Living Store* on the Alton Road Industrial Estate, and its town centre outlet on Gloucester Road. Each store will have a different offering, so they will all be worth a visit.

"We're so excited to open this new store. It's a great location for those wishing to shop or donate pre-loved items. With over 3,000 square feet of refurbished retail space, there's plenty to choose from," said Rachel Jones, the Hospice's Income Generation, Marketing and Communications Director.

The shop, located opposite the town's Morrisons store, will stock a range of pre-loved treasures from books to furniture, and clothes to toys. It's also a guilt-free way of shopping, as every purchase means one less item for landfill and a contribution to Hospice care.

Paul Broome Communications Executive

Chuckle Corner

As always thanks to Peter Garratt for his contributions:

Paddy took two stuffed dogs to the Antiques Roadshow "Ooh!" said the presenter, "This is a very rare set, produced by the celebrated Johns Brothers taxidermists, who operated in London in the nineteenth century."

"Do you have any idea of what they would fetch if they were in good condition?", the taxidermist asked. ".....Sticks?" Paddy replied.

I was no good at athletics at school, and especially bad at pole vault. However, they gave me a stick and I soon got over it.....

A notice seen that might amuse: *Everyone wants to change the world, but nobody wants to change the toilet paper.*

On a trip to the USA recently this was on the breakfast menu. As I don't have a sweet tooth this did not appeal but sounded rather different to what might be offered in the UK.

Peanut butter and banana stuffed French toast. Served with whipped cream and warm syrup. \$13 Add delicious bites of bacon \$3.

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- 7 60th Anniversary Garway School Building
- 9 Tennis and tea, Pencoyd
- 12 AGM Orcop Hall
- 12 Garway Stitchers
- 15 Music for a summer evening Hentland
- 15 OWLS Family Fun Day
- 26 Garway Stitchers
- 30 Lammas Service

Future events for your diary

- 26 August Garway Fun Day
- 23 September Talk at Hentland on the organ
- 25 Training session Defibrillator
- 21 and 22 October Open Aboretum, Netherton Pencoyd

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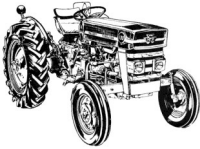
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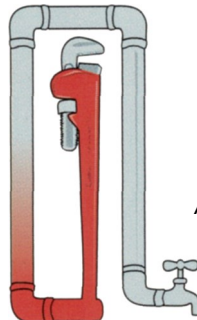


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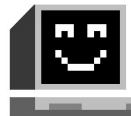


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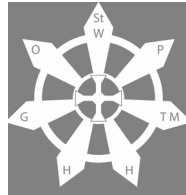
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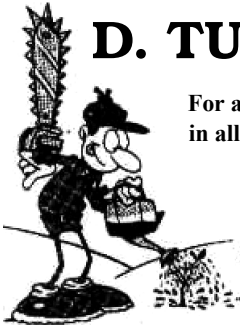
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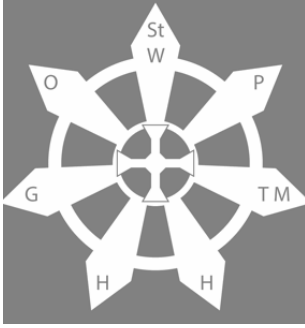
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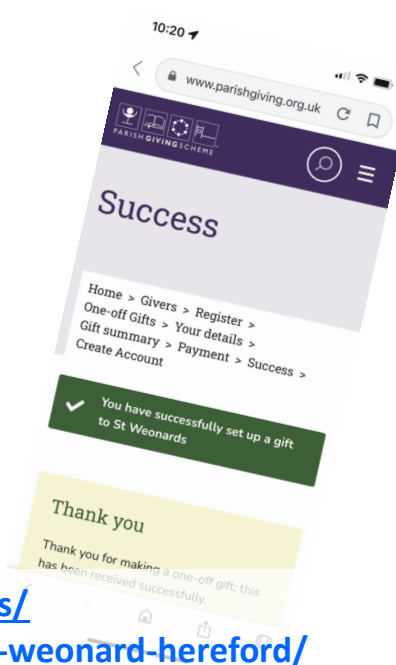
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