PARISH NEWS

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

SEPTEMBER 2023



DRAWING OF ST WEONARDS CHURCH BY

LIBBY WILLIAMS, AGED 9.

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CONTACTS IN THE ST WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

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| Youth Group, Tear Fu | | 01600 750242 |
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| Singing Tree choir | Hilary Smallwood | 01600 614012 |
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| Gardening Club | Linda Ashton | 01981 540804 |
| OWL Good Neighbou | | 07940 030 8696 |
| Dore CommunityTran | | 0345 2020144 |
| St Weonards Group w | • | www.stw.org.uk |
| | vebsite | www.stw.org.uk |
| | | |
| | HEREFORDSHIR | E COUNCILLORS |
| Birch Ward | Toni Fagan (Green) | tonifagan@btinternet.com |
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Samaritans

National Helpline Hereford 08457 909090 116 123 free calls 0330 094 5717 local call rates apply or email jo@samaritans.org 0870 1704000 01978 367333

HOPEline UK (Prevention of Young Suicide)

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South local policing teams

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

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 **10th of the month**:

| Magazine Editor | Fiona Mynors | 01981 580208 |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Garway: | Mrs Ruth Maskell Windy Ridge, Garway | 01600 750454 |
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| St. Weonards: | Mrs P Craig 8 Mount Way St Weonards | 01981 580433 |

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PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

| Garway: | Mark Hearne <u>clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk</u> | 01981 251887 |
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| Orcop: | Mark Hearne | 01981 251887 Darishcouncil.org |
| | Parish council website www.orcopp | |
| St. Weonards: | Mark Hearne <u>clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk</u> | 01981 251887 |
| Llanwarne: | Mark Hearne <u>clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk</u> | 01981 251887 |
| Ballingham Bolstone & Hentland: | Nicky Mackenzie <u>clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland</u> - | 07581 353103 - <u>pc.gov.uk</u> |

VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS <u>www.stw.org.uk</u>

PARISH NEWS

THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

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

Sunday September 3rd 10.00am Benefice Family Communion Orcop Church

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

Letter from Caring for God's Acre

If you were looking for bats in your local churchyard, where would you expect them to be? They are not in the belfry for a start, it's too noisy! Bats often use church buildings, and a bat roost may be nearly as old as the building with around 60% of pre-16th century churches containing bat roosts. There are seventeen species of bat native to the UK; eight of these use churches or chapels.

Bats, like most animals, have different needs throughout the year. They need nursery roosts for the young, winter roosts to hibernate and also temporary roosts to digest their food and to sleep in during the daytime. Bats roost in clean, draught free, quiet crevices where the temperature is constant. Within churches or chapels bats are found in the eaves, porch, under roof tiles, in old timber joints, behind ceilings, hangings and commemorative plaques. They also roost within chest tombs, in holes or cracks within a wall, behind ivy or in lychgates. As well as buildings, bats will use trees seeking out holes, crevices, flaking bark and gaps behind ivy. Old and veteran trees are full of possible bat roosting places, as well as being home to many other creatures.

Burial grounds tend to have a mixture of large trees, grassland, flowers, areas of long or tussocky grass, compost heaps, log piles and stonework. They are relatively free of chemicals and may have been there a long time. All of this leads to a good population of insects. Flying uses up a lot of energy so a site rich in insects is crucial for bats.

September is a great month to search for bats, as the nights are starting to draw in the bats will be flying earlier, so you don't have to stay up too late to see and hear them. They have left their nursery roosts and both adults and young are flying, hunting to put on fat which will help them survive the winter. Watching them hunt can be great fun and with a bat detector you can also hear them echo-locate as they search for prey. Why not contact the Bat Conservation Trust and see if there is a local expert who could run a public event for you? Knowing which bats use your churchyard can help you manage for them and also avoid any damage to either bats or their habitats.

All the best, Harriet Carty Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

<u>www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk</u> - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

SERVICE ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

| Sunday 3 rd September | 10.00am | Orcop Benefice Service |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 10 th September | 10.00am | St Weonards All Age Communion & Baptism |
| Thursday 14 th September | 6.00pm | Celebration of the life of June Griffiths |
| Sunday 17 th September | 10.00am 5.00pm | Hoarwithy Communion Tretire Harvest Festival |
| Sunday 24 th September | 9.15 am 10.00am | Hentland, Holy Communion St Weonards All Age |
| Sunday 1 st October | 10.00am | Tretire Benefice Holy Communion |

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

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday 10th September 3pm - Rev Paul Arnold - HARVEST FESTIVAL Sunday 24th September 3pm - Mr Wilf Prosser



Magazine News Please send WORD documents as our software cannot copy PDFs. Please keep fonts and presentation as simple as possible!

Village Pages

ST WEONARDS

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Miss June Griffiths on 18th July 2023. June was a much respected and loved person in the parish. She taught at the local school, served for many years as the Parish Clerk and Churchwarden as well as singing in the church choir. If you wanted to know about anyone in the community and who was related to whom, June knew! We are holding a celebration for her life at St Weonards Church on Thursday 14th September at 6.00pm. Please come to commemorate all that she meant to the local community.

A goodly crowd of about 50, including children and dogs, gathered at Tre-essey for a service of celebration of Lammas or Loaf Sunday. We are most grateful to the Williams family who had worked so hard to prepare the barn for us. They also provided the means for us to have a keyboard for me to play for the hymns and to accompany the choir which sang a harvest anthem. Anna and Martin talked about their work on the farm, and Elizabeth Malcolm explained her work in dendrology. Linked to this, the children counted rings on some slices of cut wood to decide how old the trees had been before they were felled. We all enjoyed refreshments after the service and were able to catch up with friends and neighbours. Apart from the keyboard music, the sheep next door in the barn reminded us of the real work on a farm!

It was with some trepidation that we planned the open-air performance of opera arias by the *Wild Arts* Group on the terraces at Treago. Despite so many wet days in July, the opera evening was fine so that over 200 people enjoyed their picnics and the wonderful performance. Rhys Nicholson, a young cellist played superbly. The evening was such a success that it is hoped to stage a full opera next summer.

The event was one of the events in the calendar of the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust. The £7600 profit is shared between them and St Weonards Church helping towards the roof repairs. We are most grateful to the generous sponsors who made the evening possible.



Future Date: Harvest Service and Lunch Sunday 22nd October 11.00am. *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 6th and 20th September. You are also welcome to drop in 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.



Please join us for the Harvest Festival at Garway Hill Methodist Chapel Sunday 10th September 3pm Followed by refreshments All welcome!



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12th 7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00 THE QUIET GIRL

We're back after the summer break with a new season of brilliant movies. And for September we have a whisper of a film, as tender as it is beautiful – THE QUIET GIRL. Based on a wonderful novel by Clare Keegan, the film tells the story of 12-year-old Cait who lives with her harried and neglectful parents in rural Ireland. They have little time for her and so Cait has adopted the strategy of silence and watchfulness. When her parents decide they can't be bothered to look after her through the summer holidays they palm her off on Eibhlín and Sean, an older, Irish speaking childless couple who live on a distant farm. This is where one might expect a worse cruelty to happen but the story turns to one of understated gentleness and kindness. "There are no secrets in this house," says Eibhlin although this, we discover, is not true as this is a home that has grown kind through its own unspoken tragedy. Pictorially beautiful, it's a gem of a film. One critic wrote: *"The Quiet Girl is, quite simply, a genuine work of art by a genuinely empathetic artist, and one of the single most moving, heartfelt, and heartbreaking movies from any country in the last decade. That only sounds like hyperbole until you see it. After that, the sentence reads as a huge understatement." Come and see it with us... Delicious wines, teas, coffees and cakes before the film and in the interval as ever. <u>www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks</u>.*

GARWAY LIVE

Now the summer's over and we settle in to a new season of live music and entertainment It will be interesting to see what's coming. We finished last season on an exciting, explosive evening with the James Oliver Band, everybody who came really enjoyed his energetic guitar playing and I had several requests to bring him back again. James told me afterwards that he'd found both the hall and the audience wonderful, but such is the demand for his band that the earliest we can have him back is the 12th of October next year 2024.

This season we're going to start out with a more relaxed event in the bar area. On Friday 15th of September, we have an evening with "Sax Appeal", two ladies that provide vocals that are both gutsy and smooth with a saxophone that is raunchy and alternatively mellow. Come and enjoy an evening of wonderful music in a laid-back atmosphere provided by Julie Kimber and Debbie Hodgkins. As it's in the bar, admission is only £6 for adults - under 18's will be free. Doors are open at 7.30 with the music from 8.00. Pay on the door or through Ticket Source. www.ticketsource.co.uk/atgarway *Graham Bevan* Community Defibrillator Seminar Broad Oak Community Group 25th September 7.30pm Come and learn how to use it! Garway Hall Free Julie Martin 07745843428

Garway Primary School and Preschool

are seeking a

NEW GOVERNOR

to join the board of this thriving village school in September.

There are no specific qualifications for the role, but we would especially welcome expressions of interest from those from a legal/educational/accountancy background.

Garway Primary School is a happy school that offers a very broad education in a lovely setting. The school is known for its performance opportunities, Forest Schools and sport, in addition to the core academic learning.

It is a joyful place to be, and joining the board would give you the opportunity to be involved in maintaining the school's success into the future.

If you would like to have an informal chat about this, please phone on 01600 614012 Hilary Smallwood

Garway School

As we prepare for the start of another school year, we can look back on the last year with all its successes and achievements. There were also some goodbyes – to pre-school staff Neela, Rosie and Christina. We thank them all for their wonderful contributions to our school. Although we are sad to see them go, we wish them all the very best in the next phase of their lives as they move on to pastures new.

Last term was full of exciting happenings: the school's 60th anniversary which was celebrated with many old pupils and staff who came to enjoy the displays and photographs; sports day (in a break in the rain!); school trips and a residential for year 6; the end of year production of Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies (performed with great verve and imagination); and the Year 6 leavers' concert, in which every child in the school, from the smallest to the oldest, joined in the musical performances. We all send every good wish to our leavers for happiness in their new schools and their lives to come. Thanks are due to the Garway Village Hall trustees for use of the hall for performances, now that the school numbers have expanded to

outgrow the school hall. This allowed space for members of the Garway community to come and share in the performance of their village school.

Look out for news from the Garway School PSA over the coming months as they fundraise for a school minibus.

Hilary Smallwood

Garway Village Hall trustees invite you to a



Family Party Saturday 9th September 5 - 7pm in Garway Village Hall

Food for all...! Children eat free! Music and dancing ... ! Inflatables ..!

Come and see your local hall and find out what it can do for you!

Advance Notice 19th November 11.00am to 3.00pm

New Trustees of Garway Village Hall invite you to

Christmas Market

Book a table (£10) to sell cakes, crafts etc

Contact: https://www.hites.org (subject line Christmas Fair)

GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP Tuesday 19th September 2023 Garway Village Hall Bishop Dr. David Thompson

A fascinating and lively speaker renowned for bringing his subjects to life, medieval historian, Bishop David is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Royal Historical Society and a FRSA. He'll be speaking about **'Language, Learning and Life in Medieval Garway'** which will be a fascinating start to our season of talks every third Tuesday of the month from September through April. Meetings are held at 7.30pm in Garway Village Hall at HR2 8RQ

///famed.grows.tolerable

Light refreshments are served. Membership costs £12 per annum which entitles you to free entry to meetings and other member events. Alternatively, come as a visitor for £6 per meeting.

ORCOP

Orcop Church will be hosting a Benefice Service at 10am on Sunday 3rd September. The service will be led by the Revd. Rob North and we hope to have a choir. Please come if you can.

There will be no second Sunday communion service at Orcop in September and at the October service, at 11am on October 8th, we celebrate the harvest, followed by a harvest lunch, which will be advertised separately. The weather continues to create problems for our farmers, but they will no doubt rise to the challenge, as they always do.



Some will have noticed that a length of about 10m of the north dry-stone wall to the churchyard has collapsed into the field below. We have obtained a quotation from a specialist contractor to undertake the rebuilding and we are hopeful that we will be able to raise grant funding to cover the cost. It has been rebuilt in the past by volunteers, but it is a highly skilled task and we have resolved to have it done professionally this time. The process of applying for grant funding is complicated and can take several months, but we will have the work done as soon as funding is available.

Margaret Fletcher, Churchwarden

Flowers and cleaning rota: Mrs. M. Fletcher

HARVEST LUNCH Sunday 8th October

This year there will be a harvest lunch at Orcop Parish Hall on Sunday 8th October 12.30pm for 1pm Tickets £12.50, primary school children £5. For catering purposes please could we ask that you book tickets from either *Julia Garlick* 01981 580515 or *Margaret Fletcher* 01981 540790.

Orcop Parish Hall

Craft Workshops we shall be hosting a series of workshops over the coming months -Basket Making, Pewter Casting, Felting and Weaving are a few we have lined up so far Dates and costs are still to be confirmed, but if you might be interested, or would like more info, please email: <u>gill.bannerman@outlook.com</u> Orcop Parish Hall Thursday Coffee Mornings 21st September, 18th October 10.30-12.30 everyone welcome

Date for the diary: Orcop Parish Hall **Saturday 7th October 2–5pm** Apple Pressing & Autumn Market Would you like us to turn your apples into juice? Bring your clean, undamaged apples along and we can press them for you. More details in the next issue.

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

Now the excitement of the tennis tournament has passed, Tretire and Pencoyd have gone quiet again, and we have had no further events other than Services in our two churches.

In early July, Pencoyd hosted the Benefice service, and we were pleased to welcome friends from some of the other churches in our Benefice. Rev Brian Phillips led the service for us, and Richard Mynors kindly played.

On July 23rd, it was Tretire's turn to host a service, and Saturday morning saw our Gleam Team giving our little church a thorough clean, and a ruthless despatch of spiders and their webs, of which there were many! Elizabeth led our service, and once again it was warm enough to be able to leave the door open so that we could hear the birds joining in.

On July 30th, we had a service with a difference held in a barn at Tre-essey Farm, by kind invitation of Richard and Gwyneth Williams, and their sons and families. This was to celebrate Lammas Sunday, when grain and the first fruits of the harvest are brought for thanksgiving, and our hymn singing was accompanied by a little group of lambs in a pen in the barn where we were gathered. Quite a number of very well-behaved dogs came with their owners to the service, which was led for us by Fiona Mynors. In lieu of a sermon, Elizabeth Malcolm told us a bit about the work of the International Dendrology Society of which she is secretary, which study all manner of trees across the world. Anna and Martin Williams also told us about the varied work the undertake on their farm at Tre-essey.

Another happy celebration at Pencoyd church at the end of August was the baptism of Ella, daughter of Jamie and Fay Bevan, the service being taken by Rev Sean Semple, our recently retired Rural Dean.

September will be the month in which we will celebrate Harvest, but rather differently from our usual form. This year, the Harvest service will be held on the evening of Sunday 17th September at Tretire Church, (time to be decided) but the supper will be held on the following Sunday August 24th at Much Birch Community Hall at 6.30pm, followed by an auction of Produce, and of Promises. Please put these dates in your diary, and we look forward to seeing you at both events.

In October, once again we are being given the chance, at the kind invitation of Linda Miles, to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of her garden, on two Open Days, Sat October 21st and Sun 22nd. Linda will be giving guided walks around her magnificent Arboretum at 11.00 am and 3.00pm on each day. She also invites people to stroll unaccompanied around the grounds at any time. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

NB. The dates are 21st and 22nd October, so do put those in your diary. Entrance is free, but donations are in aid of Pencoyd and Tretire churches.

Margaret Oubridge on behalf of our PCC.

| Harvest Service | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Sunday 17th September 2023 | | |
| St. Mary's, Tretire, at 5.00 pm | | |
| Contributions to decorate the church gratefully received. Goods that will store will be added to the | | |
| offerings THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND | | |
| A break with tradition, the | | |
| Supper & Auction | | |
| Much Birch Community Hall | | |
| Sunday <mark>24th</mark> September 2023 | | |
| doors open 6.30 supper at 7.00pm | | |
| Home-made Casserole & Delicious Pudding soft drinks available | | |
| Bring your own Wine & Beer All welcome | | |
| Supper Tickets £15.00 Adults children (under 12) Free | | |
| AUCTION: Goods from the service will be offered and we encourage you to contribute short shelf-life items | | |
| on the night | | |
| together with any skills you might like to offer, such as – bake a cake to order – a Christmas pudding – a | | |
| couple of hours ironing – some gardening – silver polishing – window cleaning – | | |
| Ticket reservations please to Elizabeth Malcolm: <u>elizabethAmalcolm@outlook.com</u> /01989 740 201 | | |



On the morning of 6th July at 6:30am Harry Snell set out to walk to our home in Pencoyd from his flat in Birmingham city centre. It was a sunny morning and he came via canal towpaths and footpaths where he could. His route took him through Worcester (stopping to buy plasters), Malvern and Ledbury. By evening his blisters were quite bad so he decided to keep going in case he couldn't get started again! With plenty of food and water, he proceeded through Much Marcle, King's Caple and Hoarwithy, arriving here at 7am on Friday 7th July. His feet were sore so there was no chance of playing Tennis on Sunday, but he enjoyed watching until rain stopped play. He belatedly decided that sponsors would have been a nice idea to raise money for the church and his Godfather Anthony plus Aunt Dorrie Campbell donated towards the fund.

Sue Snell

HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

HENTLAND IS ALIVE TO THE SOUND OF MUSIC

With the chancel decoration revived we felt it would be a good idea to celebrate with a performance of baroque music by our Musical and Amicable friends, who have been playing for us at St Catherine's and with Ross Choral Society for the last twenty years. They brought seven musicians playing period

instruments and soprano Hannah Davey, and performed the lovely Wedding Cantata BWV 212 *Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten* (Give way now, dismal shadows) sung by Hannah. Then Vivaldi's *Oboe Concerto in A minor* RV 461 played by Mark Baigent, who has been with the group since the earliest days. Mark helpfully explained the layout of the baroque oboe, which has fewer keys than the modern version, but more bare holes. This was a virtuoso piece to which Mark gave a dazzling performance.

Following the interval, at which wine and canapés were served, Hannah returned to the stage to sing favourite arias from Handel operas. Then the musical director Martin Perkins played Handel's *Organ Concerto in B flat* Opus 4 No 2 on the harpsichord, which again was a brilliant, show-off piece. Those sitting in view of the keyboards marvelled at Martin's flying fingers. If anyone wondered how a harpsichord could substitute for an organ, no reason was given, but whatever it was, we didn't mind because it was a fitting climax to an unforgettable concert.

We are now looking forward to two more performances at St Dubricius. On Saturday 23rd September, at 3pm, organ-builder David Gallichan will give an account of the work he did on the church's Grade I listed 1869 organ by J W Walker, which had seemingly had no maintenance work done on it in the 150 years since the day it was built, other than routine tuning. David sees the work as among the most challenging he has ever undertaken, not least because to fit it into the size and shape available in the vestry, part of the mechanism had to be set at an angle by the original builder.

The years of neglect were finally brought to an end by the grant awarded by Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of the chancel decoration, and the necessity to remove the organ from its place in the north wall to give access to the decoration. Fortunately, part of the cost of the dismantling and rebuilding the organ could be met from the funding of the chancel project. David will be joined by organ scholar and one-time cathedral organist Kevin Holmes, who assisted him at all stages of the work. Kevin will demonstrate the instrument's qualities with his fine playing. The concert has been organised by Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust and admission will be £10.

Finally, on Sunday 8th October at 3.30pm, there will be a performance of *Songs from Across the Pond*, a programme of songs and readings from the United States by the Hoarwithy Singers. Tea and cakes will be served.

Date for the diary: Hoarwithy Sunday 15th October, Harvest Festival 10.00am.

Inflation

I know we are all feeling the squeeze at the moment with the high inflation rates which have affected most households, but high inflation is nothing new and moderate inflation has been a fact of life and the natural economic state for many years. Many of you probably aren't old enough to remember as far back as the early 80's when, due to the sharp rise in oil prices, inflation (according to Google - so don't quote me on this!) was a staggering 17.99%.

Interestingly, whilst looking through a box of old documents this week, I came across a scrap of paper that Peggy, my lovely mother-in-law, had written in 1980. I can't remember seeing it before, but it had been bundled in with a pile of documents. Peggy had listed a number of grocery and household items, noting the prices in May 1979 and again in 1980, although she did not stipulate the month. She noted that most of the items came from the local Sainsbury's, in North London, where they lived at the time. It made me wonder whether my mother-in-law had made this list out of interest or because they were really struggling with the weekly grocery bill. I know that she had two jobs at the time and as there were no formal food banks in those days to alleviate the strain, maybe life was more difficult than they let on. I honestly can't

remember it being that bad, but at that time I was young, living in Canada and I was fortunate enough not to have to spend my own money on mundane things like groceries and household goods.

| | MAY 1979 | 1980 |
|----------------------|-------------|-------|
| Loaf of bread | 29 ½ - 31 ½ | 35 |
| ½ lb butter | 34 | 39 ½ |
| 1 lb margarine | 23 | 27 |
| 1 lb lard | 19 | 25 |
| ½ (?) tea | 34 | 38 ½ |
| 2 lbs sugar | 28 | 35 |
| 1 lb cheese | 70 | 90 |
| 1 lb bacon | 98 | £1.10 |
| 6 eggs | 23 | 31 ½ |
| 1 pint of milk | 13 ½ | 16 |
| Orange squash | 27 | 32 |
| Tin evaporated milk | 20 | 25 |
| Large flour | 27 | 32 |
| Jar of jam | 27 | 35 |
| Tin of custard | 40 | 47 |
| Corn flour | 25 | 26 |
| Soap powder | 50 | 69 |
| Vim | 18 | 19 |
| Matches | 18 | 20 |
| Tooth cleaner | 49 | 62 |
| Bath soap | 16 | 16 |
| Tea of peas (large) | 19 | 24 ½ |
| Tin of beans (large) | 13 | 17 ½ |

Ruth Maskell

Reflection on Making Hay in 2023



The cover cartoon for the August issue was drawn on 6th July, the day after we cut our first 5-acre hay field. Little did we realise how relevant it would prove to be? After repeated turnings between heavy showers or longer spells of rain, it was eventually baled and brought in on 21st July, ahead of the deluge on the 22nd. 500 small bales off 5 acres, not a bad yield, but poor grey stuff. Hope the cows like it. We had 102mm of rain in July. As I write this on 8th August, we cut a further 5 acres yesterday. It is raining again today, so we face a similar period of grappling with the weather.

We are smallholders rather than "proper farmers", but our modest efforts are enough to make us aware of the challenges faced by those for whom a heavy crop yield may be essential to sustaining a living income.

We have been making hay here for 15 years and this is the most difficult year so far. I am reading "The Shepherd's Life – A Tale of the Lake District", by James Rebanks. He relates the struggles of haymaking in the Lake District, where his family reckoned that one year in ten was so wet that the hay crop would be lost. It is always a stressful time. Not so many years ago a farmer would rely on the BBC weather forecast (from the Met Office) and his own experience and intuition regarding the weather. In the first few years here, we would look at what our neighbours were doing and seek advice from those with long experience. These days we look at four weather forecasts: The Met Office, Accuweather, Yr.no (The Norwegian version of the Met Office) and, Netweather, and also listen to the forecast on radio Hereford and Worcester.

This only adds to the stress of deciding when to cut. It occurs to us that there should perhaps be another weather website called "Newtweather".

We should not underestimate the levels of stress experienced by our farmers as they face the various challenges of making a living from the land. Charities that seek to address the distress suffered by farmers and their families, such as "We are Farming Minds", deserve our support.

To end on a more cheerful note, the rain has led to our lawns growing fast and needing frequent mowing (for those who like tidy lawns). Here is a way to reduce the burden of frequent mowing: *Take half a bottle of cheap vodka, pour it into your watering can and add a similar quantity of water. Stir vigorously and then apply the mixture to your lawn. It will come up already half-cut*

Peter Garratt

Wildlife in our Garden

This July I went in for the Big Butterfly Count. I'm not sure how many years it has been running, but this was my first year to join in. It is organised by Butterfly Conservation, and I heard about it through the RSPB. It is not so arduous as the Big Bird Count; you only have to observe for 10 minutes and just count how many of each species you see. They supply you with a coloured and rather good identification chart of all the ones you're likely to see, and as you can do it sitting or standing in the sun and watching a patch of garden loved by butterflies, it is really quite a doddle.

I selected a nice easy-to-watch, sunny side of a buddleia bush where the bees and butterflies were very busy. I counted 1 peacock, 1 meadow brown, 2 small tortoiseshells, 2 small whites, and 3 red admirals. Quite a respectable number I suppose, though I was a little disappointed because during the month, at various other times, Margaret and I had seen several others: commas, painted ladies, six-spot burnets (butterfly or moth?), and common blues. It was frustrating not to be able to enter any of these in the count because they had been seen outside the selected window.



It was no great surprise that red admirals came out on top. It seems to have been quite a good year for butterflies, with red admirals being particularly numerous and fine-looking. I read or heard somewhere that this is down to climate change so that red admirals have been able to over-winter here in larger numbers than usual. Perhaps also, more people have been planting or sowing more insect-friendly flowers

recently, but that's very hard to assess. I always wonder about butterflies, and how they came to evolve. Such unlikely creatures, I would have thought. Surely they must find it hard to fly in a wind, but no, they seem to enjoy it. So easy to see and so obvious for predators, yet rarely do I see one caught in a bill or the jaws of a dragon-fly. I don't really want an explanation if I'm honest; I'd rather just marvel!

Now that it is August, as usual birdsong has almost stopped for the rest of summer. One exception is the faithful robin, who continues his plaintive song throughout the year. Thrushes are now seen rather than heard, pulling up worms from the lawn and blackbirds who are quick to find any crumbs we put down on the wall.

We have two blueberry bushes, just outside some French windows, in big tubs of soil. After the berries began to form and some birds showed an interest, we covered them with netting. As far as we can tell, no birds are getting in to help themselves now. When they begin to ripen, Margaret mentally notes a few that will be ready to pick within a couple of days, but when she goes out, ready with a container, lo and behold, they're gone! The only explanation that makes any sense is that some voles may have burrows in the soil in the tubs or very nearby and are getting in at the bottom where the netting is gathered round the stems, climbing the branches and collecting the fruit before it is quite ripe. I will have to rig up the night camera and try to solve the mystery. Not that there's much we can do about it, but it would be nice to know.



John Oubridge

Book Review

And Away by Bob Mortimer

Here we have Bob Mortimer, of Reeves and Mortimer fame, stepping into the role of author in this bizarrely mixed autobiography, which veers from puerile to deeply moving.

But it is of course a reflection of the mixed nature of his media career, which contains the pitiful collaboration with "Vic Reeves" in their exploitative and pointless TV shows, but also Mortimer's pricelessly witty and hilarious contributions to *Would I Lie To You?* and his wonderful gently reflective series *Gone Fishing* with Paul Whitehouse.

Bob Mortimer was born in Middlesborough and spent his childhood there with his three older brothers. His father died in a road accident when Mortimer was just seven, and his desire as the youngest child to make his mother happy dominated his childhood and early adult life. Crippling social anxiety was an ever-present feature of his early years, later morphing into a lasting depression that dogged a large part of his young adult life. He talks movingly of how this impacted his life and of the moment when he suddenly began to emerge into the light once more. "Depression is like every vein, artery and cell in your body is filled with dark sadness …… one of the worst things about depression is that it steals away the pleasure you get from ordinary life – your breakfast, reading the newspaper, watching the TV ……" But, after returning home from university, and at a football match with his old schoolfriends, his team score a goal: "When the noise died down, a flotilla of butterflies exploded in my stomach. I had experienced a rush of unbridled joy for the first time in years. Robert Mortimer was back. I could be happy again."

The book dodges back and forth in time, chronicling boyhood to adulthood, interspersed with chapters relating his triple heart bypass in 2015 – the diagnosis, his wedding to his long-term partner on the morning of his surgery, his slow recovery and the touching intervention from his friend Paul Whitehouse who dragged him out to go fishing when he was losing heart – and so a charming BBC TV series was born.

The sections of the book that are most engaging are those relating to his surgery and recovery, to his boyhood (filled with mischief!), and to his early working years, when he practiced as a probation assistant and then as a welfare lawyer. Anecdotes from this period are both hilarious and tragic – having worked as a social worker I could identify with that mixture of exasperation and resignation when struggling to help those for whom no help is likely to make a lasting impact, despite one's best efforts. And I recognize the loveable rogues who are impossible not to like even as they merrily rip off the system – his tale of the intimidating and elephantine offender who insisted that Mortimer interview him while in his bath and reeling off expletive-ridden answers to Mortimer's questions is laugh-out-loud funny.

There is something disarming about Mortimer's honesty about his own weaknesses and health problems and the real sense of caring that comes across in his dealings with his clients. But this is lost in the lengthy chapters on his emerging showbiz career. Suddenly that honesty and integrity seem to vanish, and he is sucked into the shallow world of image-making and the lure of fame. Whilst he does retain something of a "decent bloke" image, he endorses and finds amusing some of the frankly unpleasant and exploitative behind-the-scenes behavior of his co-stars towards their guests.

But his understanding that it is the small things in life that really matter is charming:

"When they told me I had to have a heart operation, my main memory is standing in my kitchen and thinking what I would really miss was my little tea towel. Not for one minute did I think, 'Oh, I'm going to really miss performing' The things you're going to miss are your wife, your egg cup, your seat that you sit in to watch TV......"

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

Rescuing a Hobby

If you regularly read my Garden Notes, you'll know that my life revolves around my garden. Apart from that, we lead a very quiet life so when I spotted a small paragraph about the Hobby (bird of prey, not pastime) in *Country Life* magazine in July, I wrote them a letter. I am not the kind of person who regularly writes to papers and magazines, so this was quite an event.

My reason for writing was to describe our experience of rescuing a hobby six years ago. My husband has enjoyed angling since he was fifteen, fishing for trout, dace, and eels on local brooks. He went off early one morning but returned home within about an hour instead of at lunchtime as usual. "Come and see what I've found." Instead of a trout or two in his fishing bag, a pair of beady eyes peeped out. Whilst walking along the riverbank looking for a good place to fish, he spotted a bird sitting in the long grass, clearly exhausted. It was quiet enough to allow him to pick it up without protest and bring it home. Although it was obviously a bird of prey and was a similar size to a kestrel, we weren't entirely sure what it was. It was stunningly beautiful with a face rather like a peregrine, with a black moustache and white cheeks. Out came all the bird books and we realised it was a Hobby.



We phoned the International Centre for Birds of Prey at Newent (sadly now closed) and they were more than happy to take her in and look after her. They were thrilled to see her as they had never had one there before. They confirmed that she was a female - females are larger than males. However, she was half the weight that she should have been; she must have just arrived here, having flown eight or nine thousand miles from southern Africa. She was admitted to their hospital section, and they fed her with a special mixture every couple of hours night and day. Four weeks later when she had regained the weight she had lost, they phoned us and we collected her from them. We took her back to the same spot where Adrian had found her and released her. It was thrilling to see her fly away and we often wonder how she fared and whether she found a mate and reared some youngsters. She would have reused an old nest, such as a crow's, and laid two to four eggs. Hobbies feed

on the wing, catching large insects such as dragonflies, which is why Adrian found her by the brook. In tropical Africa, they catch insects such as flying termites.

Here's a fun fact: the Latin name for a hobby is *Falco subbuteo*. Apparently, the inventor of the Subbuteo football game, one Peter Adolph, named his creation Subbuteo because the hobby was his favourite bird!

The Editor of *Country Life* obviously thought that other readers would be interested in our hobby and published my letter as the Letter of the Week. Of course, I am thrilled to bits and even more thrilled that a very expensive bottle of champagne is winging its way towards me right now!

Julie Davies

A Peek in the Bookshop

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

New Fiction – The Running Grave by Robert Galbraith

For fans of Cormoran Strike and exceedingly heavy books, September sees the release of the seventh book in the series. Strike and Ellacott must rescue a man ensnared in the trap of a dangerous cult.

New Non-Fiction – Politics on the Edge by Rory Stewart

As an avid listener of The Rest is Politics podcast, I'm very excited to read ex Conservative MP (and previously Labour-voting) Rory Stewart's uncompromising, candid and darkly humorous story of the challenges, absurdities and realities of political life.

New Children's – Moomin Mail by Amanda Li

Inspired by the works of Tove Jansson, this beautiful picture book is a take on the classic The Jolly Postman with lots of interactive fun opening letters.

If you prefer to listen to your books, I'm delighted to introduce you to LibroFM which has just launched in the UK. This is a great alternative to the Amazon-owned Audible by making it possible to buy audiobooks through your local bookstore, giving you the power to keep money within your local economy. Find out more at <u>www.LibroFM.com</u>.

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All books and tickets for events are available through Rossiter Books. Hope to see you in store soon! *Julie Hudson, Bookseller at Rossiter Books*

Chuckle Corner

What do maths teachers grow in their gardens? Square roots of course.

Courtesy of a granddaughter: What type of socks does a grizzly wear? He doesn't wear any socks as he has bear feet!

Besides a picture at Croft Castle- Still Life of Dead Game. Not sure what else it could be?!

2Faced Dance launches: Our City Moves

It's new, free and the first dance and movement festival of its kind in Hereford.

Bringing people together and capturing the joy of movement, the festival will take place on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September 2023 across Hereford city centre.

2Faced Dance Company invite you to save the date and keep an eye out in the coming weeks as they release more information on what promises to be a must see programme of events.

There will be plenty for everyone to look forward to as the festival will offer a range of outstanding performances from leading UK dance artists, local community groups and a series of dance, movement, and wellbeing workshops, all in the heart of the city.

In the lead up to the festival 2Faced are running a digital photography and film competition inviting them to capture the joy of movement in our city; dancing, walking, swimming, running, climbing, creating, laughter - anything that moves. Three categories, kids, youth and adults, three lots of prizes, cinema tickets, class passes and the chance to have your work exhibited publicly.

The competition runs from 20 July to the 20 August 2023. Those successful in making the shortlist for each category will be invited to the Our City Moves launch event at 7pm, on Friday 8 September. Winners will be announced at the launch.

You can find out more information about the competition on our website including how to enter: <u>https://www.2faceddance.co.uk/our-city-moves-digital</u>

Anyone interested in volunteering is very welcome. No experience is necessary, you just need to be over 16, enjoy meeting and helping others, and live, work or study in Herefordshire or the surrounding areas. If you're interested in stewarding, social media + vox pops, stage management, programming & production you can sign up via the website.

Our City Moves is part-funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Elmley Foundation, Hereford City Council and The Courtyard Arts Centre.

With support from Creative Pathways and HVOSS

Hereford Cathedral Events September

Cathedral: City: County Friday 5 May - Saturday 30 Mon to Sat, 10-5pm The cathedral stands tall within its Close, bounded by railings – but it is not and never has been separate from the surrounding city and county. This exhibition uses items from across the archive collections to show the many and varied links that the cathedral has had with those who lived and worked both within and beyond its walls. *This exhibition on display in the Mappa Mundi & Chained Library Exhibition - normal admission charges.*

Art & Soul Exhibition by Susan Edwards. Friday 1 - 27 An exhibition of vibrant life affirming landscapes of the cathedral, its gardens and local views, many of which have been painted on location. Susan's work is a celebration of the rich regional heritage we all enjoy in our rural area and a joyous way of giving thanks and praise. Her latest exhibition explores the abundance of nature, the work of many hands in gardens, the creativity of craftsmen and a sense of fun and fellowship of friends and the faith. *This exhibition is located in the North Transept, part of h.Art week. Also available to view during normal cathedral opening hours.*

Toddler Group: Mondays term time, 9.30am. Calling all toddlers and their grown ups - join us to play and pray in Hereford Cathedral. Listen to a Bible story, take part in a craft activity and have fun in our weekly drop-in. Suitable for toddlers between the ages of 1-3 years. *Free to attend but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.*

Learn to Paint in the Canons' Garden Tuesday 5th 10 am – 4 pm Come and learn some new techniques on how to paint on location in the lovely surroundings of Hereford Cathedral's Canon's Garden with experienced landscape painter and teacher Susan Edwards. *Tickets £65 and via the cathedral website*. Lunchtime Organ Recitals 1.15pm Tuesdays:

5th Peter Dyke
12th William Fox
26th Peter Dyke An audience request concert. Free with a retiring collection.

Responsible Engineering – Lecture by Dr Peter Broks Tuesday 5th, 7pm With the arrival of technology that can learn and change itself and data sources tracking every detail of human lives, engineering now entails decision-making with complex moral implications and global impact. One response is responsible engineering - an ethical and sustainable approach that considers the broader effects of technological solutions on society, the environment, and future generations. *Tickets cost £10 and are available to purchase from the <u>cathedral website</u> or by calling 01432 374 225.*

Eagles by Candlelight: Wed 6 & Thurs 7th 7.30pmThis epic show features over 20 Eagles favourites including New Kid In Town, Life in the Fast Lane, Tequila Sunrise and How Long! Performed at the beautiful Hereford Cathedral by Candlelight - this euphoric concert promises to be a real feast for your 'Lyin' Eyes' and will 'Take It to the Limit!'. *Tickets start at £25 and can be purchased here:* <u>https://concertsbycandlelight.com/shows/eagles-by-candlelight-at-hereford-cathedral</u>

Heritage Open Days: Creativity Unwrapped: Saturday 9th 10am – 3pm We will be showcasing some of the cathedral's most creative design and craft work, from hidden wooden misericords to the intricate stonework done by our resident stonemasons and the beautiful Victorian Godwin tiled flooring. Join us for a day of free activities and talks to unwrap all the creativity we have to share at our cathedral. *This is a free drop-in event and booking is not required.*

The Evening Hour: Sun 10th 5.30pm All are welcome to join this service of Prayer for Healing & Wholeness

Open Gardens: Wed 13th 10am – 3.30pm Visitors will be able to explore the Chapter House Garden, Cloister Garden, Canons' Garden, Dean's Garden and the Bishop's Garden at their leisure with our team of volunteer garden guides in each garden to answer any questions. A self-led event where you are welcome to enjoy the peaceful and beautiful gardens at your own pace. *Tickets £6 via the <u>cathedral website</u>*.

Lego Club Wed 13th, 3.30 -4.30pm Test your skills at creating crazy constructions and super structures with Lego in the inspiring surroundings of Hereford Cathedral. Enjoy this freestyle Lego session in the cathedral nave with thousands of bricks and hundreds of mini figures, learn building techniques and make new friends. Suitable for anyone aged 8 – 14. *Limited spaces so book your free space via the cathedral website*

Saturday Lego Club Sat 16th, 10am - 12noon Test your skills at creating crazy constructions and super structures with Lego in the inspiring surroundings of Hereford Cathedral. Enjoy this freestyle Lego session in the cathedral nave with thousands of bricks and hundreds of mini figures, learn building techniques and make new friends. Suitable for anyone aged 8 – 14. *Spaces are limited so book your free space via the cathedral website*

James Lancelot Gala Organ Concert. Tues 19th 7pm Join James Lancelot as he performs a gala organ concert featuring music by Bach, Duruflé and Reger. James Lancelot retired from the post of Master of the Choristers and Organist of Durham Cathedral in 2017 after thirty-two years and now continues to pursue an active recital career both in Britain and abroad. *Tickets £12 (£5 students) and via the <u>cathedral website</u> or by calling 01432 374 210.*

Bereavement Café Wed 20th 2.30 - 4pm Everyone is welcome to join us for an informal and friendly gathering for those who have been bereaved, recently or long ago. Join us in the Cloisters on the third Wednesday of the month from 2.30 - 4pm for coffee, cake and conversation. Run by volunteers, this is a welcoming environment to share experiences and support.

Marvellous Maps – Textile Workshop Saturday 3th, 10am – 4pm Join us to create a textile version of an early Victorian estate map using a variety of fabrics and threads. You will depict the fields and trees, ponds and buildings of this farm once owned by the trustees of St Ethelbert's Almshouses in this workshop jointly run by Mary Roberts, head of the cathedral's Broderers and also by Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe, Cathedral Archivist. *Tickets cost £50 and can be purchased via the <u>cathedral website</u> or by calling 01432 374 225*

Escape Room: Thurs 14 & Wed 27 bookable sessions available. It is 1890... You have been accused of embezzling money from the Vicars Choral funds and have been shut in the Old Chapel until the police arrive. You have one hour, can you prove that you are innocent? Come along and crack the code of our Escape Room! Sessions £60 suitable for groups up to six people. Booking essential via the <u>cathedral</u> website (14th) & (27th).

September Dates for the diary:

- 3 Benefice Family Communion
- 5 Garway Coffee Morning
- 6 Garway Stitchers
- 9 Garway Hall Family Party
- 10 Harvest Festival Garway Hill Methodist Chapel
- 12 Flicks in the Sticks, Garway The Quiet Girl

- 15 Garway Live!
- 17 Harvest Festival, Tretire
- **19 Garway Heritage Group**
- 20 Garway Stitchers
- 21 Coffee Morning, Orcop
- 24 Supper and Auction Much Birch
- 25 Defibrillator Seminar

Future events for your diary

October

- 7 Orcop Hall Apple Pressing and Autumn Market
- 8 Harvest Lunch, Orcop
- 8 Hoarwithy Singers Concert
- 21 Open Arboretum, Netherton, Pencoyd
- 22 Open Arboretum, Netherton, Pencoyd

November

19 Garway Hall Christmas Market.

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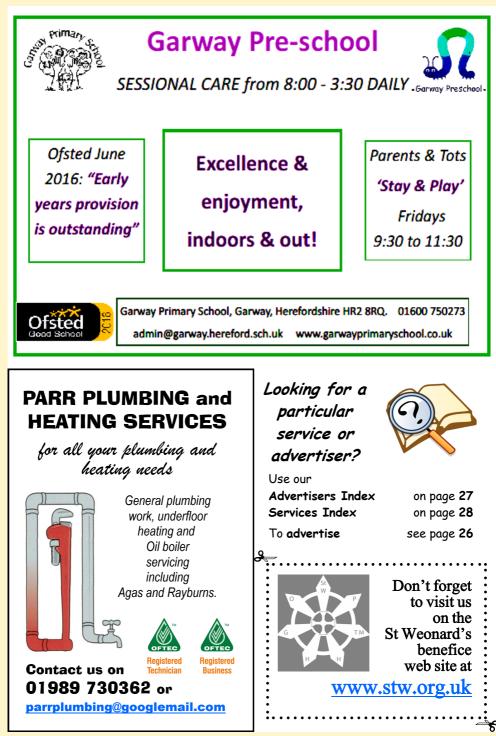


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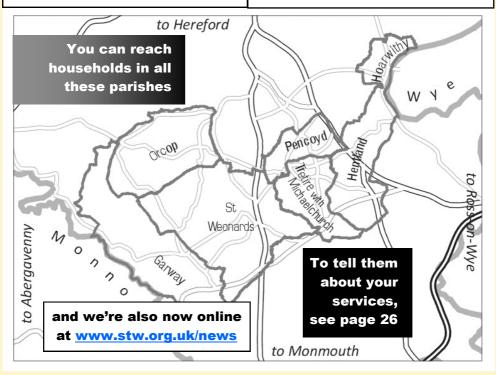
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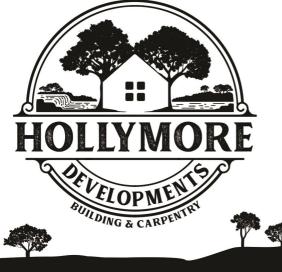


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