

PARISH NEWS

OF

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

OCTOBER 2023



'AUTUMN FERN' BY PAT MACRAE

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Garway	Tracy Somerville	01981 580263
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St Weonards Pre-school	Anna Williams.....	01981 580352
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OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Rigler	07940 308696
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St Weonards Group website	www.stw.org.uk

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

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office hours 01981 540721

Dinedor Hill Ward: David Davies david.davies2@herefordshire.gov.uk
07931 733336
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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:	Ruth Maskell	01600 750454
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	One Eleven, Hoarwithy	
Orcop:	Mrs M Fletcher	01981 540790
	3 Wilkes Row, Orcop	
Tretire/Pencoyd:	Margaret Oubridge	01981 580233
	Tretire Smithy	
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	8 Mount Way, St Weonards	

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	Parish council website https://orcopparishcouncil.org/	
St Weonards:	Mark Hearne	01981 251887
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	clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk	

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.

Sunday October 1st 10.00am Benefice Communion

Tretire Church

Come and meet the new Diocesan Mission Enabler Rev Mark Melliush

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

Reflection on harvest from Dean Sarah Brown

Hoorah!! It is harvest time again!! There you are, hurtling through the lanes in your car on some mission of huge national importance, muttering venomously at cyclists in helmets shaped like wasps' bottoms, inconsiderate enough to want a bit of your road (and hoping they can't lip-read), rounding a bend and coming up behind the ponderous majesty of a tractor and trailer. On closer inspection over the next ten minutes, you conclude that it is actually a convoy of three tractors and two trailers, and the glory of the aforementioned ponderous majesty begins to wear a bit thin!

Hoorah. It is harvest time again. And I would wager a considerable sum that most of you do not at this point start singing songs of everlasting thanks and praise to our great God for his generous provision, or blessing the farmers for the work they do to put food on our plates! So here is your challenge for harvest and beyond. I've learned to do it and if I can manage it anyone can. If you get stuck on your travels behind a tractor or a combine or a plough or any other mysteriously shaped implement of the sod, (by which I mean, of course, the soil!) take it as an opportunity for reflection, for thanksgiving and for praise. Why should you bother?

Firstly because praising God for what he gives us should become a matter of habit in all of us, and secondly because as a nation we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the farmers. They are taken totally for granted by most of us who have become emotionally and practically detached from the source of our food. We cannot and must not take national food security as a given. Climate change and population growth mean that it is more difficult to produce enough grain for the world's needs. Global markets will sell to the highest bidder regardless of need. Political mismanagement and the power of global enterprise in the inherently local business of food production are putting countless family farms out of business.

So when you get stuck behind that tractor take a deep breath, smile and wave at the farmer and ask for God's blessing on his family and work. Reflect on our corporate relationship to food and the land as the God given source of all our well-being and praise God from whom all blessings flow. And if I rush in late to take your service on a Sunday morning you will understand why! Happy harvest to you all.

Dean Sarah Brown

SERVICE ROTA

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

Sunday 1 st October	10.00 am	Tretire Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th October	10.00 am	St Weonards All Age Communion
	11.00 am	Orcop Holy Communion & Harvest lunch
Sunday 15 th October	10.00 am	Hoarwithy Holy Communion and Harvest Lunch
	6.30 pm	Pencoyd Evening Service
Sunday 22 nd October	11.00 am	Hentland Harvest and Lunch
	11.00 am	St Weonards All Age Harvest Service and Lunch
Sunday 5 th November	10.00 am	Hoarwithy Benefice Holy Communion

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

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday 22nd October 3pm - Rev Paul Arnold

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



10th October Christine Davies 01981 580129

!!! 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 is always a privilege to welcome families for their baby's christening. Baptism is a sign that someone is joining the family of the worldwide church, and also provides a special opportunity for families to gather and give thanks for the birth of a child. We have a tradition of baptisms taking place within our regular services so that the church community can welcome the special new member. We always clap to emphasise that welcome which can surprise a sleeping baby!

On 10th September we were pleased to welcome back the Middlecote family, and Bishop David baptised their daughter Emily Mae. Families who had had babies baptised in recent years were also invited back to take part in the service.

If you have visited the church in recent months you will have noticed that pigeons decided to nest in the porch which made a serious mess! We are grateful to a number of people who helped to clean up. We have now put up some net to keep them away, so let's hope they find somewhere else to perch!

On **Sunday 22nd October 11.00 am** we have decided to change the arrangement for Harvest this year. Bishop David has yet again generously agreed to take the service for us. Afterwards we will have our bring and share lunch. Please contact Fiona on 01981 580 208 or fionamynors@btinternet.com if you can contribute to the meal. Please bring non-perishable contributions for the Hereford Food Bank as your harvest gifts.

Richard Mynors, churchwarden.

A Harvest poem

Here on the farm
Causing no harm
We have sheep, lambs and cows
Machinery, tractors and ploughs.

We plant harvest and grow
And clap our hands to annoy crows.

There's lambing and combining
Which ends up in the animals whining
If you want to do morning feed.

We work in wind and sun and rain
Especially when it's growing winter grain,
But today we're just reading the creed
And doing some prayers which I might read.

By ***Libby Williams*** aged 9,
written after the Lammas Service which took place on her family farm.

Public footpath OS Ref 489242 HR2 8QB Starting at Treago Farm going north-west to Priorswood


New residents in the village have been enquiring about local footpaths. Some people may remember that earlier this year a brave band of volunteers planted thousands of trees in Lady Wood, behind Treago Farm! As these are now growing up, many tucked up under the bracken, it would be most helpful to keep any munching deer at bay if walkers would use the public footpath through the wood.

To access it, go up through Treago Farmyard where you will probably meet Moss, the sheepdog who makes lots of noise but he is just defending his home. Having known him since he was a puppy, he still barks at me but he means no harm! Up through the yard you will see two gates. Take the *righthand gate* into the field and walk along the field edge with the fence close on your left. At the corner of the field, you walk diagonally across to the gate to the left-hand corner of the wood. Paul and Ron Evans have kindly made a path across the field.

Once in the wood, the formal footpath goes straight on to the next farm. We are endeavouring to keep the paths/rides in the wood open, so that people can walk round it and see the new trees as they emerge. We also have plans for a bench so that you can pause and enjoy the view over the village.

Good walking!

Fiona Mynors



Musical Soiree at the Dower House, Treago
Thursday 26th October 7.00pm

Chris Northam and Richard Mynors on the piano
The Abergavenny Wind Quartet
Jane Bovell singer, Tim Bannerman Poet
Programme to include Mozart Quintet for piano and wind
Schubert Fantasia in F minor for piano duet
Songs and poetry

Glass of bubbly in the interval!
Limited tickets £10 from Chris and Richard.
Proceeds in aid of Garway School minibus.

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 4th and 18th October. 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.

Garway Spice Girls

invite you to their

October Coffee Morning

in Garway Hall at 10.15am

on Tuesday 3rd October

Post office, free honesty library

And of course, cake, coffee/tea and good company.

Everyone welcome!

GARWAY HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 28 October 7.00pm

Garway Village Hall

Roll up and enjoy a Hearty Meal
with pudding and entertainment!

Bring your own drinks

£15 per person

Book by 24 October garwayspicegirls@outlook.com

Please let us know if you need a vegetarian meal or have other special requirements or allergies.

Garway Funday Saturday 26th August

What a fabulous afternoon we had on Garway Common for our annual Funday. So many people came and braved the rather strange weather. We experienced a bit of all weathers during the afternoon, sun, wind and a torrential downpour with some hail.

There were so many things to do and see from the dog show and 'have a go agility' to lots of activities for children to do and even clothes and shoes to buy. The tea tent, bbq, bar and Kelsmor ice cream were all popular. The plant stall looked splendid and busy. So many other things were happening it's difficult to mention them all.

The competition tent was a very tense place during the judging with eager anticipation for who had won the best Victoria sandwich or longest runner bean. It was wonderful to see so many entries in all the different classes.

It was really lovely to have musical entertainment throughout the afternoon provided by a number of different artists.

An enormous thank you to everyone who supported us this year. We have some very generous benefactors whose support we really appreciate. Thank you everyone. We have raised £2950 which will be split three ways between Garway Church, Garway School, and the Garway Common Playground further development.

Sue Thomas



Barbie

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 10th
7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00**

To everyone out there saying “Really? Barbie??” and wondering if Flicks has gone all girly and daft, the Flicks team says “think again...” because this film is the

cleverest, funniest, wittiest deconstruction of a cultural icon that you will hope to see. Who would have thought that a dressed up, big-haired plastic image of supposed female perfection could successfully skewer, with joyful satire, the patriarchal world? We begin in a Barbie universe where all females are perfect Barbies and “all problems of feminism and equal rights have been resolved”. The Barbies believe they have helped solve all the inequalities of the real world – until a kind of worm-hole opens between the candy pink haven and reality. Even uber-Barbie, played wonderfully by Margot Robbie, starts getting feelings of despair and develops flat feet and, worse than anything, cellulite. Barbie, accompanied by bland-blond Ken, take a trip to the real world where they discover how things are actually working in the patriarchy. Deliciously subversive and laugh out loud funny, this film is a riot. And it gives us a chance to go wildly pink for the evening with cakes, wine and all the usual pre-film and interval refreshments. Do come, whether you’re into big blond hair and shocking pink jumpsuits or not! www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks.

Editor’s comment: I went to see this with one of my teacher’s daughters and we laughed throughout! A brilliant subversive film but we agreed not ideal for kids.

Storytelling

Austin Keenan has restarted his monthly Storytelling Sessions. They will happen between 2 & 4pm on the second Saturday of the month. These sessions will be for adults, and attention will be given to those who express an interest in learning to tell stories themselves. We're all latent storytellers!

Naturally, children will be welcome on the understanding that they will be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for their wellbeing--- if they get bored, please take them out!

If you're interested, please come from 2-4pm on Saturday 14th October 2023
Refreshments will be available. **Austin**

GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP

Tuesday 17th October 2023

Garway Village Hall

Penny Platts will tell us interesting, intriguing, and little-known stories of Herefordshire Churches

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](http://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.

MOROCCAN EARTHQUAKE

This tragic event will need financial support to enable survivors living in the remote area of the Atlas Mountains to recover their way of life. It is intended to hold a

MOROCCAN FEAST

Saturday 21st October

7.00pm

Garway Village Hall

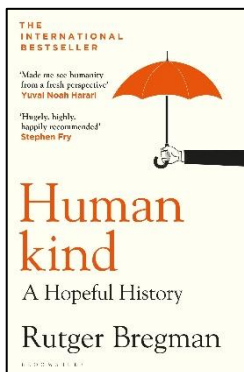
£15 per head; all profits will go to a registered charity **supporting recovery.**

Contact Chris Davies on Mobile: 07846861683 - home 01981580129

Please let us know if you need a vegetarian meal or have other special requirements or allergies.

Green Garway Book Group

Humankind: A Hopeful History by Rutger Bregman



This was ultimately a reassuring book which looks at some cherry-picked historical events and shows them through a more positive context that we may not have considered before - eg. when a war was analysed, few people could actually kill anyone in face-to-face combat, the majority of fatalities were caused by remote operators who had no personal connection with the person being killed.

It shows that actually, most of us are decent, kind people but we are led to believe we are all greedy and out for ourselves.

Our favourite examples were: the boys castaway on an island near to Tonga in the 1960s, who contrary to the *Lord of the Flies* legend actually worked together, collaborated and survived for 15 months, the Norwegian prison that treats its inmates with compassion and respect and has lower reoffending rates as a result and towns which have adopted participatory budgeting, giving everyone a say in how the money is so that they feel engaged and enabled.

It is an easy read but sometimes it is a bit ideological and the handpicked examples illustrate what we pretty much already know, it's a little preaching to the converted.

Rating: 3.5/5

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 9 Oct - *Haven* by Emma Donoghue (author of *Room & The Wonder*)

Mon 13 Nov - *Slowly Down the Ganges* by Eric Newby

Mon 11 Dec - *Village Christmas* by Laurie Lee



Sunday 27th August saw the three club finals take place on the common and what a day it was, with over 8.5 hours of competitive croquet. The three-hour doubles match concluded with Mike Whitfield and Bryan Gildley winning a very close match against Jim Martin and Adrian Childs.

Bryan Gildley had little time to rest as he went straight back on the lawn to play Brent Watkins in the Singles Plate Final as runners up in the singles competition. This was another very close match but after another 3.5 hours Bryan secured his second win of the day.

Finally Simon Collinson and Brian Shorney took to the lawn for the singles final which lasted just 2 hours with Simon claiming victory.

Huge congratulations to all the competitors on a great day of croquet and well done to the winners. Many thanks to those who volunteered on teas, coffees and BBQ, and to all those who visited during the day to support the players and the club.

To become a member or find out about future events please go to www.garwaycroquetclub.com

Lesley Whistance



Advance Notice 19th November 11.00am to 3.00pm

Christmas Market

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

Contact: [hires@garwayhall.org](mailto: hires@garwayhall.org) (subject line Christmas Fair)



ORCOP

The annual Late Summer Bank Holiday Fete, held this year on 28th August, was much enjoyed by those who came, though numbers and revenue were down on previous years, as reported separately. The Archery was a success and thanks go to David Donaldson for providing not only the bows, arrows and target, but also patient instruction to those who had not tried their hand at this before. It is not that easy and, allowing for instruction and retrieval of arrows, one trainee archer can spend 15 minutes shooting three arrows for one pound. So, at £4/hour it will never be a great money spinner! However, it brought a very valuable new activity to the fete and attracted positive feedback. An exhaustive search for lost arrows in the archery field, using a metal detector, yielded one completely buried beneath the grass. There is still one missing, so if anybody finds it, please return it to David!

The fete is in need of new activities of this kind to enliven the rather tired traditional format, so please think about this for next year. As usual, many people rallied round to help and the efforts of all the helpers are gratefully acknowledged.

The Benefice Service held at Orcop on Sunday 3rd September was ably led by the Revd. Rob North and well attended. Thanks go to Rob and also to Richard Mynors for playing the organ and organising the choir. Please be reminded that at our October service, at 11am on October 8th, we celebrate the harvest, followed by the harvest lunch.

Margaret Fletcher, Churchwarden

Flowers and cleaning rota: Mrs J Brown and Mrs A Podesta

Many thanks to all those who supported Orcop's fete on Bank Holiday Monday. £750 was raised for the church. **Julia Garlick**

Orcop Village Hall

Orcop Parish Hall trustees thought it would be a lovely idea to incorporate an apple pressing with its Autumn market on **Saturday 7th October from 02:00pm**. The idea is for people to bring a bag of clean, undamaged apples from the garden, or ask a neighbour if you haven't any. Gill and Tim will press them into apple juice for you. Bring something to take it home in. Don't worry, there will be some juice to buy if you haven't any of your own apples.

The stalls will be the usual fare, cider, homemade cakes, books, preserves, gifts and we will have a seed swop station too.

There will be refreshments to include hot dogs, cakes, teas, coffees soft drinks and beer.

If you would like to book a stall for £5 please email: petamary@hotmail.co.uk
We hope to see you there.

Craft Workshop: basket making, Pewter Casting, felting and weaving: if you are interested please email gill.bannerman@outlook.com

The Christmas Bazaar is on **Saturday 2nd December**, we are booking tables now. Send an email if you are interested: petamary@hotmail.co.uk



Harvest Lunch

Sunday 8th October 2023

Orcop Village Hall

12.30pm for 1pm

Tickets £12.50 (Primary school children £5)

Everyone Welcome

Bring your own drinks

For planning for catering please contact Julia Garlick 01981 580 515

or Margaret Fletcher 01981 580 790



Date for the diary: The Christmas Bazaar is on **Saturday 2nd December**; we are booking tables now. Send an email if you are interested: petamary@hotmail.co.uk



ORCOP PARISH COUNCIL

The following residents have been elected to serve on the Parish Council after the local elections.

Barry Shaw

Mick Murphy

Margaret Serle (Chair)

Peter Garratt (Vice Chair)

We have two nominations who hopefully will be co-opted at the Parish Council meeting on 20th September, to which all are welcome. We are also very pleased to engage our new Parish Clerk, Neil Barrington after Mark Hearne sadly resigned due to health reasons.

For any enquiries please contact: clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org

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: gill.bannerman@outlook.com**

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD



September sees another service in Tretire Church on Sept 17th, this time our Harvest Festival, so our Gleam Team will be busy again cleaning the church before we decorate it for Harvest. Because our Harvest Supper is taking place the following weekend, the windowsills will be full of beautiful flowers but we will not be decorating with perishable foods. We would like nonperishable goods such as jars of jam and chutney brought, to give the theme of harvest. We shall be cleaning the church on the morning of Saturday. 16th September, before decorating. Any help with this will be much appreciated.

The Festival Service will be the following day at the earlier time of 5.00pm in order that families with younger children can join us.

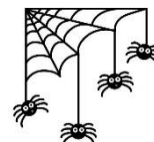
The following weekend we will gather again at Much Birch Community Hall for our Harvest Supper where you can enjoy a hot supper of chicken casserole followed by a choice of fruit crumbles. As usual once supper has been cleared away, Mark Evans will preside in his inimitable way over the *Auction of Produce*, and, for a change this year, there will also be some auctioning of Promises.

Tickets will be £15.00 for adults and teenagers but under 12's will be free.

Then, only two weeks later, on Sunday October 2nd we will have another service at Tretire, this time, the Monthly Benefice Service, when Prebendary Mark Melliush who is the Diocesan Mission Enabler will lead our worship.

If, like me, you have heard the name, "Prebendary" but not known its meaning, a little research tells me that a Prebend was an estate or land belonging to a Cathedral, the revenue from which was used to pay a canon or member of the Cathedral Chapter (the governing body of the Cathedral). That person would then become a Prebendary. The title these days is an honorary one.

So, dear Gleam Team, we shall be gathering again on the morning of Saturday 1st Oct! But hopefully the church will not have attracted too many spiders in two weeks?



Don't forget that later in October, Sat 21st and Sun 22nd, Linda Miles will be opening her beautiful Arboretum in all its Autumnal glory to visitors and will be giving guided tours to those who like to know more about the trees, at 11.00am and 2.00pm each day.

Light refreshments will be served all day in "Linda's Cafe.", which you will see as you arrive. The trees really are spectacular this time of year, and well worth a visit. There will be no admission fee but donations will be given to Tretire and Pencoyd Churches.

Margaret Oubridge on behalf of our PCC.



NETHERTON ARBORETUM

AUTUMN COLOURS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

21ST-22ND OCTOBER 2023

10AM-4PM

NETHERTON HOUSE,
HAREWOOD END,
HEREFORD, HR2 8LA



GUIDED WALKS: 11AM AND 2PM EACH DAY. UNACCOMPANIED STROLLS ANYTIME.

PLEASE WEAR STURDY SHOES ESPECIALLY IF WET.

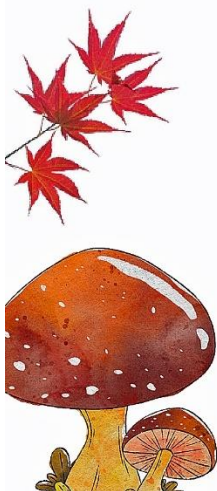
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS: AVAILABLE ALL DAY.

FREE CAR PARKING: AT NETHERTON FARM BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE HONEY FAMILY.

ADMISSION IS FREE BUT DONATIONS IN AID OF PENCOYD & TRETIRE CHURCHES WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED ON THE DAY OR ONLINE (DETAILS BELOW)

TRETIRE AND PENCOYD PCC.
SORT CODE 53-50-41
ACC 76913554 REF: ARBORETUM

linda.v.miles@btinternet.com



HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

Good News



The church path is Grade 2 listed but we have been given permission by the Diocesan Advisory Committee to install a temporary path surface to the church on safety grounds (with the expectation that this will be replaced by a permanent solution in 12 months).

We would like to thank the community and further afield for their generous donations to enable us to do this much needed work.

Please let us know what you think of this new surface by email to:- peter@hentlandhoarwithy.co.uk or contact Jeff or Peter direct.

Hoarwithy Sunday 15th October, Harvest Festival 10.00am.

Followed by lunch at The New Harp

Hentland Harvest Sunday 22nd 11.00am.

Followed by lunch. Pre-booking appreciated.

Jil Jay 01989 730310 or Valerie Lilwall 01989 730232.



hArt at St. Catherine's

For a number of years now we have hosted hArt week in St. Catherine's and as usual they were with us for the first week of September. I am delighted to say access was much better with our new temporary path surface. We welcomed a variety of artists and crafts persons exhibiting, either returning or for the first time. Thank you all! Thanks also go to those who provided refreshments during the week and who work so hard to serve delicious fare to both those visiting and participating in hArt. You are very much appreciated!

Peter Pember Churchwarden

Editor's comment: When Phil Watkins described the path, he called it holy which seemed so apt!!! It is so much easier. The lunches were amazing. I enjoyed them on two days, and what a treat to sit eating in the cloister in the cool of a hot day!



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Wildlife in our Garden

Writing at the beginning of September, summer seems to have come at last! August, as so often for the school holidays has been generally cool, overclouded and inclined to be wet. The wildlife in our garden has been having a bit of a holiday too, partly because we have not put any food out and partly because we have not been doing much observing. Consequently, birds and some mammals have had to go off into the countryside to find their own food and they have not had to be concerned about us watching them.

However, we have seen one squirrel, then two, coming to the hazel tree right outside our kitchen window where we can see them foraging for nuts as they ripen. I never did put up the night vision camera to look for voles, but the blueberries stopped disappearing anyway, so we lost interest in the voles. Moles have made hills now and then, especially after rain, but in general they have not been much trouble. Of more concern are many mice who have been coming into the utility room, for stored bird feed we think, and which we have regretfully decided to kill by trapping, 13 of them so far.

There are fewer butterflies now. The buddleia is going over and has only an occasional red admiral and small white on it, in spite of warm sunshine. The Verbena bonariensis has a pair of small whites dancing over it, and there was another dark butterfly flitting about the apples but I was too lazy to get up and identify it. The bees are still busy and an occasional dragonfly comes to inspect the bit of garden where we sit.



Nature programmes on TV, and common sense, tell me that I only see a minute fraction of the wildlife that is going about its own business in the wider world, in this country and indeed in this garden. I sometimes wonder whether we should be more pro-active and go to greater lengths to find out more of what is under our noses or flying over our heads, instead of being such armchair observers. As winter approaches, we will put out bird feeders again and seeds and various morsels on the low wall outside our French windows. No doubt these will attract the usual birds and other animals that find it worth their while and more convenient, or even life-saving in cold weather, to risk closer contact with humans than to stay away. The RSPB calls it giving them “a helping hand”. In a way though, this makes them less wild, doesn't it? Does that matter?

John Oubridge

Book Review

The Midwife by Tricia Cresswell



If you are interested in 19th century history and in women's lives, then this is the book for you. There is a dual narrative, split between Northumberland and London and it has as its themes the deprivation and squalor of the lives of the poor, and the absence of care for pregnant women, whose lives were in jeopardy from the moment they conceived.

In 1830 a naked woman is found on a Northumberland moor after a violent storm – she has no memory of who she is, nor how she arrived there. All that becomes clear is that she can speak French and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of medical matters and midwifery. If this sounds suspiciously like an old trope of an opening, fear not – there is more to this novel.

In London, at a slightly later date, a Dr Borthwick practices as an accoucheur, aided by midwife Mrs. Bates. He is a philanthropist at heart and takes on the care of many poor women in the slums.

“Joanna” in Northumberland succeeds in extricating herself from the violent life of the farm where she was taken after her discovery on the moor and becomes sidekick to a Dr Soames, also a philanthropic individual. Respected by the community and sheltered from financial privation by Dr Soames, she is thrown into chaos after his death. It is here that we begin to understand the link between the Northumberland and the London narratives; where we become aware of her unusual and imaginative solution to her troubles.

There are many layers to this narrative – it has mystery and suspense, whilst also engaging the reader with the harsh realities of the era, where women were uneducated, disenfranchised and forbidden to practice medicine, and ran a high risk of dying in childbirth. The medical details are authentic and raw and bring into focus the sorry situation of women at that time.

It is a highly successful blend of fact and fiction; of fluent story-telling and characterisation alongside fascinating historical detail.

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

Why is it that on returning from just a week away, the garden suddenly looks overgrown and unkempt? It can't have changed much, but after a few days elsewhere, I am seeing it with new eyes and want to start making changes. It is the same with the house, which always feels far too full, mostly of books, and at this time of year, bowls of overripe apples and tomatoes. We have been staying in a brand-new lodge house on a farm and have had the luxury of spacious light-filled rooms and a lawned garden where the dogs could charge around without doing any damage.

The upshot of our holiday is that I want to get more light into our book-lined dining room, which is dingy on all but the brightest of days. To achieve this, the ailing lilac tree outside the window must go. It has been slowly dying over the past few years and it is time to remove it completely. That will enable me to dig over the area properly and remove the brambles that have taken up residence amongst its roots and the rose which clammers amongst its branches. I have no idea what variety of rose it is, but it sends up annoying and very prickly shoots throughout the border. It produces beautiful pale pink flowers like crumpled tissues, which then die in the most hideous way possible – great soggy brown clumps of rotten petals that cling and refuse to fall. The rest of the border is carpeted with *Geranium macrorrhizum*, a useful ground cover plant especially in shade, but here, in front of the window undeniably dull. In amongst it all are a handful of spring bulbs: bluebells, narcissi and aconites. I have no idea how I will replant it yet but certainly nothing above knee-height, perhaps simply more bluebells and aconites for spring and annuals for summer and autumn.



Each summer, I always grow a few annuals that I haven't tried before, some more successfully than others. This year's success has been the annual grass, *Panicum* 'Frosted Explosion', which has beautiful airy flowers just like fibre optic lamps – gorgeous in the border and lovely in a flower arrangement too. I grew mine as plug plants and then planted them out – far easier than trying to distinguish the seedlings from other grasses if sown directly in the border.

Julie Davies

A Peek in the Bookshop



It's that time of year, the shop is drowning in the pre-Christmas releases and the Cheltenham Literary Festival is looming – it's hard to pick the highlights! 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 Stroke of the Pen – The Lost Stories by Terry Pratchett

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New Non-Fiction – Unruly: A History of England's Kings and Queens by David Mitchell

David Mitchell may be better known as a comedian and team captain on TV's *Would I Lie to You*, but his new book takes a thoughtful yet funny delve into the founding fathers and mothers of England. He explores how our monarchs, while acting as feared rulers firmly guiding their subjects' destinies, were in reality a bunch of lucky people who were mostly as silly and weird in real life as they appear today in their portraits.

New Children's – Skrimisli by Nicola Davies and Jackie Morris

We are big fans of Jackie Morris in the shop so we are very excited about this upcoming book by the equally talented Nicola Davies that Jackie has illustrated. *Skrimisli* is a fantasy adventure story for the 10+ age group.

Event – Creating Community Health by Dr Simon Lennane

Wednesday 4 October at 7pm, St Mary's Church, Ross on Wye

Local GP Simon Lennane will give a talk about how community-based interventions can bridge the gap between health services and the voluntary sector to create more sustainable, healthy communities. Simon's book includes a case study of how these methods have been used in Ross-on-Wye.

It's Bookshop Day too on Saturday 14 October so make a bookseller's day and come and see us in store! And don't forget there's always the completely free option of audio books with BorrowBox through your local library.

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Julie Hudson, Bookseller at Rossiter Books

Chuckle Corner

As someone who taught English for more than 30 years, I enjoyed this from the Times!

Mark of approval

Sir, I used to teach how to use the apostrophe (letter, Aug 14) to adult students and would round off the lesson by writing on the board: "Those things in the corner are my husband's." I would then get them to remove the apostrophe and look at the resulting sentence. Their laughter at the image this produced let me know that they had understood the difference an apostrophe makes.

Ruth Scott
Abingdon, Oxon

As always, we are indebted to **Peter Garratt** for his selection from the Edinburgh Festival:

The most British thing I've ever heard? A lady who said, "Well I'm sorry, but I don't apologize".

Last year I heard a great joke about inflation. But it's hardly worth it now.

How do coeliac Germans greet each other? *Gluten Tag*.

I entered the "How not to surrender" competition and won hands down.

Nationwide must have looked a bit silly when they opened their first branch.



Dates for the diary:

October

- 1 Benefice Communion
- 3 Garway Spice Girls coffee morning
- 4 Event – Creating Community Health by Dr Simon Lennane, St Mary’s Church, Ross on Wye
- 4 Garway Stitchers
- 7 Orcop Hall Apple Pressing and Autumn Market
- 8 Harvest Lunch, Orcop
- 8 Across the Pond Hoarwithy Singers Concert
- 9 Green Garway Book Group - Haven by Emma Donoghue
- 10 Prescription collection
- 10 Flicks in the Sticks – Barbie
- 14 Bookshop Day
- 14 Storytelling
- 15 Hoarwithy Harvest Festival
- 17 Garway Heritage Group
- 18 Orcop Coffee Morning
- 18 Garway Stitchers
- 21 Open Arboretum, Netherton, Pencoyd
- 22 Open Arboretum, Netherton, Pencoyd
- 21 Moroccan Feast
- 22 St Weonards All Age Harvest Service and Lunch
- 22 Hentland Harvest Service
- 26 Musical Soiree at the Dower House, Treago
- 28 Garway Harvest Supper

Future events for your diary

November

- 13 Green Garway Book Group - Slowly Down the Ganges by Eric Newby
- 18 LOAF (Little Orcop's Autumn Frolics)
- 19 Garway Hall Christmas Market

December

- 2 Orcop Christmas Bazaar
- 11 Green Garway Book Group - Village Christmas by Laurie Lee

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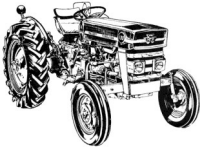
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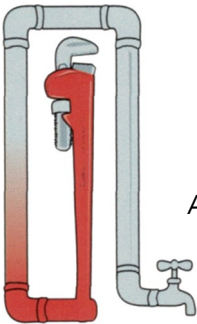
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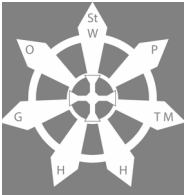
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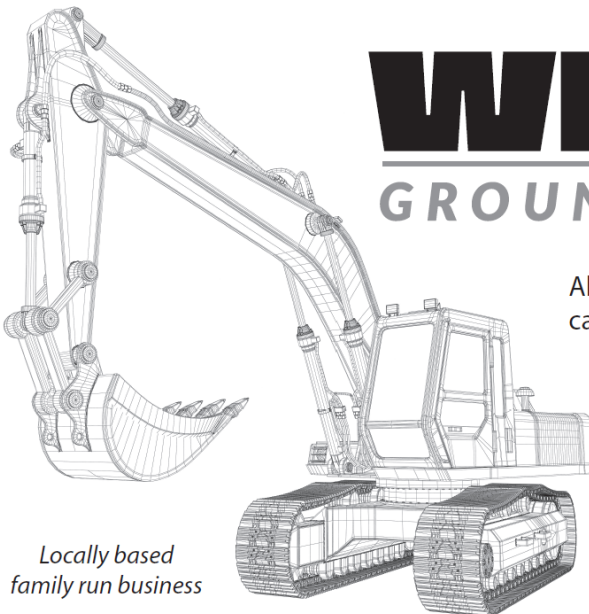
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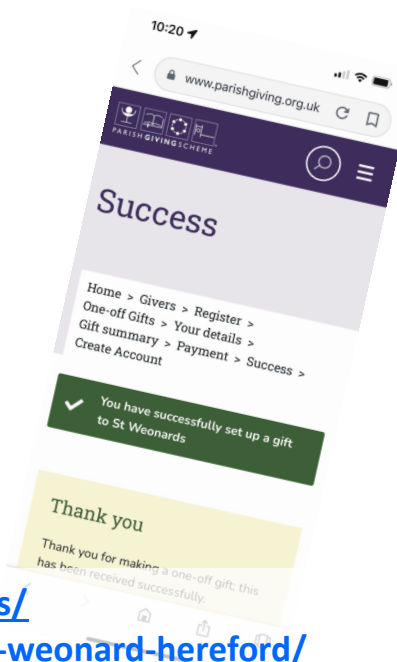
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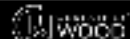
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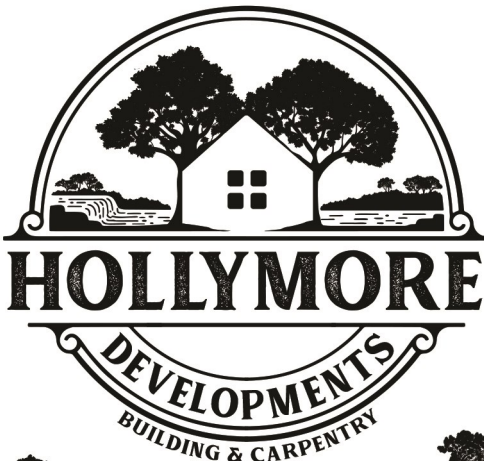


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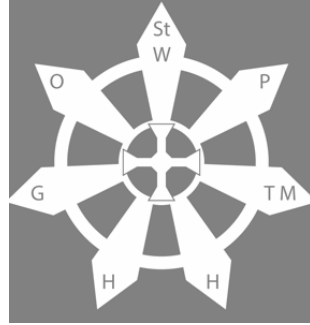
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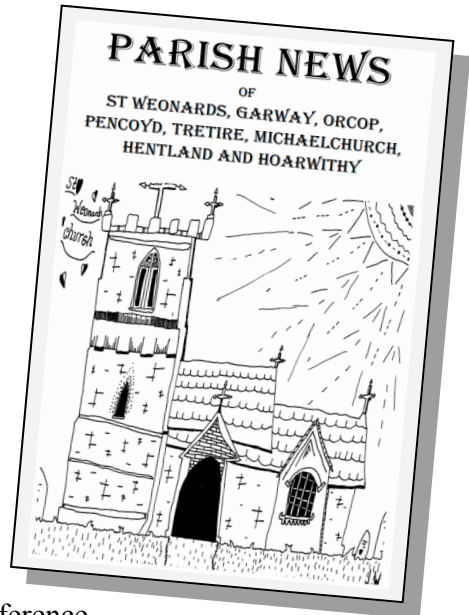
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