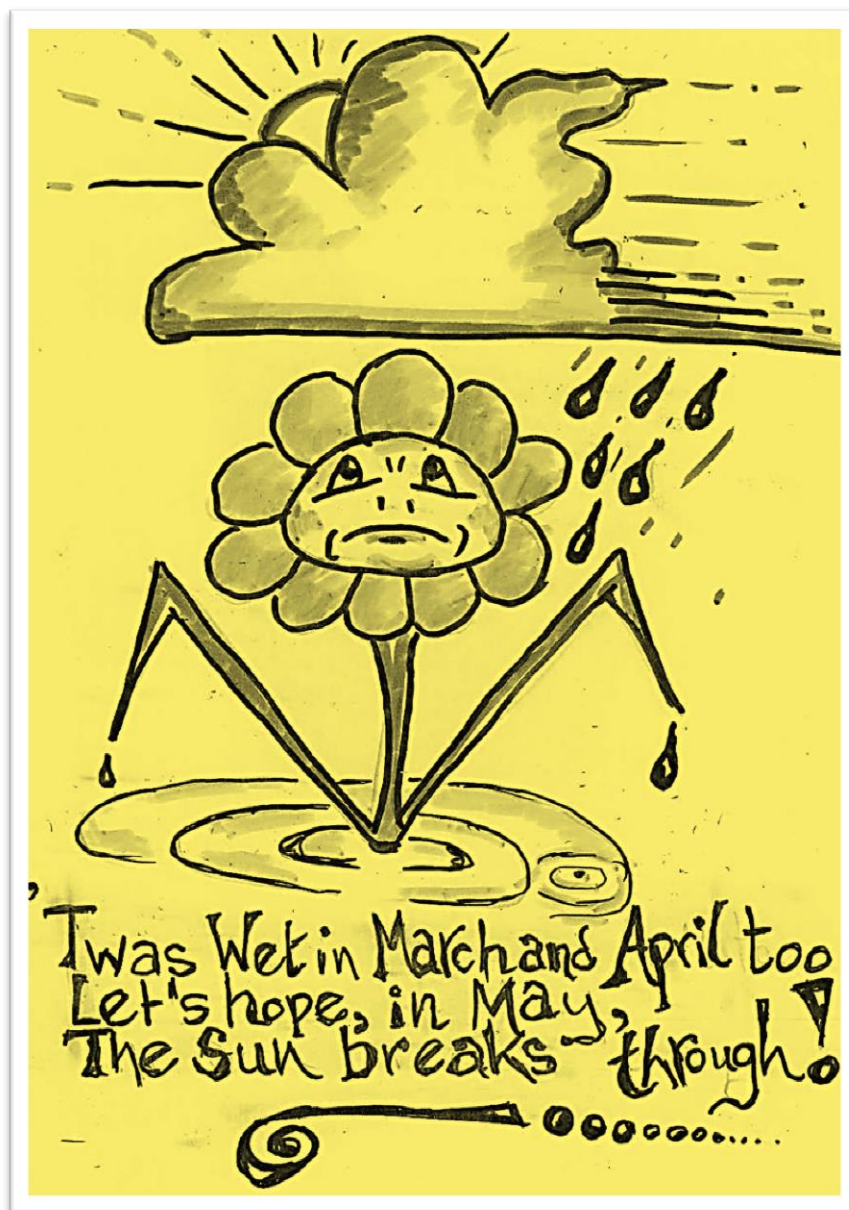


PARISH NEWS

OF

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

MAY 2024



DRAWING BY PETER GARRATT

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CONTACTS IN THE ST WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

Churchwardens

St. Weonards	Richard Mynors	01981 580208
	Anna Williams	07779 006994
Orcop	Margaret Fletcher	01981 540790
Garway	Tracy Somerville	01981 580263
Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm	01989 730201
Hoarwithy	Peter Pember	01432 840254
	Jeff Goulding	01432 840492
Hentland	Valerie Lilwall	07775 611128
	Phil Watkins	07831 317904

Local Contacts

Editor Parish Magazine	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
Group Choir	Sir Richard Mynors	01981 580208
Bellringing	Mr Peter Hallewell	01981 580203
Royal British Legion	Bea Morris	07932 068363
Orcop Hall Bookings	Julia Garlick	01981 580515
Youth Group, Tear Fund	Fay Rowlands	01600 750242
St. Weonards Hall	Anna Williams	07779006994
St Weonards Pre-school	Anna Williams	01981 580352
Singing Tree choir	Hilary Smallwood	01600 614012
Garway Hall Bookings		hires@garwayhall.org
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones	01600 750273
@Garway	Graham Bevan	01981 580215
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson	01600 750465
Much Dewchurch		
Gardening Club	Linda Ashton	01981 540804
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Rigler	07940 030 8696
Dore CommunityTransport		0345 2020144
St Weonards Group website		www.stw.org.uk

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Birch Ward	Toni Fagan (Green)	tonifagan@btinternet.com Office hours 01981 540721
Dinedor Hill Ward	David Davies	david.davies2@herefordshire.gov.uk 07931 733336 15 Hever Road, Lower Bullingham, Hereford HR2 6EW

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)		0870 1704000 01978 367333

West Mercia Police

Safer Neighbourhood Officers: PC 21260 Martin Gillett 07970 544262,
PC 21349 Chris Yarwood 07773 042896, PC 21847 Jenny Rees 07929 783693, PC 21946 Jack Davies
07971 051386.

Police Community Support Officers: PCSO 6324 Carol Marsh 07890 524667, PCSO 40259 Hayley
Warne 07773 052560, PCSO 40272 Lewis Thomas 07773 051508, PCSO 40559 Tally Hunt 07773
054156.

Only call 999 when a crime is in progress or a life is in danger. Call 101 otherwise.

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
Hentland/Hoarwithy:	Mr and Mrs Pember One Eleven, Hoarwithy	01432 840254
Orcop:	Mrs M Fletcher 3 Wilkes Row, Orcop	01981 540790
Tretire/Pencoyd:	Mrs Meg Oubridge Tretire Smithy	01981 580233
St. Weonards:	Mrs P Craig 8 Mount Way St Weonards	01981 580433

Contributions by email to archenfieldmag@btinternet.com

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Garway:	Mark Hearne clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk Parish council website www.garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	01981 251887
Orcop:	Neil Barrington 07380 132702. clerk@orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk Parish council website www.orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk	
St. Weonards:	clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org Parish Council website www.stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Llanwarne:	Neil Barrington ... 07380 132702 clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk www.llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	
Ballingham Bolstone & Hentland:	Nicky Mackenzie 07581 353103 clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk Parish council website www.ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk	

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

PARISH NEWS

THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

For enquiries on baptisms, funerals and wedding please contact the Rural Dean: Rev. Sheila Anthony, sheila@saintintraining.co.uk, 07775588716 and your churchwarden

Letter from Bishop Richard

Dear Friends,

May marks the end of the Easter season and the beginning of what is affectionately known as 'ordinary time' in the Church calendar. The pivot happens at the feast of Pentecost on May 19th this year. Every Sunday is always a celebration of the resurrection, so it's hard to see what is ordinary about it. The events of the Christ's death and resurrection are the turning point of history. It is a world-shattering event that means life can never be the same again. The book of Acts tells us how the disciples' lives were turned upside down by it. In their grief at the loss of Jesus a number were considering returning to their previous occupations. Once they encountered the risen Lord, they decided to change the world instead!

However, it was not just historical events which changed things. It was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Christian faith has always been a supernatural one. In the struggles to fill rotas, find volunteers, maintain buildings and serve our communities we can easily forget this. If the Christian life was just a set of rules to obey, religious acts to observe and an institution to maintain, it would not have lasted very long.

Trusting in the Holy Spirit to empower and lead is less safe than seeking to control events ourselves. Periodically in the history of the Church the Holy Spirit has broken through in ways that have upended our conventional way of doing things. It happened in the Wesleyan revival of the 18th century, numerous mini revivals in the church (of which some happened in our diocese) and in the great outpouring in Azusa Street in 1906 that gave birth to Pentecostalism. This is now the third largest stream in the Church today. In many ways it is hard to see how our current institutional predicament can be served by strategic thinking alone. I am praying for another (likely messy!) outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Diocese of Hereford. Only the Holy Spirit can give us the courage we need for the evangelistic challenge. Only the Holy Spirit can turn the hearts of those currently indifferent to Christian things to help see their need for the Lord. So, 'Come Holy Spirit and kindle the hearts of your people with the fire of your love'. Today, we need that more than ever.

+Richard

SERVICE ROTA FOR MAY

Sunday 5 th May	10.00am	Hentland, Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th May	10.00am 11.00am	St Weonards, All Age Orcop, Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th May	10.00am 6.30pm	Hoarwithy, Holy Communion Tretire Evening Worship
Sunday 26 th May	9.15am 11.00am	Hentland Holy Communion Hoarwithy Baptism
Sunday 2 nd June	10.00am	Tretire Benefice Communion

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the Rural Dean:
Rev. Sheila Anthony, Sheila Anthony randaruraldean@gmail.com 07775588716 and the
relevant churchwarden.

Sunday May 5th Benefice Communion 10.00am

Hentland Church



This is the only service in our parishes. Do join us to share worship. All welcome!

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



21st May Carolyn Trew 01600 750227

Magazine News

Please send WORD documents as our software cannot copy PDFs. Please keep fonts and presentation as simple as possible! Flyers in wonderful colour really do not work! Articles of general interest are always welcome. Let the inner writer in you flourish! Do you have an unusual activity or hobby? Tell us about it, please!

Village Pages

ST WEONARDS

It was lovely to have a very full church at our Easter Communion, and the opportunity to have time to catch up afterwards with many family members returning home for the festival. Many thanks to Canon Julian Reindorp for celebrating communion for us.

As I write, the specialists are installing the new sound system in church. This is extremely exciting and is the first stage of improving our AV system. For those who attend our services, they will know that we have had quite a lot of problems with the live streaming and 'hiccups' when we try to access videos! Therefore we are greatly looking forward to using the new equipment.

Continuing with the ongoing maintenance of the church, the Muldowney family builders have completed some essential pointing to the outside walls and are replacing some slipped tiles. Steve Hyde our electrician has also carried out some repairs to heaters and the lightning conductor is being checked.

As a parish we support the work of the Revs Simon and Sarah Cawdell in Uganda. Simon helps with agricultural development and Sarah is Principal of a theological college. The Herbert family visited Uganda over Easter and stayed with the Cawdells. We look forward to hearing how the work is going. Alex spent some of her gap year teaching in Uganda and it will be interesting to hear her reflections on the changes in that country firsthand.

A date for your diary **2nd June 2.00pm Open Garden and Vintage Cars at Treago**. We are still hoping for some more vintage cars. So far, we have some coming from the Forest of Dean and standing engines as well. Let us know if there are any others about. We promise you a warm welcome! By then surely it will have stopped raining, and the field will be dry?!

Richard Mynors, churchwarden.

Short Mat (Indoor) Bowls at St Weonards



Are you interested in and would you support the introduction of Short Mat Bowls (SMB) at St Weonards Village Hall? SMB is a very popular indoor recreational as well as social activity and can be played by all age groups of men, women and children. The Herefordshire SMB Association is very supportive of starting a club in St Weonards and would provide, initially, all equipment, teaching sessions and help to get us up and running.

To test the level of interest locally, we are holding an Open Meeting at St Weonards Village Hall on MONDAY, MAY 20th at 7.30pm when the County Association Secretary, Ian Roe will make a brief presentation on SMB followed by a Q&A session with questions and queries from the floor.

So, if you should wish to find out more, come along to the meeting. Neither of us has ever played before so everyone will be a beginner (probably!). If you are interested but cannot attend the meeting, please contact either Andy Powell (07977 519050) or David White (08534 459277). Should the idea of having SMB at St Weonards attract sufficient interest, we could be up and running by the autumn and being an indoor sport, rain is not an issue.

David White

COFFEE MORNING 9th MAY

St Weonards Village Hall 10.00 to 12.00



Coffee Morning – come and join us at St Weonards village hall on Thursday 9th May, 10am to 12noon for coffee and cake.

All ages welcome to meet friends old and new.

Gwyneth Williams

Cathedral visits

In the week before Easter I went with our family to the Passion Play performed by local people in the cathedral. It was an amazingly moving experience. As we were a little late arriving, the cathedral was full, but as usual with Church of England congregations, the front seats were empty! So we were lucky to be so close to the action.

The stage rather fittingly was directly under the 'crown of thorns'. The story of Jesus's last week from Palm Sunday through his trial, execution and resurrection was simply told. The atmosphere was electric as the story unfolded, and the intense quiet of so many people listening and watching in the cathedral was extraordinary.

The play emphasised the political conflicts amongst the leaders of Jerusalem and the fears of civil unrest. It reminded me of visiting the crowded, old walled city of Jerusalem when on a pilgrimage many years ago. When you consider the numbers of visitors for the Passover celebration in Jesus's day in that crowded place, it was easy to imagine the potential for trouble feared by Pontius Pilate.

Two particular moments of the play amongst many stand out for me. One was the shout of fury from Pontius Pilate-Rev Nicholas Lowton- as he pointed at the high priests and rejected any responsibility for Jesus's execution. The other, from the back of the cathedral, was the chilling sound of large nails being hammered into the cross.

The Chancellor of the cathedral Rev James Pacey had been a producer in the theatre before being ordained, and his enthusiasm and direction led to this wonderful production.

On a lighter note I went with my granddaughters to *Messy Church* in the cathedral which was great fun with lots of children and their families! Plenty of different craft activities were based on the Easter theme which gave me some ideas for our All-Age worship! We gathered round the lifelike tomb with its stone rolled away as James Pacey told the Easter story. We also sang an extremely active song/ hymn with actions (I am not quite able to get up off the floor to sing our part like I used to, but the children could!) and we also enjoyed pizza!

If you have children or grandchildren of primary school age, do consider taking them to the next *Messy Church* which is in half term on 30 May, 12 noon – 2pm.

Fiona Mynors

GARWAY **Garway Church**

Although there have been no regular services at Garway church during 2023/24 we have got together for the combined Benefice Advent service in December. This was well attended, and it was good to see lots of new faces.

Last June, as requested by The Grand Priory of England - Knights Templar group, a service, approved by Bishop Richard was held, when new members of the group took vows and were sworn in.

The church as a place of pilgrimage is thriving, due to the Knights Templar connections and the "*Teas and Tours*" that are organised by the Friends of Garway Church.

The Friends of Garway Church continue to be a valuable asset to the life of the church. Regular joint meetings are held with the Friends and the PCC who are working towards more regular services and how to grow the church in faith. The Friends deal with the general maintenance of the church building and grounds, and organise the flower, grass cutting and cleaning rotas. They are also committed to improving the church environment, to make it a welcoming and peaceful experience to worshippers and visitors.

Our ancient church is inevitably in need of significant repair. The Friends have been working hard to obtain grants and funding for work to begin on replacing lost and damaged tiles to the tower roof and extensive repointing of the stonework. A faculty list B application has been completed and is awaiting approval from the diocese. Quotes from accredited builders for the repairs are in place. However, the timing of this work is dictated by the presence of bats. As the hibernation period is now over, it is hoped that work will begin in the autumn.

I would like once again to give wholehearted thanks to the work that The Friends do to ensure that St Michael's continues to be a special place for people to come to. The church is a place where our community can come together, to gather in friendship, to enjoy its special atmosphere of peace and calm, and of course to worship.

Tracy Somerville, churchwarden

Garway Stickers



Our dates for May are 1st, 15th and the 29th. From, 10.30 – 12.30. Our next two panels are progressing well. As always you are welcome to join us, why not add your own stitched leaf to the panel? There is plenty of help on hand to guide you. Don't forget to look at the panel which is displayed just by the bar of the Community Hall. For more details, contact **Tracy** 01981 580263.

Archenfield Arts is back for 2024 at Garway Church

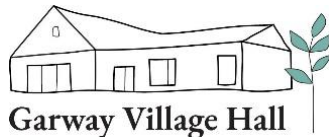
11th May, 11am – 5pm

Lots of wonderful performances – singing, reciting, playing instruments... all ages, beginners and experienced.

- **this year we have five choirs!** -

Just roll up for a day of fun – listen to your neighbours and friends sharing their talents. The splendid Garway Spice Girls will keep us all fed and watered. Come along and make a day of it. It is not too late to take part – rapturous applause guaranteed.

Contact archenfieldarts@gmail.com to arrange a slot.



Garway Village Hall

There was a good turnout for the presentation by the Herefordshire Campaign for Rural England on the evening of 5th April. The focus was on the state of the local rivers and brooks, what causes the pollution and how things might be improved, in spite of the absence of active enforcement. The CPRE seeks to work in partnership with local farmers and producers, and they handed out a useful leaflet on what we, as individual citizens can do to help. <https://www.cpreherefordshire.org.uk/>

Look out for the Murder Mystery Night on 17th and 18th May; and the 1940s Blackout Party on June 8th. Details on facebook page and website, where you can also find information about the variety of exercise classes to suit all ages, Post Office times, Talk Hub (where you can access useful local information and benefits and other advice, as well as enjoy coffee, cake and company) and the Spice Girls monthly coffee mornings..... and so much more.

Garway Village Hall continues to play host to a huge variety of community activities: check it out on facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/585355245209539>) or on the website (<https://www.garwayhall.org/>).



Garway Coffee Morning

Tuesday 7th May

From 10.15am in Garway Village Hall

**Now that summer is nearly here, please join us for
coffee and tea, yummy cake and good company.**

Post Office available, and free library

Hope to see you there!



What a change we had last month with the incredible "*Stringfellows*". It's going to be really hard to follow them.

On Friday and Saturday, 17th and 18th of May there's going to be a MURDER and you are all invited. Some of our village Thespians are presenting a murder mystery called "The Body of the Play" a play in three acts coupled with a delicious two course meal.

Come along with some friends, or join up with others on the night, put your heads together to see if you can work out "who done it". Because there's a meal involved this is a ticket only event.

Tickets, at £20 each from christinedavies@hotmail.co.uk You don't want to miss this.

The remaining months before our summer holidays continue with our policy of bringing the widest range of live music to your doorstep. We start off on Saturday 1st of June with "*Scotch Corner*" a power trio that will have you dancing the night away to all that's good in feelgood music including blues and rock. This band is led by George Jones, son of the legendary guitarist Mickey Jones.

Following this on Friday 12th of July we have "Kaysha Louvain" a singer/songwriter who has performed on various BBC radio stations. This will be different again as Kaysha gives us a passionate and soulful evening performance inspired by the storytelling of country music. This will be a nice gentle evening with a truly wonderful performer, so kick off your shoes and relax.

We would like to say thank you to every one of you who come along and support us, without you we couldn't afford to get the quality acts that we do. See you at some of our forthcoming evenings.

Graham Bevan



TUESDAY May 14th 7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00
THE TASTE OF THINGS

You won't just watch this film – you'll find yourself taking a deep soothing sensory bath in it. *THE TASTE OF THINGS* tells a story of love, devotion and food in a way that only a French film could. Juliette Binoche and Benoit Magimel, (one-time real-life partners), play Eugenie and Dodin, he, the master of a French manor house sometime towards the end of the nineteenth century, she, his cook of twenty years. Surrounded by French countryside and birdsong which make you think you've stepped into a Renoir. Dodin and Eugenie share a devoted passion for food and its preparation. He is a gourmand and she is a culinary artist. They are also occasional lovers with Eugenie refusing all Dodin's offers of marriage; she likes things as they are. Their love is expressed through the food, the care in its preparation, the fleeting joy of its taste in the mouth. Don't expect bad behaviour, devious people, dramatic cliffhangers – there aren't any. Instead, the sound of sizzling butter, the smell of fresh herbs, the golden light of a French summer and the love message that is conveyed through feeding an ailing lover with an omelette on a spoon will immerse you in a delicious love story - one which won best director for Tran Anh Hung at the Cannes Film Festival. This is our last film before the summer break, and we'll try to equal the glories of the film with our table of delicious cakes, good wines, reviving teas and coffees and juice from a Herefordshire orchard. More information on www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks

Corinne Westacott

Garway Piano Trio

The programme is firmly embedded in the final quarter of the 19th century, with music by Cesar Franck, Tchaikovsky and Dvorak. With one step, we test the 20th century with Bartok's arrangement of *Romanian Dances* for violin and piano. The original tunes were recorded on a phonograph by Bartok in peasant villages and can be listened to online.

The item not involved in the folk idiom of more than half the programme is the *Sonata* by Franck, heard here in its version for 'cello and piano. Written late in the composer's life, it was intended as a wedding gift to an old friend. It exudes a rich warmth and passion which makes it one of the best loved pieces in the late romantic era. The programme begins with the *Dumka* by Tchaikovsky for solo piano, a rarely played masterpiece depicting scenes from country life.

Finally we come Dvorak's farewell to his native land before his move to USA. He played this trio in 40 farewell concerts. You can hear in the music, his love of his Bohemian heritage and everything he is about to leave behind.

Do please support this event.....details are overleaf.

Chris Northam

Garway Piano Trio
The Bishop's Palace, Hereford
Friday 24th May 7.30pm



Barbara Kinnaird, violin

Roz Gladstone, cello

Christopher Northam, piano

Tchaikovsky: Dumka

Franck: Sonata

Bartok: Romanian Dances

Dvorak: Dumky Trio

Tickets £15 (£5) christophernortham@hotmail.com

and on the door

Green Garway Book Group

Here's our review of *The Arbornaut (A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us)* by Meg Lowman.

Dr Meg Lowman is an inspirational scientist, not only for her studies on tree canopies around the world but for her ability to be at the top of her field in a very male dominated world. She's obviously a very driven and focussed woman, and as a child she had the support of her family in pursuing her botanic dreams. She's incredibly brave and took a year's course in Scotland then set off for Australia where she married into a farming family.

However she soon realised that her scientific work clashed with the family's view that a woman should be in the home baking cakes and keeping house. She headed home to the US with her two sons, bringing them up as a single mum.

She's very innovative with her tree climbing designs and a lot of what we know today about tree health is based on what she has discovered in the treetops. She talks a lot about how much she has achieved as a woman and the misogyny she has faced, and it is truly remarkable ... however the book is a bit too heavy in leaf and tree science and doesn't make for a particularly compelling read.

Rating: 3/5

If you're interested in coming along to the next book group please 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. **Julie Hudson**

13 May - A Room Made of Leaves by Kate Grenville

10 June - The Running Hare by John Lewis-Stempel

Murder Mystery Evening



"Body of the Play" By Eileen Clark

Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May

Garway Village Hall

£20 per person, including two course dinner.

Doors open 7pm

Tickets only available by contacting:

Christine Davies 01981580129/07846861683 christinesdavies@hotmail.co.uk

All profits to village hall and other local charities

Date for the diary: Sunday JUNE 9th 1pm – 5pm. Open Gardens Broad Oak.

More info. From - broadoakneighbours@gmail.com

ORCOP

Our thanks go to the Thomas family for repairing and clearing the stile on the footpath where it exits the churchyard. It is very good to see this footpath operational again.

We aimed to net the belltower to inhibit nesting birds and we have found a suitable person with the acrobatic skills to do it. However, the Jackdaws are already nesting, so we will leave them in peace until the fledglings have left, then clear up the mess and net the tower against further avian incursions.

Otherwise, we patiently await the arrival of our new incumbent priest.

Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden

Flowers and cleaning rota: Mrs. S. Griffiths

Owl Community Lunch

The Owl Community lunch continues to be held in Orcop Parish Hall on the first Wednesday of the month. All are welcome to join us for a hot two course lunch with a refreshing cup of tea all for £10.0. We also hold a raffle to aid the funds. We meet at 12.30 and eat at 1pm. The next lunch will be on May the 1st. Please let me know if you have special diet requirements so we can meet them.

Jane 01981 241310.

Orcop Parish Hall AGM

Orcop Parish hall will be holding the AGM on Wednesday 26th June at 7:30pm.

Everybody is welcome to come along and if anyone would be interested in joining the hall trustees, or become a friend we'd love to hear from you.

The hall committee holds fundraising events throughout the year, and it would be great to have some new members to join us.

Peta Long

Save The Dates: Anniversary Concert at the Hall on Saturday 13th July with **KJ and The SoulShakers**. More details nearer the time.

Christmas Stall Holders. Book a table for Christmas Bazaar. Email petmary@hotmail.co.uk for more details.

Orcop Hall

Orcop Hall Craft Workshops

Weaving – 2 days with Carey Godwin ♦ Saturday & Sunday 18th & 19th May

10 – 4 each day ♦ course fee £100 ♦ (£95 if booked before 20th April)

Each participant will learn how to set up a Rigid Heddle Loom and weave a scarf length piece of fabric to take home. All materials and equipment will be provided and are included in the course fee.

To book, or for more info - contact Gill Bannerman – gill.bannerman@outlook.com

GARAGE SALE

SAT 4TH MAY 11am TO 2pm

Many and various items, all must go.

Tools, toys, furniture, ornaments, fabrics, china, kitchen stuff, clothes, dog cage, oddments, books, vinyl records, much more.

BRACKEN HOUSE, SADDLEBOW ORCOP HR2 8HD

01981 241310

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

I have just returned from visiting Tretire church to check on the Easter flower arrangements, which are still all looking fresh and colourful after the week since our Easter service there. The cold but light and airy church is good for maintaining the flowers for several weeks and they will be a welcoming sight for any visitors.

We were delighted to welcome over 30 people to our Easter service plus 5 children, and so grateful to Rev Brian Phillips for coming to lead our worship and make an Easter service possible in our little church. We had some fun and games with our hymn singing for that morning, as the list compiled on paper for the use of Rev Phillips did not fully correspond to the numbers for hymns displayed on the hymn board. Our congregation therefore struggled to fit the words for our first hymn to the tune of the second hymn, owing to a discrepancy created by the organist, (ie me) who had written both the paper list, and put the numbers up on the board, but in a different order.

I remained blissfully unaware of the consternation I had caused within the congregation, and played all three verses of the hymn tune for second hymn, whilst thinking to myself what pathetic singing it was from 30 people on this Joyful Eastertide! However, our Churchwarden, Elizabeth did come forward before the playing of the second hymn, to check whether the numbers of the remaining hymns were correctly displayed on the hymn board, thus ensuring we did not have a repeat of that fiasco! The rest of the service proceeded without further hitches. I haven't been dismissed as organist, but I suspect our Churchwarden will be checking up on hymn board numbers before future services!

Hymns for services are sometimes chosen by the priest or lay person leading the service, but the task is sometimes allocated to the organist. Traditionally, it has fallen to the organist in our parish, and I do spend a fair amount of time choosing hymns which appear to have some connection to the bible readings for that Sunday, but there is always a worry that members of the congregation won't know the hymns I have chosen. This is particularly true at our Evening services where we are often fewer in number, so I have suggested that those people who come to Evening Prayer at Pencoyd and Tretire churches, should bring a list of hymns they particularly like, for me to include at future services, ensuring that at least one person will sing them! I repeat that invitation now. Either email a list of hymns you know and like to oubridge@phonecoop.coop or bring a list with you to an Evening Prayer service.

Meg Oubridge

Many people in the parishes will remember Sue and David Pope. Sue is now hoping to find a good home for their piano as she rationalises the space in her home.

Beulhoff upright piano. (C 1910) free to a welcoming home! It has been regularly tuned; is in very good condition and has a pleasant tone. Enquiries to 01432 860003

HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

Our Easter Sunday service was well attended, and I would like to thank Archdeacon Derek Chedzey for officiating, Simon our organist, our singers, all those who took part and for the lovely floral decorations and Easter Garden. Thank you all for making the service a fitting reminder of our Saviour's Resurrection. He is Risen!

Peter Pember And Jeff Goulding

Date for the diary: Saturday 15th June 7.30pm. Concert- Musical and Amicable Society perform *Fiddlers Three*, a programme of baroque music from the time of Charles II. Tickets-£20 under 18s and full-time students free. Book via website www.amicables.co.uk or pay on the door. Enquiries: 01989 730439

Wildlife in our Garden

With the arrival of some warmer weather, and in spite of or perhaps because of, the constant damp, there are now numerous insects about: bumble bees, honey bees and the interesting ashy mining bees which I wrote about two years ago, hovering over the lawn. We also regularly see on our feeders: blue and great tits, chaffinches, house sparrows, a pair of great spotted woodpeckers, and more recently goldfinches. On the low wall where we put seeds are: dunnocks, chaffinches, house sparrows, the cock pheasant and occasionally a wren.

The two squirrels that we thought were probably a mating pair are still coming regularly, usually one or the other, but not both together. As we had read that they have litters in March, we assumed the missing one was the female, up in its dray with the young. However, we also read that only the female looks after them, so seeing them swapping about, and later seeing both together down here in the garden, seemed to suggest that they never were a breeding pair, or that the books had it wrong, or that the young were now mature enough to look after themselves.

Another mystery is the tale of "Ratty" the rat. We believe he was living under the compost bin where there were likely holes in the ground. I always thought that rats were normally nocturnal, but every day throughout March, this one would run along a short length of hedge, emerge from the long grass, run to the patch under the feeders, run to the low wall and having scooped up a piece of nut or seeds, run diagonally back to the compost bin, all in broad daylight. We also believed that rats lived in families or

colonies, but in all the time he was out and about, some six weeks, we never caught a glimpse of any other rat.

We had many times of entertainment watching this rat, especially when he encountered the squirrels. He nearly always challenged one or both by running towards them, whereupon the nearest squirrel would become very frisky, flick its tail and jump about. Sometimes the squirrel would run a short distance away, stop and jump about a bit then come back to feeding, or sometimes flee up a tree. We never saw the rat give way, even though the squirrels were at least as big. They all gave way to the cock pheasant though!

All the accounts online and everyone we spoke to, assured us that rats were never solitary for long, and even if he hadn't a family yet, we'd soon be over-run. This led to a small family disagreement. Margaret began to worry that we should be doing something, while I argued that, so far he wasn't doing any harm. In six weeks we'd never seen any other rats, and anyway received wisdom wasn't always right. However I finally relented, and about a week ago we put some sachets of rat poison in a box and put it near his run. For about four days Ratty continued to keep up his normal routine, while inspection of the box revealed all the sachets untouched. On the 5th day, Ratty did not appear, and has been absent ever since. We thought he must have finally eaten the poison and would be lying dead somewhere. Not so! There were still no missing or damaged sachets in the box! How do you explain that?

I remain quite uneasy about the tale of this rat, even if we didn't succeed in poisoning it. It shows how readily we are influenced by the prejudices of those amongst whom we live, and also how we humans, as a species, very quickly start to scapegoat certain animals, or even other humans once they start to get a bad name. I am quite sure that the bad reputation acquired by rats grossly exaggerates the actual harm that they do. I believe they have the same right to live on this planet as any other animal and that in their history, they have done less harm than we have.

One final sad tale: sorry! A few days ago Margaret came out of the back door to find a large bird sitting on a wall, about shoulder height (the wall, not the bird!) less than four metres away to her right. The colouring was similar to that of a bird of prey, but small, so likely to be a juvenile. At first, she thought it might be a young owl, but its eyes weren't big enough, so she decided it was a sparrow hawk. She went back inside, crept round another way to call me, then we both had a good look with our binoculars. We agreed it was a young sparrow hawk, but old enough so that when we got too close with cameras, it easily flew off into the hedge. Two days later, she found a dead sparrow hawk lying on the lawn down by the stream. We do not know how it met its end, but perhaps it was just too tame to fly away quickly enough from a passing fox.

John Oubridge 8th April 2024.

Garden Notes

Like everyone else I am thoroughly fed up with all the rain, and, itching to be out in the garden, I have been trying to do anything I can without treading on the sodden soil. We have tidied the tin shed and taken the old motor mower to the auction at Pontrilas, where it sold for all of £12. I have sorted through the plant pots and thrown away the damaged plastic ones and the cracked pottery ones and that ugly green one that was left by the previous owners of my last house. I have no idea why I brought it with me when I moved and no idea why I have been giving it shed room for 13 years.

We ordered a small skip (have you seen the price of skips!?) and cleared out the tat that has been accumulating behind the two wooden sheds. Who left an old toolbox behind the head gardener's shed (mine) and the plastic crates and broken dog bowl behind the under gardener's (hubby's)? The metal dustbin with the rusted-out bottom can go too – why do we keep this stuff? We have dismantled and discarded the old rotting rabbit hutch with no roof and 2½ legs. And the largest thing to go is the ancient

wonky greenhouse which has served me so well for years. In between the rain showers I have carefully dismantled it and added it to the skip. There were too many damaged panes of glass and too many corroded components to pass it on to anyone else, so I don't feel too guilty getting rid of it.

I am awaiting delivery of a smart new greenhouse in two weeks: a magnificent 12' x 7' in the same subtle green colour as the octagonal one that I built last year. It has the luxury of eaves a good 12 inches higher than the old one, and the additional 12" in width and 4' in length will give me so much space I will be in seventh heaven. I will enjoy being able to work in inclement weather without the rain dripping through gaps in the ridge. It does mean that our already reduced vegetable plot will shrink even more, but we will still be able to grow a few climbing beans, leeks, parsnips etc. in the patch that will remain. And of course there will be plenty of room for tomatoes, peppers and salad stuff under glass.

I delayed sowing any seeds until the beginning of April, knowing that they would catch up anyway. The corner of the kitchen looks like a weird laboratory - the heated propagator is tucked in at the end of the worktop with strange red lights hovering over it. Red light is supposed to help germination (for some seeds anyway) so it is an experiment really. I have my doubts as to whether the red light will help as I have noticed that generally my seedlings pop up overnight, so what does that say? I will report back!

Must go, it has stopped raining and I have buddleia prunings to shred. **Julie Davies**

A Peek in the Bookshop

I have some exciting news to share about Rossiter Books this month – we will soon have a new shop in Church Street in **Hereford** to add to the five existing stores in Ross, Monmouth, Leominster, Cheltenham and Malvern. Preparations to get the store ready for its opening (hopefully around the beginning of June) are underway.

If you haven't done so already, I thoroughly recommend going to our website and signing up for our weekly newsletter that features book reviews written by our staff and news of upcoming events. There are a lot of authors in the vicinity at the end of May because of the Hay Festival and we have so many authors coming to do events with us it's hard to keep up! Having just bought tickets to see **Caroline Lucas** MP at Hay I was thrilled to hear that she's going to do an event with us at St Mary's Church in Ross en route to talk about her new book **Another England** on 24 May, and the night before **Conn Iggulden** will be with us to chat about his new novel **Nero**.

If you've been enjoying the TV adaptation of **David Nicholl's** *One Day*, his new book **You Are Here** is published at the end of April. It's a novel of first encounters, second chances and finding the way home and we'll have some signed copies for customers quick off the mark.

One of our most recommended books in the shop is **Amor Towles' A Gentleman in Moscow** and his new collection of six short stories and a novella called **Table for Two** is out at the beginning of May. And for the children, **Cluedunnit: 5-minute Mystery Puzzles for Kids** is a new puzzle book aimed at 7–9-year-olds with 60 mysteries to solve, ranging from easy-peasy to diabolically difficult. These bite-sized puzzles to solve in five minutes or less are perfect to dip in to at home or on the go.

Our website shows a page of all the titles you can pre-order if you want to see what else is coming soon. Hope to see you in the shop soon.

Julie, Bookseller at Rossiter Books www.rossiterbooks.co.uk

Monmouth Choral Society

Saturday 18th May 7.30pm St Mary's Priory Church, Monmouth

I must tell you about a very exciting concert. Monmouth Choral Society, together with four soloists and piano and organ accompaniment, will be celebrating a Love of Nature. As well as Haydn's *Creation* (part 1) and Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, we will be performing the world premiere of *Wye* by up-and-coming Welsh composer, Eloise Gynn. This will be a very special occasion. The Friends of the River Wye will be at the concert, with the ceremonial decanter of crystal-clear water from the upper reaches of the river.

Tickets: £18 (under 18s free) On phone or on the door. 01594 531 496

Judy Craven, Chair Monmouth Choral Society

On the Intelligence and Maternal Instincts of Elephants



During our recent holiday in Zimbabwe, our excellent guide, Mike, related this incredible story, authenticated by film evidence:

Whilst game viewing with clients in his Toyota Land Cruiser, he encountered, near a water hole, a large female elephant. It then appeared to charge the vehicle. This is extremely unusual behaviour, and it took Mike by surprise. He prepared to reverse rapidly. When the elephant was about 10m away, it stopped, turned round and walked backwards to the vehicle, then sat, quite gently, on the bonnet. It then stood up and walked slowly ahead. Mike has over 30 years' experience in studying elephant behaviour and he realised immediately that the elephant wanted him to follow her. So, he left the vehicle and proceeded behind her on foot towards the water hole. There, stuck fast in the deep mud surrounding the water, was a new-born elephant calf. The mother elephant gently nudged the calf with her tusks, thereby demonstrating that she could not rescue it. Mike fetched a stout rope from the car and, after a lengthy struggle, assisted by one of his clients, he managed to haul it out, whereupon it immediately trotted up to its mother and started to suckle.

Mike frequently encounters the mother elephant in the bush, and it always recognises him and comes up to say hello and thank you.

Peter Garratt

Book Review

***After the Party* by Cressida Connolly**

It is 1938. Phyllis Forrester is newly returned from years abroad with her rather stuffy husband Hugh, 20 years her senior and a retired naval officer who has been working for a rubber company in South America. On their return, they and their children are forced to rely on the grand country house hospitality of her sisters, Nina and Patricia, while their new house is being built.

So – an upper middle class family saga begins to take shape but there is a twist.

Naïve and slightly vague, Phyllis joins in with her peers as they talk of their fears of another war looming and the desperate need to prevent this. They have lived through the carnage of one war. That is enough. Thus, she finds herself involved in “peace work” with her sisters and their husbands and their privileged social circle in the “British Union” under “The Leader” (or Tom to his inner circle) – drinks parties and jolly summer camps for the children are the order of the day. It is almost as if Phyllis becomes involved because she is quite simply at a loose end.

To Phyllis’ alarm, she and Hugh are arrested and interned for she knows not what crime. Throughout her incarceration, initially in Holloway and then on the Isle of Man, she appears clueless as to why she is there and protests her innocence of any wrongdoing. She seems genuinely puzzled and unaware of the true nature of the “Union” and of its leader, whose name is only slowly revealed, although most readers will have cottoned on fairly swiftly that this is Mosley with his British Union of Fascists. To Phyllis he is just a great leader who could have prevented the second world war and restored England to its former glory. And it is implied throughout that the whole of their social circle was unaware of the true nature of the party. Further indignation is to come when Hugh is refused his naval pension and loses his job with the rubber company.

To rub salt in the wound it seems that their incarceration has been initiated by one of her sisters who happily shops them to save her own skin, although equally involved in the party.

Part of the narrative is set in 1979 with Phyllis widowed and settled on her own in a flat in the north of England, where she has little contact with her family and remains completely baffled by her life:

“We all have our crosses to bear, our own personal sorrows. Mine is that the people who should be dearest to me, my own children, my sisters, consider me a bad woman. The grandchildren have been taught to be wary. I think I’m a disgrace to them, really. After the war when the newsreel film was shown of what had gone on in Germany and Poland, those places, the horrors . . . It all got tangled up in their minds, as if we’d stood for such barbarism.”

Hilary Smallwood

Chuckle Corner

- Air hostess to passenger: “Window or aisle?”
Passenger: “Window or you’ll what?”
- Entrepreneur to choir master: “How much to buy a singing ensemble?”
Choirmaster: “You mean a choir?”
Entrepreneur: “O.K., How much to acquire a singing ensemble?”
- Lord Nelson was 5ft 6in. His statue is 17ft 4in. That’s Horatio of 3:1.

(X/Twitter post, quoted in The Times)

- According to my good friend and fellow bell-ringer Nick Handoll, Robert Mugabe, the late former President of Zimbabwe, was born in Yorkshire.

How does he know?

Well, his name is “e-ba-gum” spelled backwards!

Peter Garratt

Hereford Cathedral Events May

Garden Tours: Saturdays 4, 11, 18, 25. Wednesday 15 2pm. Discover the beauty of the Hereford Cathedral gardens by guided tour led by our experienced gardeners and guides. Tours- 60 and 90 minutes - gardens easily accessible-variations available for visitors with specific mobility requirements. **Tickets £6. Can be booked in advance via the cathedral website or Cathedral Shop (01432 374210)**

Tower Tours: 1 to 4. 8, 9. 15 & 16, 23, 25 30 May at 11.30 am & 1.30 pm. Adventurous visitors can climb the 218 steps for some of the finest views of the city and county of Herefordshire. Tours cancelled in poor weather is poor. May not suit all visitors. Please contact cathedral office before making a special journey to take part. **Tickets £8 adults, £5 children under 16. £5 for full-time students from the Cathedral Shop (01432 374210)**

Cathedral Tours. Monday to Saturday, 11.05 am & 2.15 pm and 12.30pm on selected Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Explore the rich history and treasures of the cathedral from its Saxon origins to today with our knowledgeable guides. **Tickets £6 per person from the Cathedral Shop (01432 374210)**

EXHIBITIONS

Masters of the Library 6 May –14 September, 10 to 5. The latest exhibition in the Mappa Mundi & Chained Library explores the prestigious role of ‘Master of the Library’ and the individuals who have held the role at Hereford Cathedral throughout the centuries. Normal admission charges apply.

Cathedral in Focus: 1984 – 2024. 11 –30 May. Over the last four decades, Gordon Taylor MBE LRPS has created a rich and extensive photographic history of Hereford Cathedral and its community. To celebrate, the cathedral will be hosting an exhibition in the North Transept to celebrate 40 years of Gordon Taylor’s work as Cathedral Photographer featuring a selection of favourite images chosen by Gordon himself.

EVENTS

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

Lego Club 14 May, 3.45 pm- 5 pm Enjoy this freestyle Lego session with thousands of pieces, learn building techniques and make new friends. Suitable for young people aged 8 and 14. Parents and Carers are welcome to stay, but accompaniment is not required during the session. Free.

Messy Church 30 May, 12 noon – 2pm Come and take part in an afternoon of fun, including a selection of crafts and activities for all the family. Messy Church is church for families and all. It is Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration - and we will be having food at 12.30pm!

Queen by Candlelight Concert 2 & 3 May, 7.30pm Direct from Carnegie Hall, New York and following a run of sell-out shows across the UK and Australia, join us for an incredible night of Queen Anthems, performed at Hereford Cathedral by Candlelight. Featuring a cast of West End Singers accompanied by an epic live rock band, experience Queen as you have never heard them before. Ticket info on website.

Cathedrals at Night 11 May, 7 – 9pm Hereford Cathedral will be opening its doors after hours to welcome in people of all ages to experience and explore the beautiful building and to enjoy a taste of cathedral life. Free events include tours and performances as well as free entry to the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library for one night only. **This event is free – no booking required.**

See website for Lunchtime Organ Concerts

Orchestral Eucharist – Haydn's *Heiligmesse* Sunday 12 May Join the cathedral in celebrating the Feast of Consecration with a special orchestral eucharist sung by Hereford Cathedral Choir.

Bereavement Café 15 May, 2.30pm – 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 College Hall 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.

Dates for the diary

MAY

- 1st Garway Stitches
- 1st Community Lunch, Orcop Hall
- 4th Garage Sale, Saddlebow
- 5th Benefice Communion
- 7th Garway Coffee Morning
- 9th St Weonards Coffee Morning
- 11th Archenfield Arts
- 13th Green Book Club, Garway
- 14th Flicks in the Sticks, Garway
- 15th Garway Stitches
- 17th Garway Live –
Murder Mystery night
- 18th Garway Live –
Murder Mystery Night
- 18th Monmouth Choral Society Concert
- 18th Craft Workshop – Orcop
- 19th Craft workshop – Orcop
- 20th Short Bowls Meeting
- 24th Garway Piano Trio –
Bishop's Palace
- 29th Garway Stitches.

Future events for your diary:

JUNE

- 1st Open Garden, Vintage Cars,
Treago Castle
- 8th Blackout Party, Garway.
- 15th Concert – Hoarwithy
- 19th Open Gardens, Broad Oak
- 26th AGM Orcop Parish Hall

JULY

- 13th Orcop Hall Anniversary night with
KJ and the SoulShakers.

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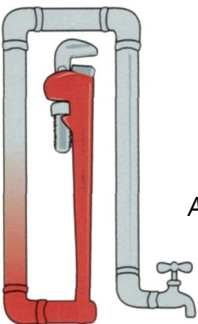
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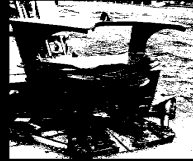


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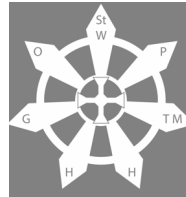


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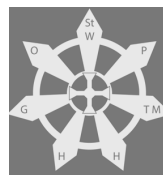
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Art gallery & studio	25	Home / live-in care	5
Blacksmith	2	Ice Cream & Milk	6,11
Bookkeeping, accountants & office services	5,7,17	Kindling.....	11,17
Bridge Club.....	4	Lawn Care	23
Builders & Construction	9,10,13,14,25	Llama Trekking	1
Car sales, servicing, MOT and repairs.....	8	Machinery services	3,16
Carpentry.....	10,14,25	Music theory lessons	16
Chimney Sweeps.....	2,16,22	Oven cleaning.....	23
Cleaning services	15	Owl Community Support.....	19
Coatings	13	Painters & Decorators.....	1,9,14
Computing & tech support	5	Pest Control services	7
Cooking courses & catering... ..	28	Picture Framing	23
Counselling.....	19,22	Piano lessons	15,16
Dental care	20	Plasterers & Damp-proofing ..	14
Dowsing.....	1	Pre-school/Toddler	4,21
Electricians	2,5,15	Property maintenance.....	14,16
Entertainment	26,27	Psychotherapy	22
Estate Agents	18	Pubs	26
Farm shop	11	Renewable Energy	24
Firewood.....	17	Roofing	10,14
Firewood processing	25	Septic Tank emptying	6
Flooring.....	3	Shepherding services	12
Florist.....	15	Singing.....	1,16,19
Foot care	7	Skip Hire, recycling etc	6
Fruit juice	17	Small bale hay	17
Funeral services	1,19	Sports Therapy	12
Garden Design	23	Tools wanted	11
Gardening Services	10	Tree services	10,12,15
Groundwork	9,13	Window fitting	14,16
Guttering.....	14,16	Window cleaning.....	15
		Village Halls & Community Centres	3,10,12
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