

PARISH NEWS

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

NOVEMBER 2024



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Rest day: Tuesday

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St. Weonards	Richard Mynors 01981 580208
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Orcop	Margaret Fletcher 01981 540790
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Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm 01989 730201
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office hours 01981 540721

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MAGAZINE CONTACTS

Contributions to the Parish news can be given to your parish representative by **10th of the month**:

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Tretire/Pencoyd:	Margaret Oubridge	01981 580233 Tretire Smithy
St. Weonards:	Mrs P Craig	01981 580433 8 Mount Way, St Weonards

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St Weonards:		clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org Website: www.stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk
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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

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.

How to get in touch: 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime.

herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.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

For enquiries on baptisms, funerals and wedding please contact the Vicar:
Rev. Angie Kateley revangiekateley@gmail.com 01981 345044 **Rest day: Tuesday.**

Vicar's Letter

"Not yesterday I learned to know
The love of bare November days"

(from 'My November Guest' by Robert Frost)

Darling November is for me the most reflective of months, a time for remembering and pondering, before the exuberant jolly jamboree of December. The winter unknown lies ahead, the year of memories stretches out behind. An eventide season characterised by a sweet, gentle melancholy. Our culture embraces November with various remembrances. All Souls church services afford us the opportunity to remember, in calm candlelit stillness, our loved ones who are now out of eye's sight and hand's holding. Hot on its heels comes Bonfire Night, with its whizzes and bangs, commemorating something I'm never quite comfortable with. And then the national call goes up to remember with silent dignity those whose lives are lost in the military's quest for peace.

Moments of quiet stillness, intentional points of contemplation, prayer and meditation, are a blessing in my life that I all too often forgo in the hubbub and busyness. Words and sounds are everywhere, all the time. If I steal such a moment in my solitude, I often sense that God draws nearer, and I am not alone. In a quite different way, there is something heavenly about being together with others in calm reflective quietness. I love Taizé worship and group mindfulness meditations for that reason. It is my hope to start introducing more intentional silence into some of our church services (and not just the kind of silence that comes when I momentarily forget what I'm meant to be doing).

In Garway church in December we will have a Blue Christmas gathering especially for those who find that time of year particularly sad – more on that in next month's edition.

I hope that November will afford you some gentle, still moments to reflect and ponder, either companionably or in quiet solitude. I pray that if you are remembering a lost loved one, the silence is kind and not harsh.

With love and blessing.

Rev Angie x

P.S. Details of our Benefice All Souls service are on another page. You will be given a warm welcome.

SERVICE ROTA FOR OCTOBER

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

Sunday 3rd November	3.00pm	Pencoyd All Souls Service
Sunday 10th November	9.30am 4.00pm	St Weonards All Age Communion Orcop Memorial Cross Service
Sunday 17th November	9.30am 6.00pm	Hoarwithy Holy Communion Tretire Evening Worship
Sunday 24th November	9.15am 9.30am	Hentland Holy Communion St Weonards All Age Service
Sunday 1st December	10.00am	Hentland Benefice Advent Communion

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the Vicar:

Rev. Angie Kateley revangiekateley@gmail.com 01981 345044 *Rest Day Tuesday*

Sunday 3rd November 3.00pm

Benefice All Souls Service

Pencoyd Church

Come to remember and reflect on those who are no longer with us.



All welcome!

St. Weonards Benefice Monthly Prayer Meeting

We meet each month to pray for each other, our local communities, and the wider world.

Everyone is welcome!

St. Weonards Vicarage Monday 11th November 7-8pm

Remembrance Sunday Services 17th November



10.45am Memorial Service Kings Cuple
4.00pm Orcop Memorial Cross Service
Llanwarne Memorial Service.

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



5th November Carolyn Trew 01600 750227

!!! Magazine News !!!

COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER Monday 9th

**Many thanks to all involved in collating, organising
advertising and distributing the magazine.**

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

Our monthly benefice communion at St Weonards Church was a special occasion as it included the baptism of Elizabeth Phillips. We were pleased to welcome so many of her family as well as our usual congregation and others from across the benefice.

If you have never joined us for this service, you have missed out on the wonderful cakes that Anna Williams, her family and others provide for us all! It is a real treat to munch on something delicious and catch up with our community members.

On Remembrance Sunday, 10th November, we shall have our All Age Communion at 9.30am. This is a slightly earlier time than we have been used to, but timings are being arranged to ensure that our vicar Angie can travel safely to other churches to take their services.

As I write, we are looking forward to our harvest supper. People are most generous in bringing casseroles and puddings for us all to share.

Do a look out for what is happening as we develop our new patterns of services.

Richard Mynors, churchwarden

Coffee Morning Thursday 14th November.

St. Weonards Village Hall 10.00 - 12.00am.



Enjoy coffee and some homemade cake. Meet old friends and make new ones. Just turn up all are welcome.

Gwyneth Williams

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A big thank you to you all that supported the recent Macmillan coffee morning at St Weonards village hall. A grand total of £871 was raised for a very worthwhile charity. Thank you for all the cake donations we had a wonderful display, also to Great Trewen [The Milk Shed] for donating the milk. Some children from the school also came over to join us at the hall and were very helpful waiting on the tables which was very much appreciated. Thank you all.

Best wishes, ***Pam Craig***

St Weonards Village hall. Friday 29th November.

Fay's Churchyard prize and hamper bingo.



Doors open at 6.30pm.

Eyes down at 7.30.

Refreshments and raffle.

Date for the diary: 2nd Dec 7.00pm St Weonards Village Hall. Christmas Floral Arranging Demonstration-local florists. £5 lanwarneladies@gmail.com **Isabelle Bevan**

GARWAY

Garway Church

Our Harvest Festival service and supper was a really enjoyable event. Even though the weather was not at its best – to say the least – about 30 of us gathered together in Bill and Cheryl Sparey's beautiful barn. A lot of work had been done by our hosts to make the space warm and welcoming and we thank Bill and Cheryl for their hospitality.

Rev Angie, led the service and we heard about how our farming community, and their struggle to keep going in these environmental and economic times, and how they are having to adapt to those changes. This sometimes means having to diversify away from traditional farming practices.

After the service - and a quick change with the seating arrangements, to include tables – we sat down to a pork roast, carved expertly by Bill, accompanied with various salad dishes and quiches. Pudding followed with apple crumbles and Kelsmore icecream.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a lovely occasion, for the lovely food, and the beautifully decorated barn with Autumn flowers and colours, and all the help up until and including the service. Especial thanks to Bill and Cheryl Sparey.

No Bats in the Belfry

The work to the tower is progressing, though it got off to a slow start. Amongst other hold ups, we were waiting for the Natural England volunteer bat surveyor to give the go ahead. This depended on whether there was any current bat activity where the work needed to be done. We were delighted to be told that there no evidence of bats being currently resident. So work could proceed, with the proviso that if a bat was found that it should be left alone until it found another place of safety.

I cannot say how grateful we all are to Martin and Sue Thomas, who have shouldered this project from the beginning and saw it to fruition with many hours of form filling, paperwork, emails and phone calls, site visits and meetings... Thank you Martin.

Tracy Somerville, Churchwarden

Garway Stitchers



Our dates for November are 13th and 27th 10.30 – 12.30. 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.

Coffee Morning

Garway Village Hall

Tuesday 5th November 10.15am

Spice Girls yummy homemade cake

"Flora from *Flora Designs* will be joining us to talk about creating a beautiful garden."

Tea, coffee and good company.

And as always the opportunity to borrow books from the library and use the Post Office.



15th November

October saw the hall jumping to the high energy guitar sounds of the returning "*James Oliver Band*", so on Friday November 15th we will be treated to something completely different in the shape of another returning band, albeit from several years ago and in the old hall. "*Afternoon in Paris*" will take us back to the heady days of the 1920's in the smoky French jazz café's where one could hear the wonderful sounds of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grapelli. This band of classically trained musicians faithfully recreate the music of this by-gone era, and you will be entertained to a wonderful relaxing evening, so sit and enjoy the ambiance.

There will be the usual full bar, and Chris will be providing some more delectable bites to accompany the music.

Admission charges will be £12 and £6 for the under 18's. All this begins with the doors opening at 7.30 with the band on stage at 8, so come and round off another busy week by relaxing with us. Hope to see you there.

Graham Bevan

GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP

Tuesday 19th November Garway Hall, 7.30pm

Apples & People

Herefordshire has an important place in the global story of the apple. This illustrated talk by Dr David Marshall, associate of the Brightspace Foundation, explores the apple's travels around the world and the iconic status of the humble fruit in human culture worldwide. The Brightspace Foundation is a sustainable development charity based in Herefordshire, which manages the online exhibition programme www.applesandpeople.org.uk in partnership with the Museum of Cider and National Trust in Herefordshire.

All are welcome - it's a great opportunity to learn about our local area and for a friendly chat; we will, of course, be serving delicious cakes, tea, coffee and wine. Free to Garway Heritage Group members or £8 for guests.

Dates for you diary: 17 Dec - Christmas Quiz: our popular Christmas celebration with quiz maestro Mike Brewer.

21st January 2025 - The Mormons of Garway: a little-known aspect of Garway's history presented by Lesley Whistance. 18th February 2025 - The Stolen Lands: a social history of the Gwent Levels presented by Marsha O'Mahoney. 18th March - The Huntley Film Archive presented by Robert Dewar 15th April - Family Diaries presented by Tim Bannerman. www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk

Green Garway Book Group

Grey Bees by Andrey Kurkov

Written in 2018, *Grey Bees* is a rich and beautifully told tale of a beekeeper struggling to survive in the no-man's land strip between Russia and Ukraine, also known as the grey zone. His village has no electricity and is deserted apart from his old school frenemy. This moving story draws you into the tale of these two men living ordinary lives in an extraordinary situation.

Every year the beekeeper takes his bees away for the summer in search of pollen and his journey into Crimea creates an added layer of tension in his dealings with Russian officials. His bees are his family and as well as making an income from their honey they also create hope and purpose to his simple and quite lonely life. The contrasting vibrant landscapes and encounters with new friends are touching, a welcome relief from unimaginable life in a war zone.

Whilst the subject matter may not obviously appeal, the quiet and detailed descriptions make for a surprisingly engaging read, made all the more potent by the knowledge of what has happened since between the two countries.

Rating: 4/5

(Thank you to Flora Bruce and Juliette Close for the review)

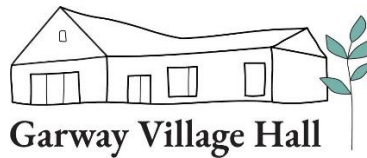
If you're interested in coming along to the next book group please join our Facebook group

<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 and you can dip in and out as necessary.

Monday 11 Nov - Wasteland by Oliver-Franklin Wallis (non-fiction)

Monday 9 Dec - Dark Matter - A Ghost Story by Michelle Paver (fiction)



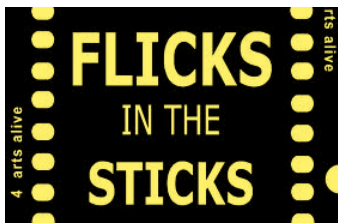
Garway Village Hall

Some dates in your diary for things going on at Garway Village Hall in the next few weeks:

- Monday 4 Nov 12.30pm - Garway Crafters
- Tuesday 12 Nov 7.30pm - Flicks in the Sticks: Perfect Days
- Friday 15 Nov 8pm - Garway Live: smokin' jazz from Afternoon in Paris
- Sunday 17 Nov 11am - Village Christmas Market
- Tuesday 19 Nov 7.30pm - Garway Heritage Group Talk: The Apple World

If you'd like to practise your lindy hop swing dancing, we've just started an informal swing dance club on alternate Sundays for an hour at 6pm – next session will be on Sunday 3 November.

Visit our website at www.garwayhall.org to find out more and you can subscribe to our mailing list there too.



TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12TH
7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00
PERFECT DAYS

Food for the soul – that's a fair summary of PERFECT DAYS. Hirayama is a quiet man in his sixties with a seemingly mundane and lowly job cleaning public toilets in fast-moving Tokyo. But he has discovered how to find joy in the everyday minutiae of life: in his encounters with strangers, in his love of reading and in his classic 1970s music collection. We gradually come to realise that this gentle man is pursuing his way of life despite the criticism of family members who don't understand how he can find fulfilment in his humble and, as they see it, degrading routine. A relationship grows with his estranged niece who comes to see that her uncle has uncovered a wonderful source of simple, unpolluted joy. It's been described as a transcendent gem of a film - a late career masterpiece from director, Wim Wenders. Spend a couple of hours in the company of Hirayama and it may make you see your own life in a whole new way. What more can you ask of a film? As ever, we'll bring cakes, wines, teas, coffees and sociability to the occasion and hope you'll join us for this celebration of life's little graces. Upcoming films:

December 10th – The Holdovers. An unusual triangle of friendship develops in a boarding school over Christmas between a curmudgeonly teacher, the school cook and a difficult pupil. Poignant, beautiful and extremely funny.

January 14th – Wicked Little Letters. Who's writing poison pen, foul-mouthed letters in a genteel seaside town? Olivia Colman and Jesse Buckley are a joy to watch in one of the highest rated films from this year's Borderlines Film Festival.

More details every month in the Parish Magazine and on <https://www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks>

Garway Christmas Market Sunday 17th November



Garway Village Hall, 11am – 3pm
Yummy festive food. Seasonal drinks from the bar.
Christmas music and a multitude of stalls with unique handmade gifts:
ceramics, jewellery, wreaths, home decor, textiles
and much more

Definitely the place to be!

GARWAY

TALK HUB !

Tuesdays 10:00 - 12:00
Garway Community Hall
Cafe HR2 8RQ
garwaytalkhub@gmail.com

EVERYONE
WELCOME!

TALK COMMUNITY



Talk Community Partner Guests:

12.11.24 Healthwatch: Talk at 10:45

Menopause Experience Project: Help improve local NHS Services for women & girls

19.11.24 & 14.01.25 Taurus Talk Wellbeing

Heart Health Checks (Outreach Room 10:00-12:00)

A date for your diary: The Village Christmas Friday 6th December at 5pm. Songs and carols from the school choir, the Singing Tree and the audience! New vicar Angie will be joining us for the Christingle. Refreshments. All welcome. Come along.

ORCOP

It is 9 years since the death of Molly Graham, whose sad demise marked the beginning of a period of continuous house building adjacent to Wilkes Row. It seems the work has finally been completed so hopefully my neighbours and I can now enjoy a return to quiet and tranquillity.

We congratulate Amy and Oliver on their wedding at Orcop Hill Baptist Chapel on 14th September. Angie assisted Viv with the service, which was enjoyed by all, especially given the glorious weather. The 14th was probably the finest day in the whole month!

I attended the Harvest Festival at Garway Hill Chapel, led by the Revd. Paul, which was a lovely happy occasion.

The Orcop Harvest Festival on 4th October was a great success. The serious business of giving thanks for the harvest was complemented by poetry readings, as appropriate for "The Poets' Church," and a respectful dose of humour, all ably led by the Revd. Angie. Thanks go to all who helped decorate the Church, which looked beautiful, to the poets and to Chris Northam, whose virtuosity on the organ is always a delight. Angie joined a number of members of the congregation at the Fountain Inn afterwards. It was good that so many chose to "adjourn to the pub" given the generous support that the church enjoys from Scott and Debbie.

Please note that there will be no second Sunday service in November.

The annual British Legion act of remembrance will be held at the crossroads adjacent to the War Memorial at 4pm on Sunday 10th.

In conclusion, we report with great sadness the death of Mary Thomas's brother, George, and extend our condolences to the Thomas family.

Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden

Flowers and cleaning rota: Mrs S Oliver

Dates for the diary: December 1st: Carol Service, Orcop Hill Baptist Chapel 3pm Dec 14th: Community Carols Orcop Parish Hall 3pm. December 21st: "The Shepherds Play" St. Weonards Church 3pm.

Owl Community Lunch

The next community lunch will be held on Wednesday 6th of November in Orcop Parish Hall. Doors open at 12.30 and we eat at 1pm. The cost is £10 for a hot two course meal and a drink with the meal, and a hot drink prior to the meal.

If you have special dietary requirements, please let Jane Lockhart know on 01981 241310.

This is the last lunch before the Christmas lunch which will be on Wednesday 4th December which is always our most popular event.

Jane Lockhart

Orcop Village Hall

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday of November from 2 pm.

Expect the usual festive stalls, to include crafts as well as mince pies and mulled wine, Children's Christmas Craft Corner and Games. Hope to see you there.

Growers, makers, stall holders welcome –

To book a table or for more info please contact:-

petamary@hotmail.co.uk or gill.bannerman@outlook.com

Orcop Village Hall Coffee Mornings

continue to be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month – 10.30-12.30

do come and join us  you'd be welcome

November 21st

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

News travels fast in small villages, so no doubt many of you will already know that John and I will be leaving Tretire in the next few months. Accordingly, someone else will be needed to pick up the baton of writing this page for our Parish News.

Regulars will know that each month, this magazine is produced by a team, with a contribution from each parish, describing any events that are due to take place in that new month, and those that have been held in the previous one. For years, Liz Everall fulfilled this role admirably, and it was a daunting prospect for me when she and Peter left to move nearer their daughter Alex and family and asked me to take on the task. Now it is my turn to ask someone new to take it on and bring their own interpretation to the role. I am particularly anxious that this is not left for Elizabeth our churchwarden to add to her already over full monthly schedule.

So please consider this as a contribution you could make to our Parish News, for readers to find out what happens in Tretire and Pencoyd each month.

At the end of September, to celebrate Harvest, we held a *Drinks and Canapes* evening which Elizabeth kindly hosted for us at Michaelchurch Cottage on Friday Sept 27th. We were fortunate that the rain held off, and we were able to hold a small produce stall by the front door to tempt people as they went in. However, holding jars of chutney and/ or marmalade whilst sipping a glass of wine and eating canapes and buying raffle tickets with irresistible prizes proved a little tricky. So we created little areas for all the different customers' purchases, and prayed that they would remember which pile was theirs when they emerged at the end! Fortunately they must have as none were left unclaimed!

We had about 25 guests and so there was a very animated and contented sound of chatter throughout the evening and the plates of canapes slowly diminished as did the bottles of wine. When the raffle tickets were drawn at the end of the evening, some very contented guests with a large selection of prizes emerged. Elizabeth had introduced what was to many of us, a different way to run a raffle, so each prize had a bowl beside it, and we could choose which of the prizes we would like to win, and put our raffle tickets in the relevant bowl, or indeed, bowls!

As I was helping to man the produce stall, I left John to choose which bowl to put his strips in, and to my delight, we won a very large bottle of whisky! *We managed to raise a total of £644.50 for Tretire and Pencoyd Churches.* So a great vote of thanks to Elizabeth for planning and hosting the event, and to our great PCC team for running it and providing all the refreshments. Quite apart from raising such a substantial amount, it was a delightful social evening for our community.

Many of us met again on the Sunday following at our Harvest service in Pencoyd church, led for us by Rev Angie in her inimitable style, in a church festively decorated by the flower ladies. People had been asked to bring unusual farming/ gardening/ cooking tools/ implements to the service for members of the congregation to guess the use of. There were a number of antique items produced as well as up to date ones, and it proved an interesting and entertaining exercise!

Our next community event is the Quiz at the Red Lion Pub in Peterstow on Wednesday 13th October at 6.30 pm (see advert elsewhere in this magazine). So time to start canvassing your team members, 4 to a team. For more information and to book your place and choose your supper (£22.50) phone Kathy Handby on 01989 730842 or email kathy.handby@btinternet.com

On Sunday November 3rd, the Benefice service celebrating All Souls Day will be held at Pencoyd Curch at 3.00 pm. On this Sunday, we think about our friends and relatives who have died in the last year or so, in a special act of remembrance in this service. Members of all the different parishes in the St Weonard's Benefice will gather together for this service, so it would be great if a really good number of representatives of our two churches could come to make others welcome at Pencoyd church on that occasion.

This service is being held early in the afternoon, to enable those who like to watch the bonfire and fireworks at St Weonards , also to attend the All Souls Service.

Margaret Oubridge



The village bush telegraph has told us that congratulations are in order for John and Margaret who have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently. No doubt we all join in wishing them love and best wishes for this special celebration!

Tretire with Michaelchurch & Pencoyd PCC

Fun Quiz with Supper

Wednesday 13th November 2024

The Red Lion Pub Peterstow. HR9 6LH

Drinks at 6.30pm Cash Bar

Delicious Supper (optional) - £22.50 (must be pre-ordered)

served at 7.00pm Fun Quiz at 7.30pm

Teams of 4

All very welcome, come as team or

join a team on the night

Quiz Tickets £10

To book your place and choose your supper please contact:

Kathy Handby - Tel: 01989 730842 email: kathy.handby@btinternet.com

HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

hArt Week and Popup Café. Despite the rather changeable weather visitors enjoyed the week and our thanks go to the Artists and our Catering team for all the work they put in.

hArt and Popup Café will return (like James Bond) on 23rd & 24th November. We look forward to their return.

Creative Skills Taster Day 28th September We had a very successful day with 25 adults and 12 children trying out their skill at Wood Turning, Suminagashi (Japanese Paper Marbling), Clay Work, Calligraphy & Willow Weaving. There was something for everyone and those who came would like to do more.

Before Covid we had a monthly coffee morning where we invited speakers to share their skills. This may well be a time to start these again!

Songs We Love to Sing Our Community Choir Charity Concert was very well attended and received much praise from those who enjoyed the evening. Our thanks to Jayne Lunt, Antonia Cuthbert and all the singers for the hard work they all put in to make this so enjoyable.

November 17th 9.30am Creative Communion

Peter Pember, Churchwarden

Country Bus (See the cover picture)

Garway and Orcop do indeed still have a country bus. The 413 runs three times a week (Mon, Wed, Fri, departing Broad Oak 9.15am arriving Bridge Street Hereford 10.20am.) We used to have many more only a few years ago, but there are fewer youngsters now going to college so fewer buses.

A jolly car free trip to Hereford for the morning is still possible and easy, with no parking problems and free to bus pass holders. Even fare payers get a cheaper ride than driving on their own. Just signal the bus anywhere where it's safe for the ebullient Yeomans' driver, Jack, to stop and all the delights of the laughingly titled *Breakfast Special* can be enjoyed.

There are four or five friendly regulars from Garway, and the faithful few from Much Dewchurch to swell (?) the numbers before getting to Hereford.

Such a minimal service is always at risk of withdrawal. Unless we timetable our journeys to use the bus it will be a goner. Some users are non-drivers and would then be very isolated in our rural idyll.

This is only half the story, A more elusive and mysterious bus, no 812 runs from Broad Oak to `Wormelow school days only. More of this ghost bus next month.

Don't miss it!

PS online timetables are confusing and not up to date. More on this next month as well.

David Macrae

Wildlife in our Garden

I cannot remember a quieter month in all the time I have been writing these articles.

September: the garden should be buzzing with insect life, dragon flies, comma butterflies, red admirals, bees of all kinds – there are the usual numbers of flowers for them. All I have been seeing are a very occasional dragon fly and some rather disconsolate-looking bumble bees. Most of the insects I see have come inside, presumably to get out of the rain. But there were not many in the garden last week, even when the sun did come out for a few days.

We have not been seeing many birds either, but this can be accounted for by us not having yet put out any seed or nut feeders. I intend to start doing so when we get back from a short Scilly Island break next week.

Meanwhile, I thought I might just mention some of the creatures that find their way into the house. We seem to have a plague of spiders for most of the year; these are the ones with very long, thin legs and quite small body-parts, though I think they are called “long-bodied cellar spiders” (not “harvestmen” with round bodies which are mostly found outdoors and are not true spiders at all). The ones I am referring to are found almost exclusively indoors, where they make very untidy webs and lurk, very still, in any relatively quiet corner. To me, their long legs give them a particularly sinister look. Actually, they are voracious predators. They love eating woodlice, which they suck dry, then make a heap of discarded, hollowed-out woodlouse shells underneath their webs. They also seem to be cannibals; I often find the remains of a dried up similar shaped spider nearby.

There are other indoor spiders of course, the most noticeable being the big black ones which live in holes and come out at night, sometimes moving at an alarming rate across the carpet!

There are many sorts of beetle, including ladybirds, which we all know well. More recently I notice there are typically beetle-shaped, black beetles. I think these are refugees from the wet weather, as they appear inside the back door and hide around the doormat.

Other refugees are mice. Margaret found one large one in the spare bedroom the other day, but we have not seen or heard it since, nor have we been able to catch it in a trap. I do not think we can have a family of house mice, as they are usually quite easy to catch. Maybe it has just gone outside again – in spite of the rain.

John Oubridge, 24th September 2024.

Book Review

Spare by Prince Harry

Having no royalist leanings, I had no plans to read this book – and then it came up on my audio book list and I decided to keep an open mind and give it a go. It is read by the author.

What a very sad book. Sad because this young man is so deeply unhappy, and also because of the light shed on the seriously abnormal lives of those born into royalty. All to be expected – but the degree of both is shocking.

Clearly there is a need to recognize that this book was written (or in fact ghost-written) by someone with a message to plug and several axes to grind. But those axes do seem to have some substance.

For a long time, Harry appears to have held on to the belief that his mother had not died, but had staged her oft-desired disappearance and would return at some point – a not unreasonable hope for a 12-year-old, but somewhat disturbing several years later.

The emotional black hole that is the royal family, as described in the book, would attract the interest of Social Services if this were any other family. The absence of affection and of physical contact is seriously pathological. What chance do any of them have of growing up as normal human beings?

Central to the narrative is Harry's total hatred of the "paps" – and this does not seem to be simply because he blames them for his mother's death, but because of his experience of their unrelenting stalking of the family and their complete absence of respect for truth or the well-being of their targets. Getting back at the press appears to be an obsession with him, but one that is entirely understandable if all he relates is true. And one that leaves little hope for any future normality in his life. He is not going to let this go.

Particularly chilling is the relationship he describes between the royal family and the press – a Faustian pact where behind-the-scenes deals are done to appease the voracious reporters. Image is the lifeblood the family – it is a matter of survival. Controlling that image demands the cooperation of the press, whose power is all-encompassing. They know that the royal family (and others whom they target) cannot spend their whole time/energy/resources suing them, so calculate that they will get away with most of their excesses.

What a strange being is the Great British Public to harbour this vast insatiable appetite for royal gossip. Utterly bizarre.

Security looms large throughout. It was the final straw that sent Harry and his wife and family across the water for what he sees as their basic safety. Keeping the royals safe is a costly business, for which we all foot the bill. They truly are sitting ducks for any terrorist or mentally ill person every time they appear in public. I think I would stay indoors! In this book, Harry is open about his army career and the people he killed during his time in Afghanistan - all apparently legitimate targets under international law and fired on with the backing of the hierarchy – but all making him a particular target for terrorists.

The bitterness continues unabated right to the end of the book. He is angry about the press, about his family, about living in a goldfish bowl, about his upbringing, about what he sees as his family's indifference to his safety and about their (in his eyes) betrayal. We will never know the whole truth and will never hear both sides of the story in full, but it certainly felt a sad read and deeply disturbing that this ingrained family psychopathology is perpetuated in the name of our political stability.

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

Well, here we are back from our week in Somerset and finally our tomatoes and peppers are ripening in the greenhouse. The tomatoes might be lovely little orbs of redness, but goodness are they tart this year! After their drastic pruning last winter, the two old apple trees have produced a bumper crop. That can't be said of my pear arches though. I am always very proud of them due to the huge number of pears they produce. This year however, I don't know whether I pruned them incorrectly or whether I can blame the weather, but I have only five pears from the six trees – and just now in early October they show no sign of ripening.



Whilst in Somerset, we visited Hestercombe Gardens near Taunton. I have wanted to visit these for years, mainly to see the Grade 1 listed formal garden, considered to be the finest surviving example of a garden designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and planted by Gertrude Jekyll. However, although I admired Lutyens' overall plan and particularly loved his beautiful 'Wrennaissance' orangery, I was decidedly underwhelmed by the planting. I think that the planting scheme adheres to the original plan as far as possible but generally everything looked

messy and uncared for. The pergola was overgrown and was the one aspect of Lutyens' design that I disliked. The stone columns are alternately square or round, as if he really couldn't decide which looked best and the whole 225 ft. long structure, which runs along the south side of the Great Plat, blocks out the most glorious view of Somerset countryside.

Perhaps the planting of the Great Plat looks better earlier in the summer when the roses, delphiniums, peonies and lilies are in flower, but in mid-September the overall scheme is dominated by wide bands of *Bergenia x schmidtii* which edge the geometric beds. I always think of *Bergenia* as a plant you would only really use when you are truly desperate for something to grow in the most unforgiving corner of the garden – a tough plant for tough places. Apparently, they were Gertrude Jekyll's favourite plant – she admired their 'fine solid foliage', 'their grave and monumental look' and the way they took on 'a splendid winter colouring of warm red bronze'. Her own grave is planted with *Bergenia*s. To me they seem an odd choice for a location such as the Great Plat and in such large quantities too.



I enjoyed the 18th century 16 acre landscape garden far more. This part was designed by Coplestone Warre Bampfylde (how's that for name?) and is situated in a lovely, wooded valley. It has a dramatic cascade waterfall, ponds (with ducks), various garden follies – the Chinese Seat, the Rustic Seat (a useful place to leave tired husbands and little dogs whilst continuing to explore alone), Gothic Alcove, Temple Arbour, Witch House and Mausoleum. I was interested to note that this was also where all the garden visitors were and that not a soul was in the Formal Garden. Perhaps a reflection of our current love of wilder, more natural places. It was certainly an enjoyable place to wander in for an hour or so.

Julie Davies

A Peek in the Bookshop

It still seems a bit early to be mentioning the C word, but we've certainly had customers in already buying books for Christmas gifts. I'll save the real Christmassy highlights for next month but in the meantime, here are some books that have caught my eye that are coming soon.

Patriot is the story of Alexei Navalny's life in his own words, translated by Arch Tait. It's sure to be an engrossing and exhilarating read with, as we know, a tragic ending.

Booker shortlisted author Tim Winton has written a breathtaking cli-fi (climate fiction in case you've not heard that term before!) adventure novel called *Juice*. It's an epic story of survival, passion and revenge and we will have independent bookshop exclusive editions while stocks last.

Lego Timelines is a book that will appeal to Lego fans young and old – it's a visual journey through ten decades of Lego history and covers everything you need to know about Lego, from how a Lego set is made to the biggest Lego sets ever.

And from Lego houses to Grand Designs iconic and memorable houses, we're very excited that Kevin McCloud is doing an event with us at Hereford Town Hall on 29 October to celebrate 25 years of Grand Designs. Get your tickets quick!

Hope to see you in the shop soon. **Julie**, Bookseller at Rossiter Books www.rossiterbooks.co.uk

Chuckle Corner

When is a boat like a pile of snow? When it's adrift.

What do you call a row of men waiting for a haircut? A barbecue.

What do you call someone who makes clothes for rabbits? A Hare Dresser

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"My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four unless there are three other people" (Orson Welles, quoted in "The Oldie")

Hereford Cathedral November

(also see their [website](#) for many more exciting events!)

Remembrance Sunday 10 November Solemn Requiem for the Fallen and Act of Remembrance with incense and music by Duruflé

Lecture - Stained Glass - Friends of Cathedral Wednesday 13, 7 pm in the College Hall. Peter O'Neill is currently investigating the stained glass of Hereford Cathedral. His talk will review the history of stained glass in Hereford Cathedral (including beautiful glass that was once here but has been lost through destruction, neglect or sale). He will focus on some of our wonderful Victorian and Edwardian windows, specifically the stories behind them and their dedications. Refreshments included. £10 per member (£15 guests / door). To book place, please email joy.roderick@btinternet.com

An Evening with the Becket Reliquary. Friday 15, 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm Hereford Cathedral holds an exquisite, enamelled reliquary of St Thomas Becket, one of a number made at Limoges in south-western France around the years 1200-1210, just decades after Becket's martyrdom. It would originally have held a relic of the saint himself and would have been placed on the altar within Hereford Cathedral that was dedicated to Becket.

Choral Society Saturday 16, 7.30 pm – 8.40 pm Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony* dramatically defines the oceans and the ships that have historically sailed upon them. Tickets from £10 and can be purchased via Hereford Choral Society website: <https://herefordchoralsociety.org/NovemberConcert.php>.

Bereavement Café Wednesday 20, 2.30 pm – 4 pm Everyone is welcome to join us for an informal and friendly gathering for those who have been bereaved, recently or long ago. Run by volunteers, this is a welcoming environment to share experiences and support.

G4 Christmas – Wednesday 27, 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm Step into G4's world of vocal enchantment as they take you on an awe-inspiring musical journey. From traditional carols to sacred contemplations, classical classics to popular favourites; all the way to modern festive hits. G4's extraordinary and unique vocal renditions will leave you with chills of delight and a heart full of Christmas spirit. To book your ticket, please visit: <https://events.ticketbooth.eu/event/g4-christmas-hereford-cathedral-2024>

Christmas Sparkle – Peter Dyke Saturday 30, lunchtime organ recital of Advent and Christmas favourites given by Peter Dyke, with large screen projection. Admission free. Retiring collection in support of Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust.

Christmas with Contrepoint Friday 29, 7.30pm Join Contrepoint for an enchanting evening of choral music that celebrates the spirit of Christmas with elegance and grace.

Tickets are available to purchase via the cathedral shop or website:

<https://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/christmas-with-contrepoint>

Dates for the diary:

NOVEMBER

- 3 Benefice All Souls Service
- 3 Swing Dancing, Garway Hall
- 4 Garway Crafters
- 5 Garway Coffee Morning
- 6 OWLs Lunch
- 11 Green Garway Book Club
- 12 Flicks in the Sticks, Garway – Perfect Days/ Garway Talk Hub
- 13 Garway Stitchers/ Tretire and Pencoyd Quiz Supper
- 14 Coffee morning, St Weonards
- 15 Garway Live!
- 17 Remembrance Services
- 17 Garway Christmas Market
- 19 Garway Heritage Group
- 19 Garway Talk Hub
- 21 Orcop Coffee Morning
- 23 h.Art and Pop-Up Café, Hentland and Hoarwithy
- 24 h.Art and Pop-Up Café, Hentland and Hoarwithy
- 27 Garway Stitcher
- 29 Churchyard Bingo, St Weonards.

DECEMBER

- 1 Carol Service Orcop Hill Baptist chapel
- 2 Christmas Floral arranging demonstration St Weonards
- 4 The OWL Christmas Lunch
- 6 Village Christmas, Garway
- 9 Garway Green Book Group
- 10 Garway Flicks in the Sticks—the Holdovers
- 11 Garway Live! The Soul Strutters
- 14 Community Carols, Orcop Parish Hall
- 17 Garway Heritage Group Christmas Quiz.
- 21 The Shepherds' Play, St Weonards Church

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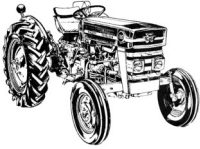
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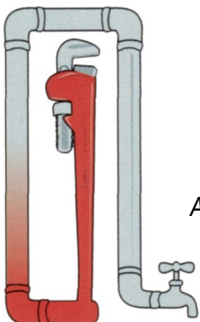
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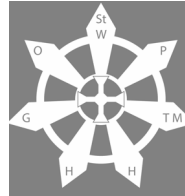
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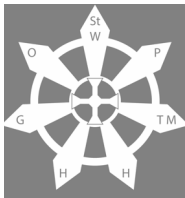
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OCTOBER / NOVEMBER**

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3 - 5pm £10 per child includes buffet and entertainment and gift to take home

31st October Halloween Murder Mystery

7.30pm Start - £45 per Adult includes 3 course menu and entertainment - Booking essential

1st November Halloween Party - Adults

8pm Start - FREE entry - Fancy dress - Live music from the Forfeits.

5th November Bonfire Night fire pit

5 - 7pm - Fire Pit - Mulled Wine - Hot chocolates - marshmallow toasting - sparklers

13th November Quiz Night

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FORBIDDEN NIGHTS 24

Muscles & Mayhem! Thurs 21st Nov at 8pm

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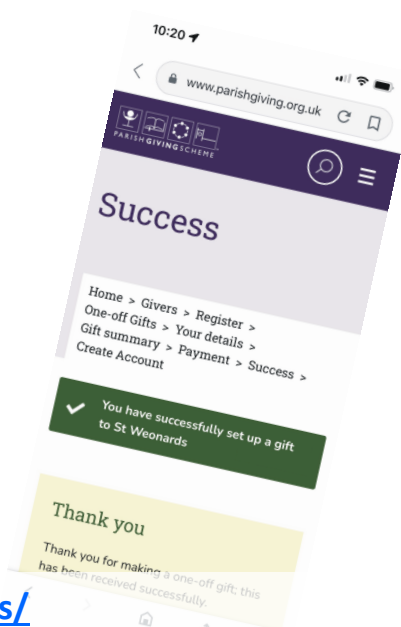
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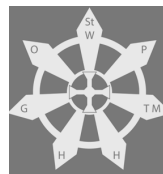
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