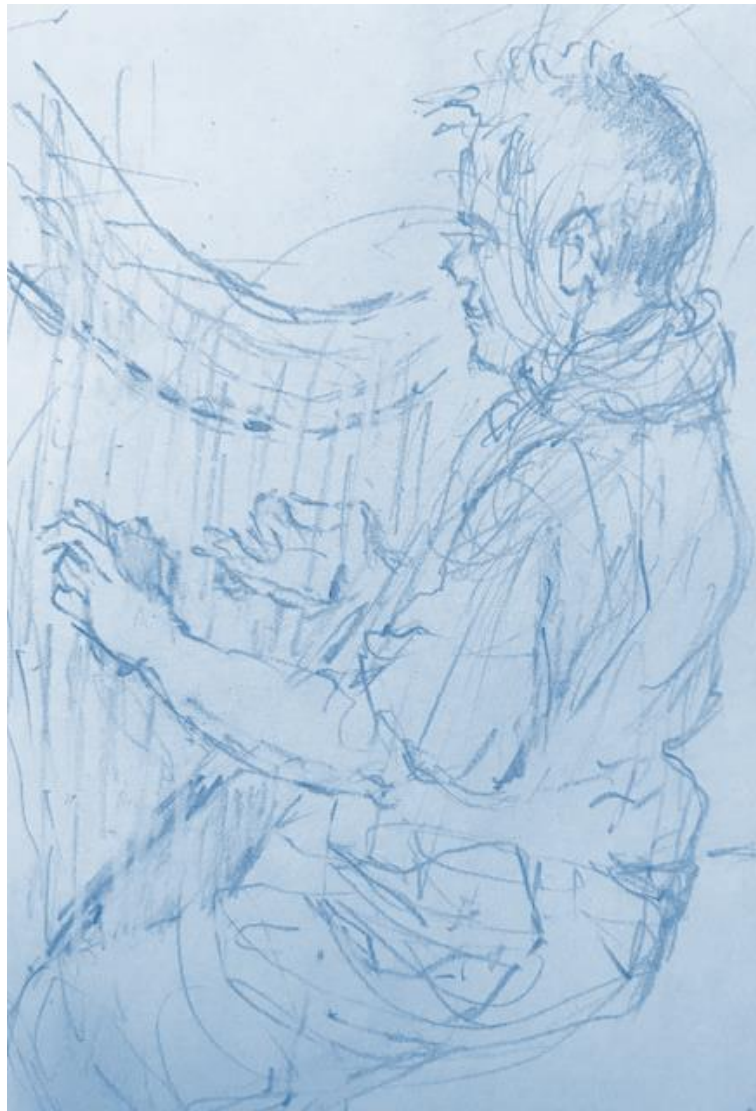


# PARISH NEWS

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

JULY 2025



**Delyth Jenkins playing the Celtic harp in Garway Church May 2025**

**Drawing by Pat Macrae**

## **CONTENTS**

### **Page**

<b>3</b>	<b>Contacts in the St Weonards group/Herefordshire Councillors</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Magazine Contacts/ Parish Council contacts/ Helplines/Police contacts</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Vicar's Letter</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Compline Service notice/ July – Church Rota</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Benefice Communion notice/ Prescription rota/ Magazine News/ Village Pages</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Village Pages – St Weonards News/ St Weonards Academy/ Open Gardens, St Weonards</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>St Weonards Coffee Morning/ Garway News – Obituary/ Ross Recorders/ Midweek service</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Garway Village Hall News/ Coffee Morning</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Garway Talk Hub and Taurus Health checks/ Garway Live! National Theatre: A Streetcar named Desire</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Dates for your Diary – Garway/ The Braiding of Prayers</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Orcop News – Church cleaning and Flowers/ Orcop Fete/ Coffee Morning</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Orcop Wine and Cheese Soiree/ Visit of a Gentle Giant</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Gentle Giant cont/ Diary Dates, Orcop/ Tretire with Michaelchurch and Pencoyd News</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Tennis Tournament and BBQ, Pencoyd/ Hentland and Hoarwithy News</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Dates for your Diary, Hentland and Hoarwithy/ St Dubricius Concert</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>A Swift Update/ Book Review</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Garden Notes</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Garden Notes/ Hereford Cathedral events</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>We Are Farming Minds/ Chuckle Corner</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Mentors needed for children's charity/Diary Dates</b>

## CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

### Vicar

Rev Angie Kateley.....01981 345044  
[revangiekateley@gmail.com](mailto:revangiekateley@gmail.com) Rest day: Tuesday

### Churchwardens

St. Weonards	Anna Williams .....07779 006994
	Amanda Johnson
	Richard Day
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	Richard Mynors .....01981 580208
Bellringing	Peter Hallowell.....01981 580203
Garway Youth Group	Mark Shipton .....07986 324915
Orcop Hall Bookings	Julia Garlick..... <a href="mailto:enquiries@orcopparishhall.org">enquiries@orcopparishhall.org</a> 01981 580515
St Weonards Hall Booking	Anna Williams.....07779 006994
St Weonards Pre-school	Anna Williams.....01981 580352
Singing Tree Choir	Hilary Smallwood .....01600 614012
Garway Hall Bookings	..... <a href="mailto:hires@garwayhall.org">hires@garwayhall.org</a>
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones.....01600 750273
Garway Live	Graham Bevan .....01981 580215
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson .....01600 750465
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Lockhart .....01981 241310
Dore Community Transport	.....0345 2020144
St Weonards Group website	..... <a href="http://www.stw.org.uk">www.stw.org.uk</a>

### HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Birch Ward:	Toni Fagan (Green) ..... <a href="mailto:Toni.Fagan@Herefordshire.gov.uk">Toni.Fagan@Herefordshire.gov.uk</a> office hours 01981 540721
Dinedor Hill Ward:	David Davies ..... <a href="mailto:david.davies2@herefordshire.gov.uk">david.davies2@herefordshire.gov.uk</a> 07931 733336

15 Hever Road, Lower Bullingham, Hereford HR2 6EW

## MAGAZINE CONTACTS

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

<b>Magazine Editor:</b>	Fiona Mynors.....	01981 580208
<b>Garway:</b>	Ruth Maskell..... Windy Ridge, Garway	01600 750454
<b>Hentland/Hoarwithy:</b>	Mr and Mrs Pember..... One Eleven, Hoarwithy	01432 840254
<b>Orcop:</b>	Mrs M Fletcher .....	01981 540790
	3 Wilkes Row, Orcop	
<b>Tretire/Pencoyd:</b>	Margaret Oubridge .....	01981 580233
	Tretire Smithy	
<b>St. Weonards:</b>	Mrs P Craig .....	01981 580433
	8 Mount Way, St Weonards	

Contributions by email to [archenfieldmag@btinternet.com](mailto:archenfieldmag@btinternet.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

<b>Garway:</b>	<a href="mailto:clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk">clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.garwayparishcouncil.co.uk">www.garwayparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
<b>Orcop:</b>	Neil Barrington..... <a href="mailto:clerk@orcopparrishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@orcopparrishcouncil.gov.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.orcopparrishcouncil.gov.uk">www.orcopparrishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	07380 132702
<b>St Weonards:</b>	Neil Barrington..... <a href="mailto:clerk@stweonardsparrishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@stweonardsparrishcouncil.gov.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.stweonardsparrishcouncil.gov.uk">www.stweonardsparrishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	07380 132702
<b>Llanwarne:</b>	Neil Barrington..... <a href="mailto:clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk">clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk</a>	07380 132702
<b>Ballingham, Bolstone &amp; Hentland:</b>	Nicky Mackenzie .....	07581 353103
	<a href="mailto:clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk">clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk">www.ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk</a>	

## VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)

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<b>Samaritans</b>	National Helpline .....	08457 909090
	Hereford .....	116 123 free calls
		0330 094 5717 local call rates apply
		<a href="mailto:jo@samaritans.org">jo@samaritans.org</a>

**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](mailto:herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.police.uk) [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

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



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# PARISH NEWS

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## THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

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

### Vicar's Letter

It's hard to believe I've been here with you now for a whole year. And what a year! Highs and lows, joys and challenges, a steep learning curve, a fair bit of getting lost, and a whole lot of very lovely people. I am humbled and slightly abashed when I think about the warmth of welcome I have received.

*'I am still learning' (Michaelangelo)*

I have a huge amount of learning yet to do. There's the learning I love to do just for the sake of it, the kind that is sparked by my own curiosity, such as the nature all around us, freestyle hand embroidery, stationary engines, 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture, Celtic Christianity, and Ignatian spirituality. There's the learning I hope to do about life and God and all the big stuff. And then there's the learning I need to continue so that I can grow to be better as your vicar.

We learn because we need to know how to do stuff, and knowledge is a wonderful thing. But really, I aspire to wisdom - and that is an altogether more exquisite and intangible thing, usually years in the making. It requires some knowledge I'm sure, but being brainy is never going to get you there. Experience is a big part of it, and not being afraid of your mistakes and failures, but even with learning, experience and courage to fail, you haven't necessarily got all the ingredients for wisdom. Taking the time to reflect honestly on your learning and experiences probably gets you much nearer to wisdom, and I think into that mix you need to add empathy, compassion, and open-mindedness.

A large-scale global study found that, although wisdom may appear to be shaped by cultural differences, the core aspects of what makes someone wise are largely the same across cultures. According to the study, real wisdom is about finding a balance between reflective and considered reasoning and understanding, and caring about the thoughts and feelings of others, considering different perspectives.

Yikes, I think I have some way to go! I'm grateful to know some rather wise people in our midst, wise in different ways. My prayers for all of us this month are that we can treasure wisdom where we find it, and all continue to grow towards wisdom together, because I don't think it's ever a solo endeavour.

**Rev Angie x**

### **Compline**

*a short, quiet service to end the day  
for the summer months*

Starting at 7pm

every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in Hentland Church

every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in Garway Church

*Join us, you will be most welcome*

**Rev Angie x**

## **CHURCH SERVICE ROTA FOR JULY**

**For any changes, please check the benefice website [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)**

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	7.00pm	Hentland Church, Compline Service
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	10am	Hentland Church, Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	9.30am	St Weonards Church, All Age Communion.
	11.15am	Garway Church, Celtic Service
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	7.00pm	Garway Church, Compline Service
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Hoarwithy Church, Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Tretire Church Evensong with Ross Choir
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am	Hentland Church, Holy Communion
	11.15am	Orcop Church, Holy Communion
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	10.00am	Garway Church, Benefice Holy Communion

Enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the  
Rev. Angie Kateley [revangiekateley@gmail.com](mailto:revangiekateley@gmail.com) 01981 345044 **Rest Day Tuesday**  
**Garway Hill Methodist Chapel 13<sup>th</sup> July Rev Paul Arnold (Holy Communion) 3pm**

**Sunday July 6th**

**Benefice Communion at Hentland Church**

**10.00am**

**PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION**



**July 15<sup>th</sup> Lawrence 01981 580548**

**!!! Magazine News !!!**

**COPY DATE July 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Please send in by 6.00pm**

After many years, Rev Brian Philips who has printed our magazine, is shutting up his printing machine. We are most grateful to him for all his work and wish him well for the future.

## VILLAGE PAGES

### ST WEONARDS

Alex Mynors Herbert will be ordained deacon in Hereford Cathedral on Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup> at 3.30pm. All are welcome to come to the service, and to join her for refreshments afterwards in St. Peter's, one of the two churches in her new parish, and just a short walk from the cathedral. The service will probably end at about 5pm. At the All-Age Communion on June 8th, we marked Alex's departure with a formal

commissioning and a celebration cake! We will miss her leadership at All Age, but we look forward to supporting the new team led by Derick Hill and Keith Simpson.

The Open Garden on a fine if somewhat cool day at Treago proved a hugely popular event with a wonderful array of vintage cars, tractors and Jim Poyner and friends' amazing standing engines! In the past, Ron Evans has helped us by organising people to bring their vehicles. As many people know, he has been extremely unwell. The good news is that he is home now and progressing gradually. Jim generously volunteered to contact car and tractor owners, and we are most grateful to him and all who came.

We were delighted to welcome Caroline from *We are Farming Minds* who was able to explain to visitors about their valuable work. The teas were excellent as usual, and we are so grateful to the tea team and those who contributed cakes. The wilderness trail was popular, and the skittles always brings out the competitive nature of our community! The house tours were busy, and we are grateful to the Herbert family for allowing us to invade both their home and garden.

Such events can only be successful with a huge team effort. So many, many thanks to all involved who helped and all who came to support. We raised over £2000 which is amazing and supports the cost of the ministry of the church in our parish.

As I write, the weather forecast for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June is looking pretty dreadful! Instead of *Music in the Garden*, we will be enjoying the Risca Male Voice Choir and Ledbury Brass Band in the church! More news of that next month.

***Fiona Mynors on behalf the PCC***

## **ST WEONARDS ACADEMY NEWS**

If anyone would like more information about our setting and the wonderful educational opportunities we offer, please contact ***Mrs Anna Williams***, School Administrative Assistant on 01981 580352 or email [admin@stweonards.hmfa.org.uk](mailto:admin@stweonards.hmfa.org.uk)

### **Open Gardens in St Weonards – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 10am to 5pm**



You are invited to visit two neighbouring gardens – The Poplands (Astrid Knappe) and Harp Cottage (Brian Hurrell) HR2 8PL. Tea and homemade cakes available all day. Charity plant stall. Proceeds to Orcop and St Weonards churches. £5 entry (children under 13 free).

Signposted off the A46 between St Weonards and Sandyway.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July St. Weonards Village Hall**

**10.00 until 12.00am**

Coffee Morning

Enjoy coffee and some delicious homemade cake.

Meet old friends and make new ones. Just turn up.

All Welcome.

## **GARWAY**

### **John Benjamin**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025, At the age 81, Garway said goodbye to John Francis Benjamin. John spent his whole life living and farming Old Gardens Farm, Garway Hill. He farmed with his brother Clive, and his sisters, Helen and Judy, when they were home.

He farmed sheep, cattle and poultry, making use of commoners rights to graze his sheep on Garway Hill. There is a Silver Birch tree that is on the hill, which has grown into a circular shape was planted by John.

He was well known in Garway for being a quiet man who didn't like a fuss and was well respected by the community.

Our sincere condolences go to Janice, his wife and to his family. Janice wishes to thank family, neighbours and friends who have helped her in this difficult time.

### **The Ross Recorders**

Our regular Celtic style Service of Worship on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, combined a celebration of the completion of the *"Record of Church Furnishings – St. Michaels of Garway Herefordshire"*. This is a comprehensive investigation and recording of everything that is contained within Garway church, from the smallest details, such as the carvings and marks in the building's stonework - to the building itself and everything in between.

We are hugely grateful to The Ross Recorders, of the "Church Recorders Society" for spending many months, spanning two years, discovering and documenting the vast content that is held within the church. Elizabeth Maggs, team leader of the recorders, spoke about the work they had done during the service, and Elizabeth then made a presentation of the record to Rev. Angie Kateley.

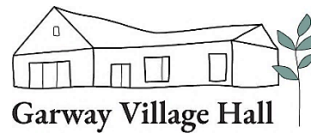
It was a lovely service, which ended with coffee, cake and a lot of chat about what had been found during Liz and the team's time working on the record.

Our thanks go to Liz and her team.

### **New Midweek Service 7pm 16<sup>th</sup> July**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> July, Garway Church will be having a regular Compline Service which will continue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, at 7pm. Compline is a gentle, short service of contemplation and a lovely way to end a busy day. Everyone is welcome.

**Tracy Somerville, churchwarden**



**Friday 27 June - Jive by the Wye - Jive Workshop and Dance** Have you always wanted to learn to jive? Come along to Jive by the Wye's jive workshop from 7-8pm then practice your new skills on the dance floor between 8-10.30pm. Dance and workshop = £8 Dance only = £6  
For more info contact [jivebythewye@hotmail.com](mailto:jivebythewye@hotmail.com) / 07470 074643

**Saturday 28 June from noon til late - Garway Music Festival** Come along to our music extravaganza at Garway's first music festival. Line Up: Tony Hopkins, the Rabble, Black Cat, Onika Venus and headline act Roving Crows .  
Hot and cold food vendors / sweet treats / bar / dance floor / picnic tables  
Tickets £25 per adult / £16 under 16s through TicketSource

**Tuesday 15 July 10am-12 - Garway Talk Hub & Taurus TalkWellbeing** As well as the usual coffee morning with Garway Talk Hub, Gemma from Taurus TalkWellbeing will be available in the outreach room for one-to-one health checks, cholesterol tests. She is ready to give signposting advice for any other health concerns you want to raise

**Children's Parties** Did you know we offer a special fixed rate of £60 for children's parties at the hall? Contact [hires@garwayhall.org](mailto:hires@garwayhall.org) for more information.

**Art Display** Next time you're in the hall look out for the art on display in the hallways. Thank you to the art group for brightening up the areas. If you're interested in buying any artwork just contact the relevant artist

Remember that we send out a monthly email newsletter so if you want to be in the know of what's going on, head to our website [www.garwayhall.org](http://www.garwayhall.org) and subscribe!

**Julie Hudson**

## **Garway Coffee Morning**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 10am**

**in Garway Village Hall**

Tea/coffee/homemade cake and good company

With a visit from Sam Weale to tell us about his "Marble Arch to the Arc de Triomphe" challenge in aid of Muscular Dystrophy UK.



**GARWAY JULY & AUGUST TALK COMMUNITY**  
**TALK HUB! EVERYONE WELCOME**

Tuesdays 10:00 - 12:00  
 Garway Hall - Cafe Area  
 HR2 8RQ  
[garwaytalkhub@gmail.com](mailto:garwaytalkhub@gmail.com)

Plus ➔ **Talk Community Partner Guest:**  
**15.07.25 & 19.08.25**

**Gemma from Taurus TalkWellbeing**  
 121 Heart health checks, Cholesterol tests  
 (Outreach Room 10:00-12:00) plus, signposting  
 for any other concerns you want to raise :-).




**NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE**

**JULY 18<sup>th</sup> 2025**

After the success of our first foray into the filmed version of the live productions, we are happy to announce that our next presentation will be on Friday July 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 with the doors open at 6.45.

The production is Tennessee Williams' play "*A Streetcar named Desire*" starring Gillian Anderson, who has received glowing praises for her performance as Blanche Du Bois. We will have the hall set out in the informal manner that our audience liked last time and, of course, the full bar will be available. We are keeping the admission to £10 with the profits going to the upkeep of the hall. The bigger the audience, the easier it will be to put on even more performances. See you there.

**Graham Bevan**

## **Green Book Club**

***Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

**INDIGENOUS WISDOM, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND THE TEACHINGS OF PLANTS**

What a joy of a book! It is so generous - we have learnt tons, felt moved to tears with the beauty occasionally and we were all enthralled with it.

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a scientist and member of the Potawatomi nation. She shares the vast knowledge that indigenous people have about our natural world - from how asters and goldenrods grow together to attract more bees than if they were on their own, to why circular housing works better. She takes us "shopping" in the natural world and encourages us to take only what we need.

If only we could apply these teachings to our capitalist culture where yearning for more and growth is the goal. She writes so eloquently and warmly it's like getting a hug from a book. And we definitely all know how to say "reciprocity" now!

Rating: 4.5/5 **Julie Hudson**

**Dates for the diary: August 23<sup>rd</sup>** on Garway Common, *Garway Fun Day*, All the usual attractions. Don't forget to plant your sunflower seeds now for the Tallest Sunflower Competition!

**From August 1<sup>st</sup>:** *Garway Funday Nearly New Boutique*. The Spice Girls will be holding the 'Garway Boutique' nearly new /good quality clothes stall again this year at the fun day. We would be grateful if local people could begin to think about what might be in their wardrobes that could be donated. We will be able to receive clothes/bags/shoes/jewellery/belts etc. from August 1st. **Julie Martin**

### THE BRAIDING OF PRAYERS

In 2018, I was invited by a remarkable English woman to go on a pilgrimage to a mountain in the north-western Bolivian Andes. We were four women from Dartmoor, Cornwall, Wales and Garway.

On our return, Carolyn Hyllier who invited me on the trip, created a CD with prayers and songs that told the story of our journey, featuring live recordings of people we met along the way. *The Rights of Mother Earth* that we read at the Archenfield event last Saturday, on May 10th, in Garway church, is part of Carolyn's album, titled *Pachamama (Mother Earth) Prayer*, which you can find online at *SeventhWave Music*.

#### The Rights of Mother Earth

*Our Mother is a sacred and dynamic entity,  
Our Mother survives to harmony, plurality, diversity and balance.  
Our Mother represents the collective wellbeing for now, and for future generations.  
We belong to the community of beings comprising our Mother Earth.*

*Our Mother is owned by no one; she exists for us all.  
Our Mother has the right to life. The integrity of life. The regeneration of life, the honouring of life.*

*Our Mother has the right to pure water, clean air, clean soil, purifying fire.*

*Our Mother has the right to freedom from toxic pollution, radioactive contamination, industrial aggression, commercial exploitation.  
Unharnessed waste.*

*Our Mother has the right to not be stripped of her living skin.  
Plundered other dark veins.  
Raped for her jewel bones.*

*Our Mother has the right to freedom from excessive light, excessive speed,  
excessive noise, excessive greed.*

*Our Mother has the right to stillness.  
Silence. Peace.*

*Our Mother has the right to receive restoration from loss, repair from damage, healing from destruction.  
Our Mother has the right to conservation, continuity, equilibrium.*

*Our Mother has the right to be respected, for the inter-relations, inter-dependence and intrinsic harmony of  
all her living systems, living components, and living beings.*

*Our Mother is own by no one.  
She exists for us all.*

Thank you, Hilary Smallwood, for holding this event that offers our community a chance to give back, to connect with each other and the land, and to express our shared humanity in a creative way.

**Cecibel Egan**

## ORCOP

### Orcop Flower and Cleaning Rota: Mrs. M. Morris



#### Orcop Fete

**Monday August 25<sup>th</sup> 2025 2.00pm**

Orcop Parish Hall

Stalls including cakes and preserves, pictures, plants and produce,  
bric a brac, books, tombola, games, skittles, raffles,  
ice-creams, refreshments and more.

Pre fete quiz sheets available

Tables welcome

Free Admission, Ample parking, disabled access. Everyone welcome

Contact **Julia Garlick** Tel 01981 580515

#### ORCOP VILLAGE HALL

#### Summer Coffee Mornings

will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY of each month

10.30 – 12.30

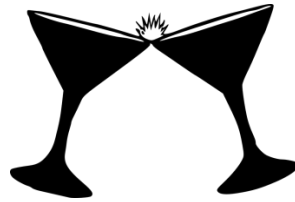
July 16<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup>, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>

Do come along for a local catch-up.

Everyone is welcome - whether new to the area or life-long resident.

**Gill & Tim Bannerman** 01981 580685

## ORCOP VILLAGE HALL WINE & CHEESE SOIREE FRIDAY 18 JULY 7-10PM



Burgundy or Bordeaux? Shiraz or Pinot Noir? Whatever your tipples, come and explore the Wines of the World – where they grow, how and why they differ and, above all, what they taste like at their very best!

Tom Innes, long-established independent wine merchant and connoisseur of Fingal Rock in Monmouth, will tell the stories behind every glass you taste from a lifetime of relationships with the growers and their 'terroir'.

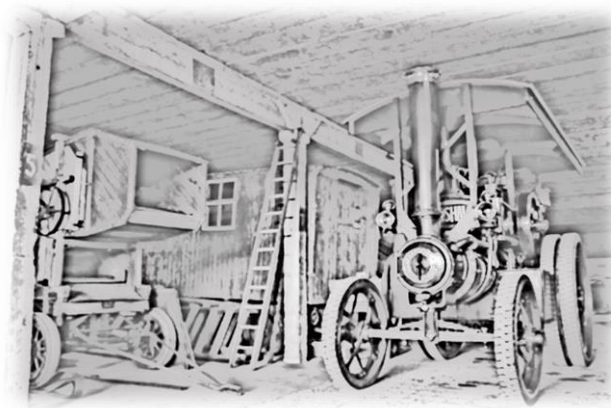
Where better than Orcop Village Hall on a summer's evening in July with good company and some simple fare to soak up the essence of what makes wine tick – and why we love it as we do!

£15 per person. Please book in advance by contacting Sally Cannell on [sacannell64@gmail.com](mailto:sacannell64@gmail.com) or phone 07966463432

Many thanks to all those who supported the Churchyard Bingo in May, we raised £880 towards cutting the grass.

**Julia Garlick**

## Gentle Giant visits Orcop to Pull Down a Big Ash Tree



"Moonraker" left the "Marshall of Gainsborough" factory on 1st July 1925, and was supplied new to Huyton and Roby District Council. It is the sole surviving 4NHP (Nominal Horse Power) "S-type" convertible tractor, which means it can be used as either a haulage tractor, or a road roller. After being sold a few times, it ended up working for a contractor called Herbert Gurnhill. He took the engine into the preservation era, and to the early steam rallies. By the early 80's it required some repairs, and was laid up until 2005, when bought in bits by Neil Mackinlay, who steamed it for the first time in 2009. Ariel West, the current owner, purchased the engine in 2014. Since then, it has been used extensively, covering thousands of road miles and driving various machinery. In 2022, he carried out some remedial work, a few new gears, and the construction of a winch drum to Marshall drawings, (having not been selected as an optional extra

when new) which has been a well-used addition. Whilst Moonraker is just about to celebrate its 100th birthday, it is rarely found on the rally field, but often busy still doing a day's work, as it was on 25<sup>th</sup> May, when it was to be found alongside the lower road of Garway Hill.

Arial, appropriately attired in a smart shirt and tie, black waistcoat and black bowler hat, and his splendid machine, had been called in to pull down a large ash tree, which was shedding branches and had become dangerous. The tree was located in an inaccessible position at the foot of a steep bank. Having been pulled down, the tree was cut into large logs, which were dragged up the slope by Moonraker's very powerful winch. This was a great spectacle, and Betty Lovering and her daughter Charmaine were kind enough to invite their neighbours to come and watch. It was a wonderful social gathering, and Arial patiently answered a steady stream of questions about the proceedings.

Traction engines run on high-quality steam coal, of which the best in the world was mined in Wales. Arial has a good stock of this fine Welsh coal, but now that the last mine has closed, most of the coal needed for historic steam engines and railway locomotives is imported from Russia. This Russian coal is filthy stuff and produces much foul black smoke, whereas Moonraker, running on the premium Welsh variety, produces barely any. One has to question the wisdom of the Welsh government in closing the last steam coal mines. If a small mine were kept open, not only would it provide employment for Welsh miners, but also it would avoid the environmental impacts of transporting the stuff from Russia, to say nothing of the atmospheric pollution arising from its combustion!

Over the two weeks following her visit to Orcop, Moonraker was driven to the Abergavenny Steam Festival and then the Gwatkins Cider Festival before going home for a well-earned rest.

**A big thank you to Kaya and Callum, who orchestrated the whole operation, and whose hospitality was second to none. Thanks go equally to Arial, Betty, Charmaine and the chain-saw team for inviting us to enjoy this rare opportunity to see a gentle giant in action, doing the kind of thing it was designed for 100 years ago.**

***Peter Garratt* (with information and picture kindly provided by Arial West)**

**Dates for the diary:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August Orcop Fete in the village hall.

- Orcop Apple Pressing Festival – Saturday, 11th October.
- Annual Christmas Bazaar – Saturday, 29th November.

## TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

By the time you read this we will have had the privilege of hosting three services in the Benefice group during June – our normal evening service at Pencoyd, a simple communion at Tretire and also on 29 June, our annual Evening Service at Michaelchurch. I am always incredibly grateful to the teams who turn out to help dust, sweep, polish, strim, mow, trim, decorate and most importantly turn up and join in these events.

In July we welcome the Ross Choir again – Sunday 20 July at St Mary's, Tretire at 06.00pm for Sung Evensong. Sit back, relax and let the choir do all the work as we take a short moment in the evening to stop, take stock, say some prayers, and prepare for the week ahead. I do hope you will join us.

Chris Snell and David Snow are running our Tennis Tournament on 27 July. EVERYONE is most welcome to join in from all around the benefice – no matter what your standard of playing. And to round the day off, a barbeque – and you have no excuse for missing that!

In anticipation of a move away to a smaller more manageable home, I am very sad to announce that John and Margaret Oubridge have stepped away from our PCC. I am thrilled the Margaret has kindly offered to accompany hymns for so long as they are around and her signature flowers on the altar at Tretire will also continue to welcome visitors. Margaret has stepped away from preparing this update in the magazine – but that must not deter anyone with news or information to impart from sending it in.

Please join me in wishing Jenni Ludlow love and condolences on the death of her dear Geoff on 30<sup>th</sup> May. A keen 'birder', excellent photographer, invaluable church warden at Whitchurch and much valued member of the Michaelchurch community.

And a few days earlier Calista and Mansell welcomed a new baby boy to Tretire Mill. We send them very many congratulations and much look forward to meeting him soon.

Finally, I am thrilled to see Roger Pursey back and buzzing around on his livestock inspections following an operation in May.

***Elizabeth Malcolm, Churchwarden***

## **Tennis Tournament and BBQ** **Sunday 27th July**



**All ages, all standards, all players welcome**

***Fun Tennis Tournament***, partners 'drawn from a hat'

Play starts Sunday late morning

With semi-final and final in the afternoon, rackets and balls can be supplied

**Player entries: £10 per adult (including light refreshments) to *Chris Snell* Tel: 07966 463385**

Entries close Sat 26<sup>th</sup> July

### **BBQ and Drinks in the Evening**

To follow end of play, approx. 5pm onwards at  
The Hall, Pencoyd by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs D Snow or if the weather is wet  
at Pencoyd Court Farm, this will be headlined when weather forecast is known!

Please bring a chair if you would like to, and all proceeds are in aid of  
Tretire and Pencoyd Churches.

**please book food and drinks for the BBQ with *Chris Snell* Tel: 07966 463385**

***Date for the diary:*** Sunday 24 August, plans for Cream Teas at Michaelchurch  
Friday 3rd October. Harvest Drinks and draw.

## **HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND**

On 14<sup>th</sup> May "The Rectory Society" (members live in Rectories) around 27 members visited St. Catherine's as part of a "Church Crawl" in the area. They found the architecture and history most interesting and following their visit sent a kind donation.



Will and Rebekah were married on 27<sup>th</sup> May and asked The Hoarwithy Singers to support them. (It was the first wedding since 2022). We welcome you to our congregation and wish you every happiness.

*We would like to thank our wonderful village community for all the love and support surrounding our wedding.*

*From helping to clean the church beforehand, to your kind words and warm wishes on the day itself, we have been truly overwhelmed by the love and generosity shown to us. We are also very grateful to those who helped in the church on the day, to the pub for their warm hospitality, to the campsite for parking, and to the Hoarwithy singers for adding such a beautiful and memorable touch to the day.*

*Our wedding day was filled with love, laughter, and the joy of being surrounded by friends and family, all set against the beautiful backdrop of the Herefordshire countryside that we are so lucky to call home.*

*We'd love to share this special photo with you, taken at St Catherine's Church.*

*With our heartfelt thanks and best wishes, Will & Rebekah Godsall*



We welcome Will and Rebekah to our congregation and wish them every happiness.

*Teas in the Cloister* continue 20<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> August 3.00-5.00pm

**Dates for the diary:** 19<sup>th</sup> August "Our Lady of The Water" comes down the Wye and will arrive at Hoarwithy. Evensong with Ross Choir at 6.30pm.

6-14 September 11.00am – 5.00pm hArt and Pop-up Café..

On 21<sup>st</sup> October Bishop Richard and Dean Sarah will be at the New Harp for Bishop's Spiritual Question Time 7.00pm.

**Peter Pember Churchwarden**

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm**

The *Musical and Amicable Society* will be presenting a concert at St Dubricius, Hentland with music being performed by Hannah Davey, Kate Fawcett, Henrik Persson and Martin Perkins.

There will be two fiddlers, cello and organ plus Hannah Davey soprano performing a programme of pieces by Handel and Vivaldi, two well-known and two more rarely heard. Hannah will be singing two cantatas: Handel's *Gloria* and Vivaldi's *Nulla in mundo pax sincera*, while the instrumental works are Handel's *Trio Sonata in G minor* and Vivaldi's *La Folia* (which means madness) which is in a format well-used in the Baroque period, again a trio.

Tickets are £20 with light refreshment served during the interval.

Please contact **Val Lilwall** on 077756 11128 [valeriejlilwall@gmail.com](mailto:valeriejlilwall@gmail.com) for further information.

## A SWIFT UPDATE

Some readers may recall my article published in August last year about our attempts to attract swifts back to Whitehouse Farm.

This year, we set up the sound system playing the swifts' screams in May, and sure enough, we had up to six of these wonderful birds performing their aerobatics a few days later. They inspected closely the nesting box, which is attached to our bedroom window frame, and occasionally alighted on it. We are unsure as to whether they actually entered, but we understand it can take three years for the young birds to find and occupy a nesting site, which they then use for up to fifteen years.

The call system is amazingly effective and last week one bird found its way into the bedroom via the narrow opening through which the speaker cable passes.

It was very interesting to inspect this swift at close quarters, because we normally only see them from a distance when they are (as always) in flight.

The first point to note was the size. These are large birds with a wingspan of about 450mm. The second is that their tiny feet are totally useless on a gloss painted window cill, so the poor creature was flapping about and going nowhere. Once the window was opened wide, the swift was ushered out, emitting a glorious "thank you scream" as it departed, apparently unharmed.

Talking of the swift's scream, there is a wonderful description in my favourite bird-book "*British Birds in Their Haunts*" by the Revd. C. A. Johns, originally published in 1861 (my copy is of the 25<sup>th</sup> edition). It goes like this:

*An early riser, and late in retiring to roost, the swift is always on the wing. Thus, whether hunting on his own account or on behalf of his mate and nestlings, his employment is unvaried, and the same amount of time is always at his disposal for exercising his vocal powers. These are not great; he has no roundelay; he neither warbles nor carols; he does not even twitter. His whole melody is a scream, unmusical but most joyous: a squeak would be a better name, but that, instead of conveying a notion that it results from pain, it is full of rollicking delight. Some compare it to the noise made by the sharpening of a saw: to me it seems such an expression of pent-up joy as little children would make if unexpectedly released from school, furnished with wings and flung up into the air for a game of hide-and-seek among the clouds. Such soarings aloft, such chasing round the pinnacles of the church-tower and the gables of farmhouses, no wonder that they cannot contain themselves for joy. Every day brings its picnic or village feast, with no weariness or depression on the morrow.*

I think we have a lot to learn from the swifts.

**Peter Garratt**

## Book Review

### ***My Name is Why*, by Lemn Sissay**

I first read this book in paperback before subsequently finding an audiobook version read by the author himself and it was a revelation. Sissay, much loved British Ethiopian poet, read his autobiographical novel with such an understated passion that it brought me near to tears.

His description of a childhood in care without love, without physical touch and without continuity or security is painful to read. Children in care grow up without a sense of belonging, of personal worth, of being important to someone. He is under constant judgement, the subject of case conferences, and the central character in a raft of reports by, "*The Authority*", none of whom truly know his heart. He was not even allowed the dignity of his own name and spent his childhood known as Norman – his true given

name, when he discovered and adopted it, is Lemn, which means *Why* in the Ethiopian language Amharic – hence the title of his book.

His history is one of rejection: firstly by his mother, then by the long-term foster parents whom he truly thought cared for him, and finally by the various children's homes he moved around between, the last being little more than a junior prison.

There he encounters constant minor and major acts of cruelty from the damaged children around him. As he succinctly says: *"Hurt people hurt people."*

His colour was a bizarre double-edged sword. Frank racism came his way of course, but also his foster parents soaked up the kudos of taking in a black baby, and to some he was jealously seen as receiving special favours because of his colour, of being special in his social context. At his first Home he was dubbed Chalky White and to begin with felt important and part of the gang because he had a nickname – but he soon came to see how inappropriate it was.

I believe every word of his descriptions of the abuse perpetrated on the children in these homes. Even to this day I am plagued by the awful memories of my experiences working in a children's home during the summer before I went to university. As a mere 17-year-old I was not believed by the powers that be when I fed back what was going on. The sheer impotence of my situation mirrors that of children in care – they have no power. And no-one really cares.

*"Memories in care are slippery because there's no one to recall them with as the years pass. In a few months, I would be in a different home with a different set of people who had no idea of this moment. How could it matter, if no one recalls it? ..... This is how to quietly deplete the sense of self-worth deep inside a child's psyche. This is how a child becomes hidden in plain sight."*

On leaving care and championed by a tenacious social worker, Sissay was allocated a flat – a space to call his own.

*"Somebody left a gift for me outside the flat. I don't know who. It was a thing of beauty to me: a black Olivetti typewriter with a waterfall of ebony finger pads, each ingrained with one mother-of-pearl letter."*  
..... and thus a poet is born .....

**Hilary Smallwood**

### Garden Notes



Back in December, I wrote about how fascinated I was by Ginkgo trees. Well, I finally have one of my very own – a very small one but I am thrilled all the same. I spotted *Ginkgo biloba* 'Mariken' at the garden centre and just had to have it. This is a small variety and had already been trained as a standard so was ideal to plant in a large pot. Ginkgo are slow growing so I don't think it will be too arduous a task to keep it in shape. We have had rain in the last few days, and I noticed that the rain forms droplets on the leaves in the same way that it does on the leaves of *Alchemilla mollis* (Lady's Mantle) – just beautiful. If you've ever wondered why that is, it is because they both have

superhydrophobic (water-repellent) surfaces. With *Alchemilla* it is because the leaves are covered in dense, soft hairs which cause the water to form beads rather than spread out in a thin film. The shape and form of the leaf also helps to collect water on the surface. With Ginkgo, it is due to a combination of the microscopic structure of the leaf and the waxy cuticle on the surface. The waxy layer has microscopic bumps which disrupt the contact between the water and the leaf causing the water to form beads. The waxy layer protects the leaf and the droplets of water rolling across the surface have a self-cleaning effect removing dust. Isn't that fascinating? You'll see the same beading due to a waxy cuticle on brassicas, hostas and nasturtium.

Do you know why Alchemilla has that name? It means 'little alchemist' and apparently alchemists believed that the droplets of water on the leaves were the purest form of water, and they used them in their attempts to transmute base metals into gold.

Standard trees seem to be the theme of my gardening this month. We have two standard bay trees planted either side of a path. They are now 25 years old (they have moved house twice) and, despite annual trimming, had grown so large that we kept walking into them. As late spring is the ideal time of year to hard prune mature bay, my husband gave them a scarily drastic haircut reducing their diameter by half, right back to the bare bones. We were left with two hedgehogs on sticks, but I am pleased to note that young leaves are emerging in abundance.

I was also tempted to buy a pair of standard holly trees (*Ilex x meserveae* 'Blue Maid'), which now stand proudly on either side of the front door in large pots – such a cliché I know, but I am pleased with them. My husband is pleased with them too – 'Oh good, I can put fairy lights on them at Christmas'. For the summer I have planted burnt orange and purple flowers at their base – beautiful dark-eyed bronze-orange *Osteospermum* 'Dalina Compact Orange Brique', the unusual *Bidens* 'Fiery Red' with large deep orange flowers, dainty little double flowered *Calibrachoa* (trailing million bells petunias) in apricot with a red eye, deep purple petunias and royal blue lobelia – rich colours that look great with the dark bluish-green leaves of the hollies.

**Julie Davies**

### **Hereford Cathedral Events (More on the website)**

Advance notice: **Three Choirs Festival 26 July – 2 August in Hereford** Enjoy a superb selection of concerts which feature the festival's own choirs, internationally-recognised soloists, and the world-renowned Philharmonia Orchestra. There is also plenty to do which doesn't need a ticket – pop into one of the cathedral rehearsals, meet with friends and enjoy a drink at the festival bar, listen to incredible performers on the community bandstand, or browse the beautiful items made by local designers in the festival marquee.

Why not come along and see for yourself why so many people come back to us year after year? Full programme <https://3choirs.org/hereford-2025> Tickets from 14 April. 3choirs.org / 01452 768928

**Gala Organ Concert – Thomas Trotter Tuesday 1 July, 7 pm** Join Birmingham-based international organist Thomas Trotter for an evening of music from across the world and across the centuries, including music by Bach, Karg-Elert, and the 2023 work, *Voices of the World*, composed for the 2023 Coronation of King Charles III by Iain Farrington. **Tickets £12 (students £5) from the cathedral website.**

**Elgar musical walks - Friends of Hereford Cathedral Wednesday 2 July & Thursday 10 July, 2 pm.**

As the Three Choirs Festival approaches, we turn our thoughts to Edward Elgar, who spent many happy years in Hereford. Elgar specialists, from the Hereford Guild of Mayor's Guides, will lead walks in small groups, pointing out features connected with Elgar's time in Hereford and playing musical excerpts from his work. **Walk and tea: £16 per member (£18 guests). Tickets must be booked in advance by emailing [friends@herefordcathedral.org](mailto:friends@herefordcathedral.org).**

**Lunchtime Organ Concert Tuesday 8 July, 1.15pm** Join us for our Lunchtime Organ Concert series. This week's concert is given by Tom Coxhead, Newport Cathedral. Free with a retiring collection.

**Creative Cloisters : Friday 11 & Saturday 12 July, 10 am – 3 pm.** The beautiful Cloisters of Hereford Cathedral have been a source of creative inspiration to musicians, artists and poets for centuries. This summer the Cloisters are being opened to artists to experience the space, and create work in response to this very special location. Attendees will have full access to the Cloisters, College Hall and Canon's Garden which leads down to the River Wye. **This is a two-day event which costs £30 (incl. lunch and refreshments on both days). Tickets for Friday only cost £20. Spaces booked via the cathedral website.**



Hello everyone,

*We are Farming Minds* has a very busy year ahead of them, so we are looking for some volunteers to help us at our fundraisers, events or if you'd rather be behind the scenes we are also looking for more people to join us on the support line.

If you have some time to spare and want to make a difference, we'd love to have you on board!

Whether it's a few hours or a regular commitment, every bit of help counts.

Please do get in contact if you are interested, we'd love to hear from you.

**Natalie** Assistant Project Manager M: 07951 871161 W: [www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk](http://www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk)

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Due to the demand for our service from schools in Herefordshire, we are recruiting additional Volunteer Mentors. We are looking for volunteers who want to support and help the next generation, have a good listening ear and can spare a couple of hours each week.

The charity has an excellent track record of success in achieving positive outcomes with children and young people.

If you are interested in supporting a child/young person with social and emotional issues, we would like to hear from you [enquiries@mentorlink.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@mentorlink.org.uk) Tel: 01299 822336 [www.mentorlink.org.uk](http://www.mentorlink.org.uk)

Life experiences a must! Travel expenses paid. Training and ongoing training and support provided.

As a safer recruiter the role is subject to 2-character references and an Enhanced DBS.

Reg Charity No.1169026

### Dates for the diary:

#### July

- 4 Garway Coffee Morning
- 6 Open Gardens, the Poplands and Harp Cottage. St Weonards
- 10 Coffee Morning, St Weonards
- 12 Vivaldi and Handel at St Dubricious, Hentland
- 15 Garway Talk Hub and TalkWellBeing
- 16 Orcop Coffee Morning
- 18 Garway Live! presents National Theatre Live – A Streetcar name Desire
- 18 Orcop Wine and Cheese Soiree
- 26 until 2<sup>nd</sup> August – Three Choirs Festival, Hereford.
- 27 Tennis Tournament and BBQ, Pencoyd

#### August

- 19 Our Lady of the Water comes to Hoarwithy
- 20 Orcop Coffee Morning
- 23 Garway Fun Day
- 24 Cream Teas, Michaelchurch
- 25 Orcop Fete



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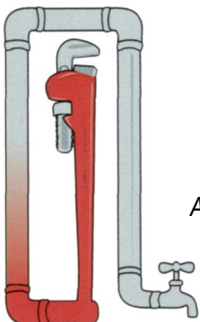
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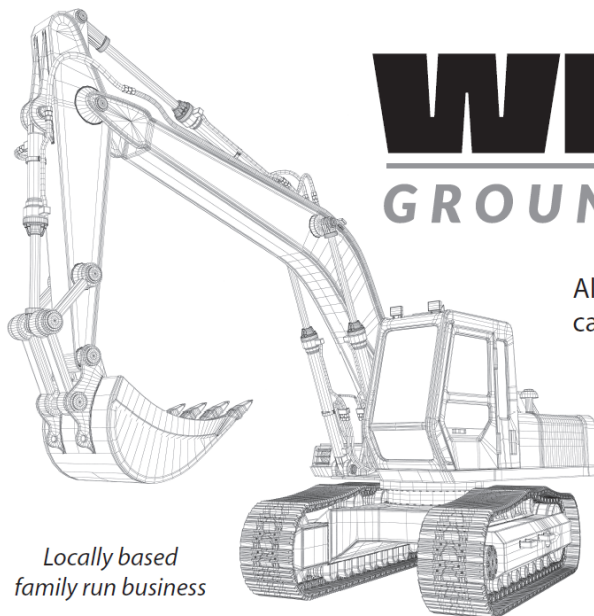
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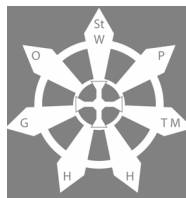
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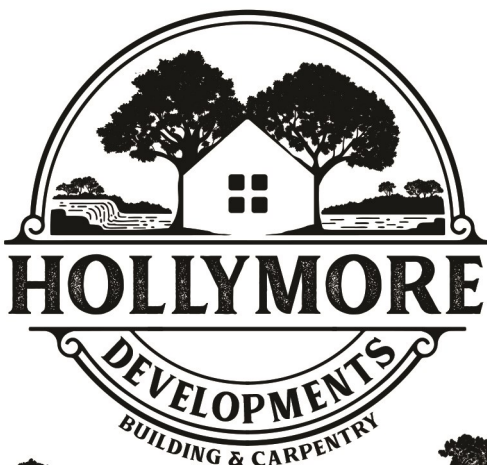
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## **Advertisers index**

*for Advertisers' services index see p28*

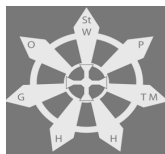
<b>Advertiser</b>	<b>page</b>	<b>Advertiser</b>	<b>page</b>
A & G Machinery Services .....	3	Dennis Walker & Son	
Aquassist .....	6	(Tree Services).....	12
Avalon Tree Surgery .....	13	Eve Lomas Therapies.....	17
Barbara Garlick.....	15	FarmFlock .....	12
Birches Bridge Club .....	4	Flora Designs .....	22
Broad Oak Garage.....	8	Franklin Plumbing & Heating .....	2
Cathedral Park		Garway Hall & Community Centre.	12
(Platform Housing).....	25	Garway Pre-school.....	4
Certainlywood .....	17	Geolec Electrician Services .....	2
Cherished Funerals .....	17	Gerald Benjamin	
Chris Strange		(Electrical Services).....	15
(Building & Carpentry).....	10	Gleam Clean .....	15
Colin (Garden Maintenance).....	10	Golden Valley Construction .....	9
Creative Kinesiology .....	2	Golden Valley Funeral Services .....	1
Deborah Cronshaw .....	7		

*Continued overleaf ...*

## Advertisers index *(Continued)*

<u>Advertiser</u>	<u>page</u>	<u>Advertiser</u>	<u>page</u>
Golden Valley Tree Services.....	15	Oven Wizards.....	22
Greenleaf Architecture .....	20	Owl Good Neighbour.....	18
Hereford Coatings.....	13	P G M & Son .....	7
Hillman's Florist.....	15	P Muldowney & Sons .....	14
Hollow Ash .....	17	Parr Plumbing & Heating Services ...	4
Hollymore.....	22	Paul Ackerman (Carpenter).....	10
Home Choice Flooring .....	3	Pengethley Farm Shop.....	11
Howats Chimney Sweeps .....	21	Philip Partridge (Firewood processing).....	22
Inti Electrical Solutions .....	5	Pigsty Studio & Art Gallery .....	22
Iyengar Yoga.....	11	R K Soft Tissue Massage.....	18
J D Carpentry .....	17	Ross Vincent.....	1
J P Mower Services .....	16	Sarah L Hope (Osteopath) .....	17
James Robson (Building) .....	14	Savoy Theatre.....	24
James Walter (Building Services) ....	9	Shining Stars Pre-school.....	20
Jane Bovell (Singing Lessons) .....	16	South Herefordshire Dowsers .....	1
Juliet Ablett Homeopathy .....	15	St Weonards Village Hall.....	3
Kelsmor Dairy.....	6	STS Chimney & Stove.....	2
Kemble at Home .....	5	Three Choirs .....	25
Lara Payne Reflexology .....	16	Tolley Home Services .....	16
Llama Trekking.....	1	Town & Country Plastering & Decorating.....	11
Lynne Bradley (Piano Lessons) .....	15	Vivien Ray craniosacral therapy .....	1
Mow to Hedge .....	5	Webb Groundworks .....	9
N R Evans & Co .....	5	Wellington Consulting.....	7
Nails & Beauty.....	14	Williams Dental Care.....	19
New Harp Inn .....	23	Wormelow Filling Station.....	8
Nigel Payne (Tree Pruning).....	10	Wye Valley Group .....	6
Old Gore Farm .....	18		
Oldfield Forge.....	2		
Orcop Parish Hall .....	10		

*for Advertisers' services index see p28*



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# Index of Advertisers' Services

Agas, heating & plumbing services .....	2,4,16	Health .....	1,2,11,15,16,17,18
Architectural services.....	20	Hedge cutting .....	10
Art gallery & studio .....	22	Home / live-in care .....	5
Beauty treatments .....	14	Housing .....	25
Blacksmith .....	2	Ice Cream & Milk .....	6,11
Bookkeeping, accountants & office services.....	5,7	Kindling.....	11,17
Bridge Club.....	4	Llama Trekking .....	1
Builders & Construction .....	9,10,14,17,22	Machinery services .....	3,16
Car sales, servicing, MOT and repairs.....	8	Music theory lessons .....	16
Carpentry.....	9,10,14,17,22	Oven cleaning.....	21
Chimney Sweeps.....	2,16,21	Owl Community Support.....	18
Cleaning services .....	15	Painters & Decorators.....	1,9,14
Coatings .....	13	Pest Control services.....	7
Counselling.....	18	Piano lessons .....	15,16
Dental care .....	19	Plasterers & Damp-proofing ..	11
Dowsing.....	1	Pre-school/Toddler .....	4,20
Electricians .....	2,5,15	Property maintenance.....	14,16
Entertainment .....	23,24,25	Pubs .....	23
Farm shop .....	11	Roofing .....	10,14
Firewood.....	11,17	Septic Tank emptying .....	6
Firewood processing .....	22	Shepherding services .....	12
Flooring.....	3,14	Singing.....	16
Florist.....	15	Skip Hire, recycling etc .....	6
Foot care .....	7	Small bale hay .....	17
Fruit juice .....	17	Stonework & Brickwork .....	9,10,14
Funeral services .....	1,17	Three Choirs.....	25
Garden Design .....	21	Tree services .....	10,12,13,15
Gardening Services .....	5,10	Village Halls & Community Centres .....	3,10,12
Groundwork .....	9	Window fitting .....	14,16
Guttering.....	14,16	Window cleaning.....	15
		Yoga .....	11

*for an advertisers' index see pages 26/7*