

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

**DECEMBER 2020**



Picture Louise Brosnan

From Elizabeth.

As the season of Advent approaches, we probably all find ourselves at times reflecting on the strangeness of the past year, with the extensive and damaging floods of winter followed quickly by the alarming, unravelling news of the arrival of Covid19 and its rapid and devastating rampage around the world. Back in March we could have had no sense of how different our world and our communities would look this Christmas season. It's still unclear how, where or when church services will be allowed to be conducted, or how much people will be able to join together with family and friends. It seems certain that loneliness and isolation will continue to surround many people as we all try to keep ourselves and others safe and well.

We have been blessed during this year of the pandemic by the Zoom services and YouTube services which Frances has worked hard to bring to us. I found the All Souls service particularly moving. I 'paused and rewind' to see the picture of my father several times before continuing to watch the rest of the service – even though I have the same photo of him in my study and look at it every day. We've been blessed also by those people in our communities who have offered practical or emotional support to those unable to be out and about – small acts of care and kindness which have made a real difference to people's lives.

After so many months of living in this constrained way here is another thank you to some local people who have been a huge help and support within our community. I feel many of us would want to share in thanking them, so.....

**Thank you to**  
**Julie and the team at St Weonards shop**  
**for staying open,**  
**for keeping well stocked**  
**and for getting people's shopping to them.**  
**We probably forget to tell you**  
**but**  
**we really do appreciate all of you. Thank you.**

### !!! Magazine News !!!

Here we are again in lockdown! For December, we have this online magazine distributed via email and on the parish website [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk). A few hard copies will be available at St Weonards Shop and Broad Oak garage as usual. These are for those who have no access to the internet.

We hope to collate as usual for the January edition. **Early copy date 4<sup>th</sup> December please.** As our hard-working collation team will finish their work at the end of the year, we will in future have it collated by our printer. This will increase our costs so that in January the magazine will cost 70p per copy or £7 for a year's subscription. We feel that this is still excellent value for the information and advertising information circulated to more than 400 homes in the area.

Many thanks for the varied contributions. Please keep sending them in as *events* will be few for the forthcoming months.

I hope that everyone is well, safe and able to connect with people if they need help. **Fiona Mynors**

## Service Rota December 2020

### Check [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk) for any possible changes

We're all becoming used to the disruptions to life that Covid19 presents us with. But familiarity doesn't always make for an easy acceptance, and so the absence of, or changed format of, a particular service can be irksome to any of us. Please be patient – we're doing our best.

It continues to be something of a challenge to create a rota of services. Whatever plans we make for this month and the Christmas season it seems certain that there will be some disruption to them, and so some of the services listed below may not be able to take place.

Our churches are mostly able to remain open for private prayer and reflection, but for some of our buildings there's a need to maintain more limited opening times, so do check before you go if you're making a special visit.

<b>6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>All-age service</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Communion service</b>	<b>Garway</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Tretire</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Christmas service</b>	<b>Orcop</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Lay-led Worship</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>St Weonards Carols</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>All-age</b>	<b>St Weonards Church</b>
			<b>/Zoom</b>
	<b>3pm</b>	<b>Benefice Carol service</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Outdoor carols</b>	<b>Pencoyd</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Crib service</b>	<b>YouTube</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Holy Communion service</b>	<b>St Weonards Church</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Orcop</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion service</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Christmas service</b>	<b>Website (Written service for personal use)</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Communion service</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Communion service</b>	<b>Garway</b>

Once released YouTube and website services will be available to view at any time.

## PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



8<sup>th</sup> December Chris Strange 07970 614933

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# VILLAGE PAGES

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## ST WEONARDS

### Church News and Services

Please look at the service rota for the planned services for December. This assumes that the total lockdown has been removed and we can hold services with appropriate safety measures. In St Weonards Church we have a fixed hand sanitiser, track and trace systems and as it is a large building, we can maintain a safe distance from others.

We shall also be holding a Zoom carol service on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm for people to enjoy carols in their homes. Please contact St Weonards PCC (stweonardspcc@gmail.com) for a Zoom link. We look forward to seeing you there! Put the date in your diary.

***Carols on Zoom, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm.***

***Christmas Day Communion St Weonards Church at 9.15am. All are welcome.***



Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets from St Weonards Shop or Garway Garage. Just £1 could win you a super Christmas hamper! The tickets will be drawn on Zoom at the carol service on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

***Fiona Mynors***

### St Weonards Carols With A Difference!

To have the opportunity to share carols with others, we will bring carols to you! If you or someone you know, particularly those living alone, would like a visit from some 'traditional carol singers', a few singers, led by members of the St Weonards Benefice Choir will come and sing outside your home. This will probably be in the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> December at an appointed time, for you to join in as you wish. We will follow government guidelines and ensure that we are well spread out. Please contact Fiona or Richard Mynors on fionamynors@btinternet.com or 01981 580 208, or Alex Herbert. (If you would like to join the singers, please get in touch too!)

### Coffee Rota for St. Weonards Church

Thank you to the following people for their loyal support of providing coffee/tea after the 11 a.m. fourth Sunday service in the month.

Gwen Williams, Thelma Salvage, Chris Lewis, Isobelle Bevan, Gillie Hallewell, Sheila Andrews, Gill Wood, Sarah Partridge and Angela Sayce as well as Richard and Fiona Mynors who always provided mulled wine at the Christmas service.

I appreciated you all staying on the rota, year in year out, probably for twenty- five to thirty years! Some people came off the list and some moved away so thank you to you as well. It is the end of an era!

***Lynette Cain.***

### St Weonards Harvest Thanksgiving

Many thanks to the flower ladies, who made the church look so beautiful for our Harvest Thanksgiving.

Many thanks also to all others who responded so generously with food for the Ross Community Larder, as our harvest donation. Mike and Lyn were able to take several full boxes, where they were very gratefully received.

Thanks also to the parents, staff and pupils of St Weonards School, who produced a mini-mountain of contributions of food and toiletries. The two ladies at the Larder, when Peter and I took the school's contribution were full of praise for both school and church for the combined donations.

Lyn has a box in the church now and the church is open in daylight hours for those of us who wish to continue contributing to this worthy cause. There is much hardship among poorer families in and around Ross, so all donations will be sure to make a difference. Thanks in advance. **Lyn and Gillie**

### **St Weonards Academy School News**

The autumn term is now well under way and we look forward to many dry and sunny days during these challenging times.

During October we held a Harvest Celebration within our school bubble. Parents very kindly sent in many donations of food, which went along with the donations from the Church Harvest Festival to the Ross Community Larder.

The children in Seahorses class have been very interested in learning about Remembrance Day through our curiosity box. We also made some beautiful fire work pictures to go with our learning about the gunpowder plot, the children used some fabulous acting skills to act it out. **Jacky Barley**, School Business Manager

### **St Weonards Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2020**

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council is on 7th December. All meetings will take place at St Weonards Village Hall starting at 7.45pm, unless advised differently by the Parish Clerk.

Kate Hughes, Parish Clerk, Meadow View, St Weonards, Hereford HR2 8QS

01981 580498/07967 352903 clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk www.llanwarnegroupparishcouncil.co.uk

## **GARWAY**

### **Garway Church Flowers**

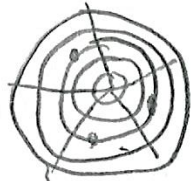
We are looking for new people to join our flower rota, so if you would be interested in helping out, please get in touch with Jane Bovell (01600 750700 or janebovell@yahoo.com)

### **Garway School and Pre-school**

It has been busy in school with our week-long focus on mental health and well-being as part of *Children in Need 2020*, plus our Remembrance Day service and activities. Although we still have to maintain our class 'bubbles', we enjoy coming together as a whole school via zoom for events such as these. We now have new webcams in each class which allow us to see and hear each other more clearly.

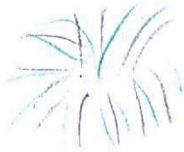
Two national theme weeks run at the same time, *Anti-Bullying Week* and *Road Safety Week*, the theme this year was 'United Against Bullying'. It started by joining in with *Odd Socks Day* to mark the first day of *Anti-Bullying Week*. Pupils wore wear odd socks to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

*Road Safety Week* is the UK's biggest road safety event, coordinated annually by Brake, the road safety charity. It aims to inspire thousands of schools, organisations and communities to take action on road safety and promote life-saving messages during the week and beyond. The theme for 2020 is **NO NEED TO SPEED** which couldn't be more appropriate for our school. this was an opportunity to reflect on YOUR own road safety and consider whether YOU are driving safely when you drop off and pick up from our school. Best wishes, **Julie Jones**, Headteacher



I am Autumn

I whisk the amber leaves off their branches  
and watch them dance to the ground.



I listen as the birds sing their last song the fly away

I see all the creatures steal my harvest

I smell the fresh mountain air and freshly cut grass.



I hear the rain and thunder casting spells on my canopy.

I feel the cold winter creeping up on me like a shadow.

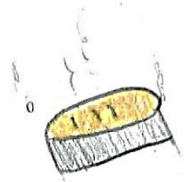
I spot mushrooms growing day by day, but falling to  
the ground like there was no hope



I smell the freshly baked crumble and the newly carved  
pumpkin.

I can hear fireworks and singing going off like bombs  
crack, boom, wizz!

I am Autumn, and I wouldn't change a thing



✓  
✓  
✓  
lalala  
lalalala  
✓

# Autumn Poem

The green leaves started to turn yellow and the trees crackled singers hung on to their final leaves. This could only mean one thing! Autumn was here. The sunny morning sky now gray and foggy. The brittle frost edged leaves crunched wherever you stepped.



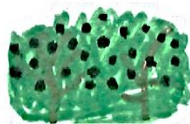
The birds chirped their sweet tuneful songs in the misty air. Every where you looked, you can see rain drops hit the puddles with the smallest splash you've ever seen. The smoke danced above the fire up into the abyss of fog disappearing out of sight

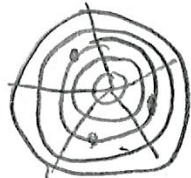


Black berries growing on seemingly every bush. The wind howled like wolves howling to the moon and geese migrating in arrows back to summer. The refreshing rain drizzling down my face. Colorful explosions of joy paint the dark night sky and bonfires burn away at the wood turning in to black crumbling charcole. But now, Autumn is over and here comes winter



By Iestyn





I am Autumn

I whisk the amber leaves off their branches  
and watch them dance to the ground.



I listen as the birds sing their last song the fly away  
I see all the creatures steal my harvest



I smell the fresh mountain air and freshly cut grass.

I hear the rain and thunder casting spells on my canopy.

I feel the cold winter creeping up on me like a shadow.

I spot mushrooms growing day by day, but falling to  
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I smell the freshly baked crumble and the newly carved  
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I can hear fireworks and singing going off like bombs  
crack, boom, wizz!

I am Autumn, and I wouldn't change a thing



✓  
✓  
✓  
lala lala lala lala lala  
✓



## Garway Heritage Group

The Garway Heritage Group (GHG) was created to explore the rich and diverse heritage of Garway and the surrounding area and to make its work available to others who may share our interests.

To find out more, look at the website. <https://www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk/>

For the time being, we will be posting some pieces on an irregular, more or less frequent, basis depending on what you send us – whether you are a Garway Heritage Member or not, you are welcome. These will offer a little more depth to previous talks, reminisces of World War 2, looking to the future post Coronavirus and more. Please send them to me, the chairman – [liz@fouracretrust.org.uk](mailto:liz@fouracretrust.org.uk)

**As there is no news yet of the reopening of Garway Community Hall or, indeed, the end of Covid restrictions, our Winter programme of talks looks uncertain; please look out for details in our newsletter or by emails which you can receive by logging in to our website.**

## ORCOP

The funeral of **Peter Tame** took place on 15<sup>th</sup> October, followed by burial in his chosen location, close to the old Orcop School. Had it not been for the Covid restrictions, this would have been a very large gathering indeed, for Peter had many friends in the Orcop community and beyond. In the event, a congregation of about 15, mostly close relatives, attended what was an extremely moving farewell. The service was led by the Revd. Frances Phillips and included reflections on Peter's life from Stephen and Joseph Tame, Jess Taylor and others. Emma Tame read the poem *Deep Peace*. It was Peter's wish that the many people who had been part of his life should be able to participate in some way and those unable to attend the funeral are invited to visit the following website, on which memories of his life are shared: [www.peterta.me](http://www.peterta.me)

The annual Orcop Act of Remembrance was held at the crossroads on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. The Revd. Elizabeth led a version of the Royal British Legion service that had been shortened in response to the Covid restrictions, which were carefully observed. Despite the challenging times, some 25 Orcopians gathered to remember those of our forebears who gave their lives that ours might be led in peace and freedom. It was, as always, a moving ceremony, perhaps all the more so in view of the current situation. Many welcomed the opportunity to exchange a few words with friends they had not seen for a long time.

We all look forward to seeing the lock-down eased and then perhaps we can look forward to Christmas, which will no doubt be celebrated as best we can under whatever on-going restrictions might follow.

**Peter Garratt**

## Orcop Neighbourhood Development Plan - Update

Please see the Parish Council website for the Housing Delivery Report and meeting Notes of 21 September, 2020.

A discussion took place on 5<sup>th</sup> November with the Steering Group, our Planning Consultant and Herefordshire Council NDP department. The Council had received the Housing Delivery Report and notes of our meeting in order to consider our preferred Option C for housing delivery.

We are grateful that the Council are very supportive as they understand our local difficulties in achieving the development targets laid down. We must thank our consultant for guiding us and presenting a realistic option which he considered could be approved by the council and residents. In all possibilities the Core Strategy and ramifications of any plan were taken into account.

We now await formal agreement to our proposals from the council as more than one department is involved. Another Steering Group meeting will take place with our consultant who will then start drafting the NDP document. A **six week** consultation period then commences which we hope will give all parishioners the opportunity to offer their comments, opinions and suggestions. The consultant will answer any questions which the Steering Group is not able to clarify.

Investigation or a survey regarding foul drainage will not be pursued at this time. It is deemed non-essential for the completion of the NDP and would be a costly process for the Parish Council budget.

Meanwhile any questions can be addressed to Mark Hearne, Orcop Parish Clerk, tel: 01981 251887 clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org

**Margaret Serle, Chair, Orcop NDP Steering Group**

## **Orcop Parish Hall Christmas Market**



**Orcop Parish Hall**  
on  
**Saturday 12th December**  
**10:30 - 12:30**

Selection of local produce to include home-made cakes and preserves and local crafts.

Free entrance, disabled access.  
Everyone welcome!

COVID 19 PRECAUTIONS WILL BE IN PLACE, PLEASE BRING A MASK.

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO BOOK A STALL (£10 per stall)  
PLEASE CONTACT: PETA LONG 07917692584 or email petamary@hotmail.co.uk

We will also have a community table for any locals who have a few items to sell  
but not enough for a stall.

There is no charge to use this facility but please let us know so we can give you more details.

### **Flower and Cleaning Rota**

*(Subject to the anticipated easing of lock-down from early December)*

December 4th    Rosey Wilson

## TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCLOYD

We are sad to report the death of **Mike Roberts** of The Grange, Pencoyd. Mike passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> November just seven months after his dear wife Kay. He will be remembered for his generous support of the church and for the extra strong punch he concocted for a party in 1995 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day! We send our sympathy to his family at this sad time.

As we were unable to have a full service in the church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November, we held our Act of Remembrance at the war memorial in Tretire churchyard. Poppies had been placed around the steps of the cross and our black wooden silhouette of "Tommy" was standing among the gravestones with poppies at his feet. Peter Everall read the names of the nine soldiers of the parish who perished in WWI and gave the exhortation. Peter also played the hymn and the National Anthem on his clarinet. Our two minutes silence was accompanied by very heavy rain beating on umbrellas and the ground. The whole made more poignant by the current lockdown, fifteen of us were there – We Will Remember Them.

Many of you will already know that the Everalls are on the move. After 46 years in St. Weonards and Pencoyd we have bought a house in Wiltshire and we are moving on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Of course it will be a great wrench for us, but to be only eight miles away from our family will be fantastic. We alternate between being sad, scared, and wildly over excited, a bit like when I did my sky dive! We shall not be leaving you entirely, we shall still be joining Zoom church on the first Sunday of the month

Thank you for all the years of friendship and fun, we shall miss you very much. Good health and good luck.

Love from **Liz and Peter**

*(Best wishes from the magazine team to Liz and Peter for their move and new life near their family)*

### Carols & Bonfire



This year we invite everyone to join us for our Carols round the bonfire at **Pencoyd**, (field opposite the church) by kind permission of Tom & Sarah Vaughan.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 6pm**

*(if that day is rained off, we will automatically re-stage for Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December.)*

**Elizabeth Malcolm**

# “THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS”

As you will appreciate this year has been very difficult financially for all our churches, with fewer than usual fundraising events and no service collections, we need your support. We are extremely fortunate to have in our midst the talented Helen Goodwin, our great friend and supporter, who has very generously given Pencoyd and Tretire with Michaelchurch PCC an amazing quilt to raffle for the parish. The quilt is beautifully made and depicts the carol “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, it measures 66 inches x 42 inches, is fleece backed with bound edges and is washable. It would make the most wonderful Christmas present, perhaps an heirloom of the future for your family? It would look great hanging on a wall at Christmas or used to keep you toastie warm.

Sadly, due to Covid 19 restrictions, we are unable to hold an event where we can all be together so the Draw will take place remotely by ZOOM on Thursday December 17 at 7.30pm. Tickets, £5.00 each, are only available by email from Paula at paulasnowtickets@gmail.com until December 14th . Card tickets for the actual draw will be made out in your name and you will be issued with your ticket numbers by email along with details of how to pay, either by cheque or online transfer. The winning ticket is going to be drawn by our vicar, Elizabeth, so you can be sure there will be no chicanery!!

Thank you Helen for the fantastic quilt!



The words of the carol are printed below the pictures.

The colours are more vibrant than they appear in the photo

Registration number SLOT953

# HOARWITHY

## Wildlife in our Garden

Last month we commented on how quiet the bird life of the garden was in August and September. This continued through October, a very mild month, only the Robin keeping a close watch on any of our activities which disturbed the soil. We also occasionally saw a Wren in the shrubbery close to the house, and a squirrel nosing about near the hedge. Since late in October there has been a Pied Wagtail regularly singing from the ridge of the roof.

The bird feeders went up on 29<sup>th</sup>, peanuts, mixed seed and nyjer seed. To begin with there was a rather unenthusiastic response. At the Orcop Village Market on 31<sup>st</sup>, other people we spoke to also remarked on how few birds they were seeing. But gradually, the usual visitors have been drifting back. On the 1<sup>st</sup> November the first was a Blue Tit on the nuts. Then a Robin tried the seeds. A Greater-spotted woodpecker, female, also came briefly to the nuts. The next day there were the Woodpecker, a Great Tit, a Blue Tit and a Gold Finch, with a male Chaffinch lurking in the hedge. It seems the Chaffinches really prefer to feed off the ground so wait around for other birds to drop seeds for them. The first frost was on the night of the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, and this was followed by a much more enthusiastic gathering: all those above, plus a second Blue Tit, a second Great Tit, a female Chaffinch, a male Woodpecker and two House Sparrows.

We've heard reports of winter visitors, such as Fieldfares, now arriving in the fields. We do wonder what prompts their migrations? Is it a drop in temperature where they've come from? Or is it shorter hours of sunlight? Or the height of the sun at midday? Or something else? If you know the answer to this, please do drop a line to the editor of the magazine at: [archenfieldmag@btinternet.com](mailto:archenfieldmag@btinternet.com)

Last month we told you the tale of the weasel and the robin's nest. Now we have another sad tale about a related predator that we have never encountered before. We have kept hens for about 30 years, but in the last few years have just had a couple. On October 28<sup>th</sup> I (M) went down to let them out of their run into the field; only one, Springbelle, emerged, so I imagined the other one, Devon, was on the nest, hopefully laying an egg. They had just finished their moult and were slowly coming back into lay. Unfortunately, Springbelle has developed a bad tendency to peck and eat the eggs, so I returned about half an hour later hoping to catch Devon's egg before Springbelle did. I lifted the lid of the nesting box and could see an egg, not in the nesting box but in the main house. I reached in for it, and as I picked it up the yolk and white poured out; Springbelle had beaten me to it!

But then I saw Devon lying on her side with what looked like a gash on her neck. I reached in for her and discovered she had had her head bitten off. I could only think that a fox had somehow got its head through the very small door of the hen house and just managed to snap off the head. I removed the dead hen and took it up to show John, leaving Springbelle safely (I thought) shut in the run. I went down an hour or so later to check on her and found her on the floor of the run with her head bitten off - so, clearly, not a fox.

I told our neighbours about our loss and they said they thought they knew the culprit, for another neighbour had recently had two fish taken out of his pond, with just their heads bitten off! It seems this is typical behaviour of mink, so when the fish-pond owners had put an electric fence round their pond, the mink had gone for a change of diet and come to our hen run.

We Googled "mink" and discovered that, like otter, they have partially webbed feet and share otter habitat. The stream running through our garden and alongside the hen run brought the mink right to the door of his next meal! John examined the chicken wire which totally encloses our hen run and found a hole in it, 3 inches in diameter, large enough for a mink to squeeze through. The other fact we read was that mink don't eat the chicken; they just bite through the head and drink the blood. So we put the carcasses up at the far end of the field for a fox. Both were taken.

***John & Margaret Oubridge.***

During late summer birds are seldom seen or heard in our gardens because this is the time of the moult. Adults shed the feathers which are worn out from the breeding season and grow new ones to see them through the winter months, while the current year's young are growing their first adult plumage. They hide away as it is a vulnerable time for them, especially when they have lost their flight feathers, but the process also takes a lot of energy. August is the best time for the moult, while the weather is still warm enough.

Thanks to ***Diane*** and ***David Williams*** for their response to last month's wildlife observations.

### **More Nature Notes**

As long-time residents of Tretire we thought you may be interested in some of our observations of the wildlife in the area these past couple of years. We walk a lot, not with bright clothes on, or maps strapped around our neck, but quietly taking in all that is about us at any one time. The following events have been seen in our garden. Some wonderful sights have presented themselves. One in particular was one morning a huge flock of gold finches decided to stop off at our cottage for a rest. There were literally hundreds of them. They were not feeding, just resting in our shrubs, over our trees and along the wire fences. It was an amazing sight. We can only assume these beautiful birds had flocked so as to migrate to warmer climes for the winter. They will travel as far south as the Med. if conditions are right.

Another sight that most of us take for granted is the arrival of the swifts. This year they were very late arriving as the wind was in the north for weeks when they should be in transit. We were in the garden one afternoon, again a strong north wind blowing, and we noticed a few swifts in the air. Being delighted to see them, we watched and to our surprise suddenly a continual stream of these magnificent birds passed overhead, mostly single birds following each other. This flypast continued for well over an hour. None of these birds stopped off at our local farms but just kept going into the wind. I wonder how far they went?

Each year a sight that to us denotes autumn/winter is the arrival of the field fares and red wings. This year it was the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, only a few, but gradually more and more. Normally it is only field fares then the redwings join them. Right now, in early November, they are busy feasting on our holly berries and in the orchards clearing up the fallen apples. Last year we had a lone, very bolshie one, picking up the apples we had put out for all to feed on, and it chased off all the other birds, greedy boy!

A beautiful sight greeted us one afternoon in mid June. It was about midday and for some reason I looked out of the front window, and under the weeping birch tree, where our bird feeders are, was a mother partridge with seven tiny little chicks. They had obviously just hatched and she was taking them off to feed on insects. She quickly fed herself on fallen bird food and off she went with the little ones in tow. Partridge are good mothers, unlike the pheasant. She would wait if one lagged behind, then off again. When they reached the oil seed rape crop we thought that would be the last we would see of them, But no, every day for five days she would appear in our garden with all seven chicks. They grow so quickly and were now really confident and avid feeders. After the fifth day we never saw them again. We looked for her old nest but never found it. I wonder what happened to them all?

The countryside is a wonderful place and nature is always full of surprises. An old gamekeeper once said to me, 'Wild life does not read books, so never be surprised at what you see.'

I hope there is something of interest for all to read. We have many tales if you're interested.

***David*** and ***Christine Pleace***

## Corona Virus Song

If only Corona was just fizzy pop,  
Life would be so happy, let's go to the shop,  
But some nasty virus has taken its name,  
Will life in the modern world ere be the same?

The doctors and nurses are working flat out,  
To heal all the sick folk from this nasty lout,  
Please God send a vaccine to scientists brave,  
So people in every land can be saved.

The numbers of cases rose up in the air,  
So people who party'd with never a care,  
Were told to go home to their telly instead,  
But they didn't like what the government said.

Decisions, decisions, schools open or shut,  
Boutiques, bars and cafes had all their hours cut,  
So home to the children with rumbling tums,  
Attempting some English and difficult sums.

The food shops are bringing big vans to our  
homes,  
Essentials we ordered – but not garden gnomes,  
We'll have to be quick and ring up to complain,  
The loo-rolls we ordered were left in the rain.

Our glasses are steamed up both inside and out,  
From face-masks that make us feel we have to  
shout,  
Bank robber or cowboy I'm not really sure,  
My horse is tied up by the shop entrance door.

The cat and the goldfish are all doing fine,  
The dog he is happy with never a whine,  
For in town or country he gets extra walks,  
And listens intently to owner's long talks.

To see all our family – the rules all say *No*,  
And how does one chat to dear old Auntie Flo?  
With church and the singing on tech in the room,  
We've all become spacemen on something  
called ZOOM.

### **Julia Pember**

(who also wrote the Song of the Peg in the November magazine, incorrectly attributed to Peter Pember.  
*Apologies Julia from the magazine team!*)

## BOOK REVIEW

### ***Love After Love* by Ingrid Persaud**

I was instantly drawn to reading this book as it takes its title from a Derek Walcott poem that someone sent me shortly after I was widowed. I reproduce it in full here, so that others might savour it.

*The time will come  
when, with elation  
you will greet yourself arriving  
at your own door, in your own mirror  
and each will smile at the other's welcome,*

*and say, sit here. Eat.  
You will love again the stranger who was your self.  
Give wine. Give bread. Give back your heart  
to itself, to the stranger who has loved you*

*all your life, whom you ignored  
for another, who knows you by heart.  
Take down the love letters from the bookshelf,*

*the photographs, the desperate notes,  
peel your own image from the mirror.  
Sit. Feast on your life.*

Set in Trinidad and written in rhythmic Trinidadian prose, Persaud's book looks at love in all its forms through the lives of widowed Betty, whose turbulent marriage ended when her husband fell down some steps, and of her young son Solo. Into their lives comes lodger Mr Chetan, a colleague of Betty's and a decent kindly man who takes on the role of father figure to Solo. He gradually slips the boundaries of lodger, sharing household chores and a deep companionship with Betty. And so an unconventional family is born. A family where love and care for each other are predominant and comforting to all. Or, as Betty says: "*You should see Mr Chetan and Solo - happy as pappy and I'm like a Wednesday in the middle.*"

The platonic relationship between Betty and Mr Chetan is central to the household harmony; but, one day, Mr Chetan begins to wonder whether Betty needs him to be a husband to her, and his approaches lead to an evening of honest revelations from both sides over a bottle of rum – revelations that are overheard by Solo.

From that moment the dynamic of this unconventional but settled family is shattered, and Solo leaves home to join the struggles of the illegal immigrant community in America.

The bouncing prose and Trinidadian patois are seductive, once you have accustomed yourself to the absence of speech marks. This is a splendid book that encompasses the bounds of love in all its forms, and the destructive force of convention in our lives.

**Hilary Smallwood**

### **Garden Notes**

I have spent a very satisfactory morning removing the lower branches from a rather boring conifer in the middle of the garden. The gardening term 'lifting the crown' gives no indication of what the technique involves; after all, the crown isn't actually going anywhere. It is the nearest most of us will ever get to being a sculptor. Just like the Michelangelo saying, when asked the secret of his genius, that he simply removed everything that wasn't David, I prefer to think of 'lifting the crown' as releasing the inner tree from all the growth that prevents it being as beautiful as it could be. (As an aside, there is another quotation attributed to Michelangelo that I love – 'I saw the angel in the marble and I carved until I set him free'. Isn't that lovely?)

Anyway back to gardening - this particular tree was beginning to collide with the adjacent shrubs and, more to the point, was providing a cosy hiding place for the neighbourhood rat. After watching our unwelcome visitor scoot into the depths of the tree yet again, I armed myself with loppers and saws and cut off all the branches to shoulder height. It turned out to be a very prickly job with both my helpful little dog and me acquiring dried needles in all sorts of bodily crevices. Just like a sculptor, it helped to stand back occasionally to view the overall effect and to check the consequences of removing the next branch. It is well worth taking care because it makes all the difference between wrecking a tree and turning a dull or messy tree or shrub into something rather lovely.

It amused me to discover that at each fork fallen needles had naturally accumulated to form a soft comfy bed. On top of each little bed – six in total – was a delicious collection of damsons (still remarkably plump and fresh) and walnuts. I did feel slightly guilty removing these hidden larders but I now have a tree which really adds something to the garden instead of causing me to curse and threaten to call in the tree surgeons. Another reason to keep it is because it is like a multi-storey block of flats for birds at nesting time. Right at the top in the penthouse suite is a pair of pigeons who have nested here for at least four years. They provide us with much amusement when they crash land and try to struggle into their nest with sticks that are far too long.

Many overgrown shrubs such as Rhododendrons, certain Viburnums and Osmanthus can benefit from the same treatment. It is well worth peering inside them to see if there is a beautiful trunk or pattern of branches waiting to be revealed. It is also a very satisfying task to take on. About ten years ago I turned a small *Cornus mas* shrub into a lovely multi-stemmed tree shape. It is now a sizeable tree and although we need to remove a branch or two every year to keep its shape, it is a handsome thing and does attract attention.

On a final note, I was amused that announcing that we were removing the vegetable plot should cause such consternation in the Parish (see Nov. issue). No-one need worry too much – we love our vegetables and we have left a small patch by the greenhouse for our favourite vegetables such as leeks and sweetcorn. We are



planning to grow climbing beans over arches over one of the paths and the greenhouse will be full of yummy things. We won't starve and the garden will still contain plenty of edible plants!

**Julie Davies**

### **The Chase**

Some years ago, my lovely next-door neighbour asked me to do her a small favour: she was going to be away from home for the day, and would I please take her little dog out for a walk in the middle of the day?

The dog was a small Jack Russell whom we will call 'Nipper'. In common with many of his breed, Nipper had a great deal of attitude. I had taken him out once or twice before, and usually got bitten in the process.

On this occasion, my teenaged boys and I went round after lunch, clambered past the large JCB which was standing on the front drive, and used the key we had been given to open the back door. A torrent of canine abuse greeted us, and it took a good deal of talking, stroking and small bribes to get Nipper fastened on his lead and out of the door. We set off along the lane, intending just to stroll along and back again. We were all chatting and joking as we went. No-one can remember now who it was who had hold of the lead: all we remember is that whoever it was, dropped it. Nipper started to accelerate, his lead dragging behind him. Laughing, we ran to catch him. He ran faster, and our laughter turned to anxiety as we realised he could easily outrun us. He shot off along the road and we lost sight of him as he turned the corner.

Horrified, we ran as fast as we could, but round the corner there was a turning, and we had no way of knowing which way he had gone.

I sent one boy further along the lane, the other up the turning, and hurried back myself to get the car, hoping to catch up with the dog further on.

All to no avail: Nipper had vanished. What on earth was I going to say to my neighbour? She loved her horrible dog dearly, and I was going to have to admit to losing him.

Considerably later on, we regrouped and decided to climb the hill, puffing up the track which leads to 200 acres of common land, cloaked with shoulder-high bracken at this time of year. Near the top, we met a neighbour, who had seen the dog pass that way some time before. I've never run up the hill so fast, my heart in my mouth. If Nipper should get his dangling lead trapped in the bracken, he would be invisible and could be lost for good, and we would never find him.

From the top of the hill, we could see for miles in every direction, but there was no little terrier in sight.

A thought struck me. The way Nipper had taken might be the route that he was use to walking with his owner, and it was possible to circle back to the house by a wooded bridleway which led down the back of the hill. We decided to try that way. We descended as fast as we could, and reached the road again just below our house. At long last, in the distance, we caught a glimpse of a small white dog, trotting along confidently in the direction of his home. The relief! He had managed to travel a good couple of miles without his lead getting caught. Now, how were we going to get hold of him?

In the end, there was no problem. Because as Nipper trotted up his own front drive, his lead dragged under the huge tyre of the JCB—and he was dragged to a sudden halt! We were able to scoop him up, and I have never been so glad to scoot him into the kitchen and lock the door securely after him!

I'm not sure that I ever owned up to my neighbour just how near we had come to disaster that day!

**Frances Phillips**



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## Chocolate Orange Tiffin

### Ingredients

1 A4 size traybake tin	80g sultanas
250g butter	1 large orange, zest
250g syrup	150g dark chocolate
400g digestive biscuit	Gold sugar sprinkles/any additional topping
50g cocoa powder	

### Method

1. Line the tin with baking paper
2. Melt the butter and syrup in a pan until liquid, do not boil
3. Crush the biscuits in a bowl with a rolling pin, not to a fine crumb but leaving some large biscuit pieces
4. Stir in the cocoa powder, orange zest and sultanas into the biscuit mix
5. Pour in the melted butter mixture and stir
6. Spread the mixture into the tin and chill for 2 hours until set
7. Break up the dark chocolate and either melt in the microwave or in a bowl over simmering water
8. Top the tiffin with the chocolate and add sprinkles of your own choice!

Contact Isabel for Christmas cake orders or useful cooking kits.



# Chuckle Corner

Thanks to Peter Garrett for these!

I once met  
a man  
from Peru  
Invented a super-strong glue  
Incredibly strong,  
resistant to weather  
I couldn't shake hands  
For his were  
stuck together

In lockdown  
there is  
no more bread  
All is sourdough instead  
An uglier word  
is seldom heard  
In Greggs  
Or wherever  
bread is said

There once was  
a young man  
from Baggy  
Whose tummy grew  
round and saggy  
So he got on his bike  
And gave up the cake  
And now he's  
as thin  
as a rake



## HEREFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Hereford Civic Society is concerned about all aspects of the built environment and the civil society which lives here. We liaise with Hereford City Council and Herefordshire Council on relevant matters and reviews all planning applications within the City.

We have a non-voting seat on the City Council Planning Committee and we also submit our own comments via the excellent Herefordshire Council website.

Talks and events are advertised through the Society's website and this magazine.

<https://www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk/about-the-society>

Hereford Civic Society continues to operate virtually!

[www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk) especially commenting on latest reports about housing design; and worries about loss of democracy with the suspension of the planning committee.

## DAIRY DATES

### December

4 Copy date  
7 St Weonards Parish Council Meeting  
8 Prescription collection  
12 Orcop Parish Hall Christmas Market  
17 Raffle draw

18 St Weonards Zoom carol service including raffle draw  
20 Carols and Bonfire  
25 Communion St Weonards Church

### January

15 School place application deadline

## THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

Revd Elizabeth Cathie  
Vicar of the St Weonards  
Group of churches  
The Vicarage  
Mount Way  
St Weonards  
Herefordshire HR2 8NN  
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email: [ejcathie@btinternet.com](mailto:ejcathie@btinternet.com)

Revd Frances Phillips  
Associate Priest of the St  
Weonards Group of churches  
New House  
Garway Hill  
Herefordshire  
HR2 8EZ  
01981 240032  
email: [franjphillips@gmail.com](mailto:franjphillips@gmail.com)

### MAGAZINE CONTACTS

Contributions to the Parish news can be given to your parish representative  
by the **12th of the month:**

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<b>Hentland/Hoarwithy:</b>	Mr and Mrs Pember One Eleven, Hoarwithy	01432 840254
<b>Orcop:</b>	Mrs M Fletcher 3 Wilkes Row, Orcop	01981 540790
<b>Tretire/Pencoyd:</b>	Mrs Liz Everall	01989 730628
<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)  
or paper notices to: Miss June Griffiths, Hillside, St Weonards

### PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

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<b>Hentland:</b>	Kath Greenow AILCM Hackford House, Dinedor. Email: <a href="mailto:clerk@yourparishcouncil.co.uk">clerk@yourparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	01432 840874

### VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS

[www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)

## CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

### Churchwardens

St. Weonards	<i>Vacant</i>	
Orcop	Margaret Fletcher	01981 540790
Garway	<i>Vacant</i>	
Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm	
	Mr Peter Everall	01989 730628
Hoarwithy	Peter Pember	01432 840254
Hentland	Mr Robin Symonds	01989 730439

### Local Contacts

Editor Parish Magazine	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
Group Choir	Sir Richard Mynors	01981 580208
Bellringing	Mr Peter Hallowell	01981 580203
Royal British Legion	Bea Morris	07932 668363
Orcop Evergreens	Gill Bannerman	01981 580685
Woman's Fellowship	Miss June Griffiths	01981 580353
Youth Group, Tearfund	Mrs Fay Rowlands	01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings	Gill Bannerman	01981 580685
St. Weonards Hall	Julie Ross	01981 580201
St Weonards Pre-school	Maggie Evans	07855 550108
Singing Tree choir	Hilary Smallwood	01981 540022
Garway Hall Bookings	Hilary Keenan	01600 750243
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones	01600 750273
@Garway	Colin Finnie	01981 580086
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson	01600 750465
Much Dewchurch Gardening Club	Linda Ashton	01981 540804
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Rigler	0794 030 8696
Dore Community Transport		08452020144 or 01981 240924
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:tonifagan@btinternet.com">tonifagan@btinternet.com</a> Office hours 01981 540721
Dinedor Hill Ward	David Summers	<a href="mailto:david.summers@herefordshire.gov.uk">david.summers@herefordshire.gov.uk</a>

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<b>Samaritans</b>	National Helpline	08457 909090
	Hereford	01432 269000
HOPEline UK (Prevention of Young Suicide)		0870 1704000 01978 367333

### Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South local policing teams

Sgt Emma Freer, PC Kirsty O'Brien, PC Jim Phillips, PCSO Lowri Anderson, PCSO Adam Westlake, PCSO Christina Howard, PCSO Hayley Cohen and PCSO Christopher Yarwood.

**How to get in touch:** 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime.  
[herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.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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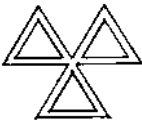
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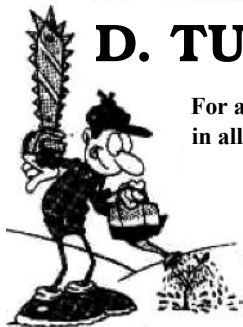
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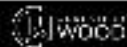
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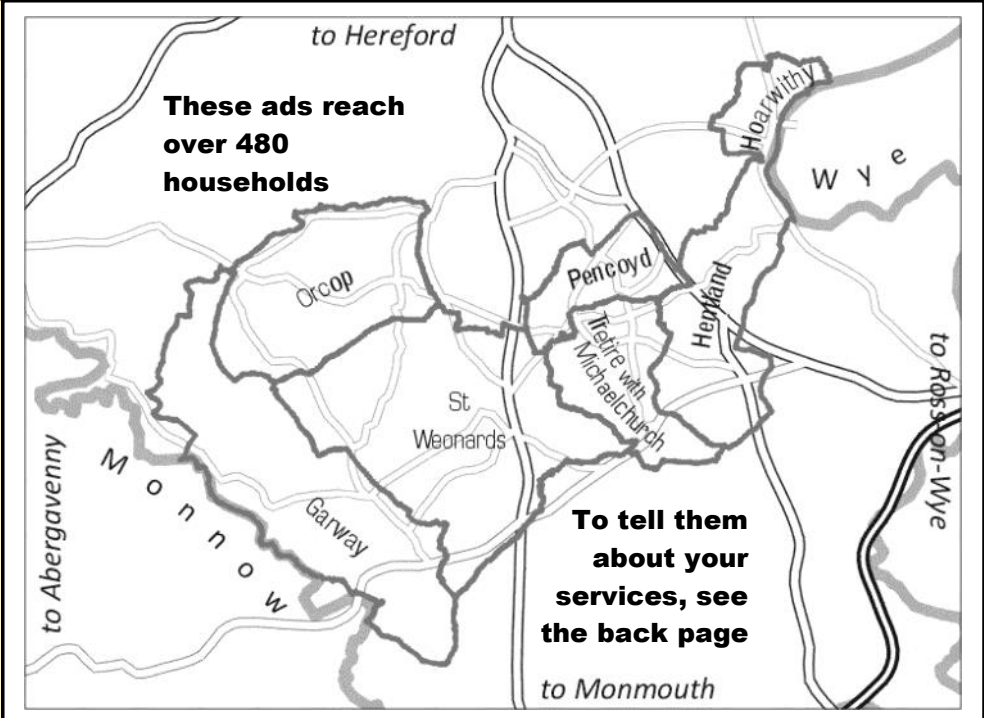
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