

**ST WEONARDS, GARWAY, ORCOP,
PENCOYD,
TRETIRE, MICHAELCHURCH, HENTLAND
AND HOARWITHY
PARISH NEWS
JANUARY 2021**

Vicar's Letter

The secular world may seem to quickly and easily pack Christmas away until next year once holiday time is over, but for the church the season of Christmas continues a little longer. Early in the New Year the church celebrates two dates which complete the Christmas story. On January 6th we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany when we recall the story of the visit of the - so called - 'wise men' to the infant Jesus, bearing their extravagant gifts, acting as a buffer zone between the baby Jesus and King Herod, offering the first insight into the reality of Christ for all people; which serves to remind us that from the moment of the incarnation the message of the Christian gospel is for all people – Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor, wise and not so wise – everyone is included in the new world order that comes into being with the birth of Jesus.

On February 2nd we have Candlemas when we hear the story of the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple. It's a day which marks forty days since Jesus' birth when traditionally parents would take their baby to the temple and present an offering to God in thanksgiving. In the temple Jesus and his parents encounter two people, Simeon and Anna. Simeon declares Jesus to be, 'a light to enlighten the nations,' and that image of Christ as the light has led to the celebration of light countering the darkness – which we recall with the blessing and lighting of candles.

The Feast of the Epiphany and the story of Candlemas serve for Christians as a meditation. We hear the last chapters of the story we've been a part of over recent weeks, we ponder the message that the story's end presents to us and for us, and we prepare to travel onwards and to hear once again, through the coming months, the story of Christian faith and Christian life.

*'My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
alight for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'*

Reverend Elizabeth Cathie

From the registers:

The funeral of **Elizabeth Rhona Oakley** took place at St Weonard's Church on 23rd November.

The funeral of **Michael Roberts** took place at Pencoyd Church on 24th November.

We give thanks for their lives and pray for their families and friends at this time.



January Benefice Service

Our January benefice service is at 10am on Sunday January 3rd via Zoom. We shall be celebrating Epiphany, which reminds us of the visit of the three wise men and draws the Christmas festivities to a close. This will be the only service in our group of parishes on this day, so that we can all gather together and share each other's company and fellowship. It will be a Communion service.

I hope to see you there--*Frances*

Service Rota January 2021

Check 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 especially as the January rota is put together early in December. Whatever plans we make for this month and there will probably 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.

3rd January	10am	Holy Communion	Zoom
	10am	Holy Communion service	Garway Church
10th January	9.15am	Holy Communion	Tretire Church
	11am	Holy Communion	Orcop Church
	10am	All-age service	Zoom
	11am	Lay-led Iona style service	Upper Barn
17th January	9.15am	Holy Communion	Hoarwithy Church
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Weonards Church
24th January	9.15am	Holy Communion	Hentland Church
	10am	All-age	St Weonards Church
	6.30pm	Evening service	Pencoyd Church
31st January	11am	Candlemas service	Zoom
7th February	10am	Holy Communion service	Zoom
	10am	Holy Communion service	Garway Church

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

!!Magazine News!!

January is the month for paying the annual subscription of £7 for the magazine. It is the end of an era for the magazine. In future it will be collated as part of the printing, hence the small increase in the price. On behalf of us all, I would like to offer **huge thanks** to the collation and distribution teams for their years of hard work in helping to make the magazine happen! Each month a willing group have met in the St Weonards Village Hall to put the pages together, wield the stapler, sort them into distribution bundles and send them out. Many people have been involved and it would be right to mention just a few: June Griffiths for masterminding the lists, supported by June Hodges, David and Diane Williams, Peter Garratt, the Oubridges and of course Slim Somerville with his endless supply of jokes. To all who have been involved we are so grateful.

For the future the magazines will be sorted for distribution and available in St Weonards Church.

How does it work?

People may wonder how the magazine came about and how it is organised. Diane Williams has sent me a copy of a slim publication from 1973, the *Ross and Archenfield Rural Deanery Magazine* which lists services and a brief message from the parish priests, all 13 of them!

Our magazine, a charity, was set up as a service to the community by the church. It includes information about parish activities and is distributed as widely as possible across the benefice. Advertising helps to cover costs and the opportunity for small grants for distribution to local charities. A small committee meets three times a year to discuss matters, to review the accounts, which are formally audited, and consider the applications for the small grants. We usually have about £1500+ to distribute per annum, and the details of the grants are published in the magazine. Apart from the monthly payment to two people who set up the magazine in Publisher, and the external printing costs, all the others involved are volunteers from the church and local community. At the moment we only have committee representation from St Weonards, Orcop and Garway parishes and would welcome members from other parishes. The commitment is only three short meetings a year. Do get in touch if you would be interested fionamynors@btinternet.com or 01981 580 208. Also as we are still short of events, we welcome articles for publication.

Fiona Mynors editor

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



5th January Colin Robinson 01600 750544

Much Birch Surgery

Seasonal Flu Vaccinations

Over the last 3 months we have held 7 flu clinics over week-days and weekends and have vaccinated a total of 2071 people aged 50+ and patients under 50 with an existing medical condition. We received many positive comments about the smooth running of the clinics. Our staff worked incredibly hard, on top of normal working hours and we are very grateful to them. If you are over 50 and have not had your vaccination please call the surgery as we have some limited stock remaining.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

We have now begun the first phase of the NHS Covid-19 vaccination programme.

Our Practice are starting vaccinations from 19th December.

When it is the right time patients will receive a phone call or letter. This will be either from the Practice or NHS England. The letter will include all the information you will need to book appointments, including your NHS number.

The main risk factor for severe Covid infection is age, so we will be starting with our most elderly patients, and then working our way down the priority list.

Vaccinations are not taking place at the practice. The Practice is working with a group of other local practices (The Primary Care Network, PCN) to administer the vaccine from a central location in Ross on Wye. You will be given the details with your appointment.

Please do not contact the practice to get an appointment.

Information on the vaccine is available on the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) website.

The surgery are doing this in addition to our normal work, so we appreciate your understanding that we may not be able to offer our usual number of appointments while our staff are also delivering the vaccine.

Dispensary

Since the beginning of the pandemic the dispensary has done everything it can to enable patients to continue to order and receive prescriptions safely and efficiently, including those high risk shielded patients getting a delivery from our wonderful volunteers and staff (thank you once again for your continued hard work).

Many of you may have noticed the new collection unit in the car park where patient medication is ready to be collected. I'm very pleased to say this is going well and has reduced queuing and waiting times but I've not quite managed to control the weather just yet, I'll keep working on that one!

In recent weeks we have encountered more and more patients registering for online pharmacies and medication services such as Pharmacy2U (P2U). The services they offer seem very appealing. However, if you choose to sign up for those services you then become a non-dispensing patient meaning all prescriptions have to be sent to this service and could result in a delay of your treatment.

My appeal to you is to consider your surgery dispensary when you sign up to these services. Every prescription they gain, is lost from us which could cause financial loss to the dispensary and could potentially affect the viability of the surgery as a whole.

I understand some patients have chosen to do this as they don't wish to put any more pressure on the surgery, this is incredibly kind natured and understandable but we are prepared for this and will happily continue to provide medication to you. For those patients that require a delivery service due to being clinically high risk we can arrange to help you as best we can.

Thank you. ***Tiffany Buchanan***, Dispensary Manager

For more information and news from Much Birch Surgery, please see our most recent newsletter on our website or facebook page, or pick up a copy from the dispensary unit in the car park:

Website: <https://www.muchbirchsurgery.co.uk/website/M81024/files/newsletter.pdf>

Facebook: [Much Birch Surgery Patient Information Page](#)

VILLAGE PAGES

St Weonards

Coping with lockdown

In the last two years I have had two knee replacements and one serious emergency admission to hospital. Thanks to the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham and the Wye Valley hospital, I have come through it. As I have been convalescing for such a long time I joined Fitmind50 which has helped my wellbeing physically and mentally. You choose goals and share them with readers of *Yours*.

The challenges have included knitting squares for blankets, knitting hats and teddies for Syrian refugees and joining knit and chat groups. I have also enjoyed adult colouring books, word searches and swimming three times with the 50+ age group at Hereford Pool. I have tried out new recipes and joined the rota for St Weonards Church flowers. I have a bucket list of visits to local tourist attractions and one day off from cooking a meal at home to try out new eating venues. In November the challenge was to design a Christmas card, and the winning one will be sent to care homes across the country. It has been a tough year for everyone, and none more so than for care home staff and residents. The team and readers of *Yours* wanted them to know that they are thought about and wishing them a happy Christmas. The best entries will be featured in future issues.

The support of neighbours and friends has been outstanding. *Deidre Perkins*

(Many thanks to Deidre for sharing her experiences and for the stoic way she is coping with so many health challenges which she hardly mentions. We wish her well with her future treatments. *Fiona Mynors*)

Royal British Legion

Dear readers,

I would like to update you all about your local Royal British Legion.

The St Weonards branch has now closed because a new committee couldn't be formed but the charity is still active in this area. The Standard has been laid up in Llanwarne church and most members have transferred to Ross on Wye branch.

The national poppy appeal couldn't go ahead as usual, but I managed to put a few boxes out. I am very pleased to say that £1390.00 was donated. Thank you to all our supporters.

We do not have a Poppy Appeal co-ordinator in this area, membership of the Legion is not necessary and the person is only required to play their part in late October and early November. I am appealing for someone to come forward to fulfil this important role.

If you are aware of any military veterans of any age who may need our support please contact me on 07867505512 or phone the RBL helpline on 08088028080.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas.

Barbara Leeson Herefordshire County Chairman.

Garway

Garway School and Pre-school

The pupils have enjoyed a wonderful range of Christmas activities despite the necessary restrictions. The nativity play, carols, crafts, party and the Christmas lunch all happened as usual, and a festive walk through the village will give much joy to many.

Congratulations to Mrs. Edwards who has successfully completed her induction period as a *Newly Qualified Teacher*. She has passed with flying colours!

Christmas was a busy time at the Pre-school! The children had great fun decorating the Christmas tree, making special crafts and helped to fill the classroom with magical Christmas decor. They were quick to learn their first Christmas song, entitled *Christmas Pudding* and wore a wonderful range of Christmas Jumpers.

The whole school community sends their best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas to everyone!

Fiona Mynors

Overheard at the school gate, "Do you know where your Llama is?"

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 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.

Our focus is on learning how historical events, from the Bronze Age to the present day, have impacted on our area and have influenced -- and continue to influence -- the bigger picture of social development.

Monthly talks are held between September and April on the third Tuesday of every month. During the summer months, walks, visits and events are arranged and advertised through an email list and this magazine. 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

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

Bill Taylor died peacefully at home on Sunday 6th December at the age of 92. His funeral will be for the family and they hope to have a memorial service in St Weonards when possible. *Fiona Mynors*

Reflections on the “r number” of installing a water butt

We are bombarded daily with statistics and projections related to Covid 19. These are frequently meaningless and usually depressing. By now, we are all familiar with the dreaded reproduction number (R). It is defined, in the context of Covid, as “*the average number of secondary infections produced by a single infected person*”. Why it does not apply to married people I do not know. We all know that, if it is less than one, we are OK and, if greater than one, we are in big trouble. Fortunately, it seems to be on the way down in England as I write this.

“R” is no more than a measure of exponential growth or decline and can be applied to almost anything. I thought it might be interesting to apply it to a recent DIY project, namely the installation of a slim-line water butt to harvest rainwater from our barn roof. Those readers who do these modest domestic jobs will know that a seemingly simple task can spawn many others. This particular assignment was no exception, and I enumerate below the manner in which matters unfolded:

1. Cut downpipe to install water butt diverter. Entire system of bends and pipes up to gutter level fell to the ground, not having been stuck together by the installers. By the way, my wife, Sue, was holding the ladder and one rather weighty component fell on her head. Fortunately, there was no serious injury, but I would suggest that all ladder-holders should wear hard hats. As my Marley cement had set solid after donkeys’ years of storage, I riveted together the various components into a single entity of great beauty and complexity.
2. Upon offering up the result of Step 1 to the wall, I discovered why the bits had not been stuck together. The downpipe was now about 50mm from the wall, requiring the manufacture of wooden spacers to take up the gap.
3. The water butt stands on sloping concrete, so it was necessary to make a tapered wooden base to enable it to stand vertically.
4. The water butt was not of the highest quality, but came complete with a plastic base in four segments. These fell apart repeatedly, requiring them to be riveted together.
5. With the water butt now installed and looking quite tidy, it was noted that the downpipe would now discharge, once the butt was full, directly onto the aforementioned timber base. This was solved by diverting the discharge using a short piece of old gutter.

So, to sum up, one could say that the r number was 5.

Fortunately, the five spawned tasks were not, in themselves, infectious. However, it is interesting to examine what would happen if each of these spawned 5 others.

Returning to Covid, if there were only one case today, with an r number of 5, the entire population of the United Kingdom would be infected in 11 days.

So, let us all stay safe, keep an eye on the r number and make sure it stays below **ONE!**

Peter Garratt

Tretire with Michaelchurch and Pencoyd

As I write this, it is difficult to know how our community will be able to celebrate Christmas due to the Covid restrictions for our area being changed. We do not yet know whether we will be able to sing carols in any form of Christmas service, or outside in our villages. But whatever we are allowed to do, we will undoubtedly miss seeing the familiar faces of Peter and Liz Everall, as indeed we will now at any of our community events. For they have now settled in their new home in Wiltshire, and we wish them much happiness there, and know they will quickly make new friends and get swept up into the events and daily life of their new community, who will soon discover how very lucky they are to have them!

Their gain is very much our loss, for Peter and Liz have organised countless events of community life in our villages during well over 40 years of residence at Little Treberon. Peter has most ably taken care of our two churches at Tretire and Pencoyd, and their parishioners, in his role of Churchwarden, which he has held for over 18 years, whilst we have looked to Liz to master mind so many fund raising activities for our churches. More recently of course, we have found Peter in various community situations, such as at the cream teas in the Vaughan's garden last summer, in the role of entertainer along with his fellow members of Trio Giovedi, playing his clarinet. Regular attendees of our Zoom service will have heard and seen him accompanying the hymns. Those of you who attended the Act of Remembrance in Tretire churchyard in November will have a memory to treasure, of Liz holding a large umbrella over Peter as he led our hymn singing on his clarinet in the pouring rain!

But most of all, people will remember them for their friendship, the time they gave to so many, of a listening ear over a cup of tea, or a telephone call when they knew you were going through a sticky patch; lending a helping hand with shopping, or jobs in your house or garden. They were true friends and neighbours to such a lot of people.

Just the day before they left, John and I were delighted to accompany Elizabeth Malcolm in presenting Peter and Liz with a book of messages from many people in our community, beautifully illustrated with photos from all three of our churches by Catherine Murray, a local photographer, and with it, a cheque for a substantial amount donated by so many of their friends in our Benefice. In the event, word got around, and quite a number of those people were able to join us for the presentation, and we were able to share a glass of champagne with the surprised couple, socially distanced in their garden!

We all wish them much happiness in their new home, with new friends and neighbours and their dear family only a few miles walk away!

Treberon is now the home of James and Tina Snow, and we welcome them to the village, and hope they will be very happy in their new home, with Mum and Dad nearby to lend a helping hand in the months ahead!

Margaret Oubridge

Thank you

Thank you so much to all our friends in the parishes for the truly wonderful book which we shall always treasure and the extraordinarily generous cheque! We are quite overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and the very touching things they wrote which caused quite a few tears. 59 houses contributed, I am afraid too many for me to thank in person before Christmas! The move was, in the end, fairly straightforward and we are now happily ensconced at 6, Manor Yard, Brixton Deverill, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 7EJ. Our new neighbours are very friendly and have brought yet more cards and presents. Of course the greatest pleasure is having Alex, Tom and Isabelle only 15 minutes away. We look forward to seeing you if you are in this part of the world. As we said before Good Luck and Good Health and Happy Christmas and a much better 2021!

Thank you again, much love, ***Liz and Peter***

Hoarwithy

Samos Volunteers

New Year Present

FOR SALE ONLINE!

£12 !

A wonderfully illustrated cookbook of Middle Eastern recipes, donated generously by refugees living in Samos Refugee Camp.

This lovely tribute to the several thousand refugees living on Samos island , was published 2 years ago, now in its second edition ! 100 % of the £12 each book costs to buy, goes to an organisation called *Samos Volunteers* which was set up 6 years ago. The volunteers support the running of the camp, and the people living in it, who show extraordinary gratitude and resilience. A timeless limbo land.

There are usually about 40 Samos Volunteers, working for a month or more, under the guidance of 3 or 4 full time volunteers. There are 3 main buildings that each cost €500 a month to keep open; one for laundry to be done 12 hours a day; one 'school' and one warm central hub for chess, draughts, language classes, recreation, relaxing and limitless tea drinking!

Necessities, from shampoo to school books and musical instruments; money to buy fabrics for sewing, trowels for vegetable growing, ingredients for celebration meals, are bought with donated funds. There is no government financial support.

The website for the book is delightful, a flicking cookbook icon! And the ordering instructions quick and clear.

You may want to know more about *Samos Volunteers* generally; I can vouch for the fact that the organisation is incredibly focussed and well run. For the book, look at www.displacedishes.com

Margaret Oke



Thanks to Sue Boland for another apt cartoon. **(Corinne can you put a box round the cartoon please?)**

Wildlife in our Garden

We were most grateful to Diane and David Williams for enlightening us about the garden birds' moult in late summer which explains the scarcity of sight and sound of birds that we commented on the previous month. Thank you also to David and Christine Pleace for their very informative article.



As the colder weather has finally hit our garden and we have kept our bird feeders well filled up, the birds have increased in number and variety. Large numbers of blue tits and great tits are visiting the nuts and the seeds, but after an initial

visit to the nyjer seed, we have not yet seen the numbers of goldfinches that we had last year. Chaffinches gather up what is dropped from the feeders, along with robins, blackbirds, sparrows and dunnocks. On really frosty days we have been delighted to see a marsh tit (or could it be a willow tit?) on the seed feeder almost all day.

A pair of greater spotted woodpeckers are also regular feeders on the nuts. I (Margaret) was fascinated by the behaviour of a female woodpecker taking a whole nut out of the feeder, flying up into the hazel tree with it, lodging it in a crevice of the tree and then breaking it up with her beak. This was precisely how the female woodpecker who visited us regularly last winter behaved. So it has made me question, is this indeed the same pair of woodpeckers coming to our feeders again this winter? If so, do pairs of these birds stay in the same territory year on year? And if they do, where do their young go? For though we saw the young woodpeckers around the garden through the summer and early autumn, there only seems to be one pair in the garden now. Are they the young or the parents? Any ideas to our editor please!

Recently I have been struck by the wonder of camouflage in wildlife. I was trying to point out to John a treecreeper climbing up a silver birch tree opposite our kitchen window. I could follow it scuttling up the trunk as I had seen it fly over and land on the tree. But try as he might, John just couldn't see it. If you can picture in your mind's eye the bark of a silver birch tree, brownish-grey with white and dark grey patches. Now look up in your bird book or Google a picture of a treecreeper. Perfect camouflage! It begs the question, though, why do other birds, like the woodpecker with their bright red plumage, or even the various members of the tit family with their bright blues and yellows, stand out for all their predators to see? It suggests to me that procuring a mate to carry on one's line is more important than not getting eaten!



Our family is divided into those who love brussel sprouts and those who hate them. I (John) am very partial to them, so Margaret has been dutifully growing them for me for several years. This year there promised to be a really good crop of not too many, but fine, large sprouts. Towards the end of October I was disturbed to see that one or two of the biggest ones had been hollowed out, leaving a shell-like exterior something like a green egg-cup! I said, "Slugs?" Margaret said, "Mice!" Going out at night with a torch failed to reveal the answer.

This process continued through November, gradually more sprouts being nibbled and hollowed out, till I thought there would be none left for Christmas. One day in mid- November, near dusk, I was heading

towards the brassica patch when I spotted a little movement. I stood quite still; then very soon a small, brown creature popped out of one of the nearby holes, stood on its hind legs, held on with its front feet to a sprout stalk and nibbled away at it. With its short tail and ears and its rounded nose, it had to be a vole. There are quite a few holes under the sprouts, so I think there is a nest there. But was it a field vole or a bank vole? By then I had gathered the remaining sprouts and put them in the freezer, so the voles are welcome to the stalks!

Margaret & John Oubridge

More Wildlife notes – from Rob Taylor of Kynastone House

I can see that some of your contributors are seeking answers to questions. John & Margaret Oubridge have asked what triggers fieldfares to migrate.

The answer is that on their breeding grounds, high in northern Europe, they typically live in birch, alder and pine forests, feeding on invertebrates, particularly earthworms, during the summer months, switching to berries in the autumn and in severe winters to apples. As the food supplies in their breeding grounds dwindle, they start migrating south - including to the UK, where we see them feeding on our more abundant berries and apples.



So, the migration is triggered - as in most species - by a lack of food on breeding grounds, often associated with autumn/winter weather, lower light levels etc. The weather is therefore an indirect, but important trigger. High winds blowing down from Scandinavia will often also act as a stimulus, leading to large numbers crossing the north sea and arriving on our eastern seaboard and then spreading westward across the UK, and finally ending up in the gardens and fields of Herefordshire.

BOOK REVIEW

Small Pleasures by Clare Chambers

A brilliant evocation of the 1950s pervades this story of a woman claiming parthenogenesis – that her daughter was born to her when she was a virgin. Author Clare Chambers hears a radio programme about an old article in *The Sunday Pictorial*, inviting women who believe that they have had a virgin birth to write in with their stories, and she weaves a fascinating tale around this premise and the genuine scientific research into this that went on at the time.

The story is more about the journalist who picks up the story than about the mother herself. Jean Swinney, approaching 40 (very much on the shelf in the 1950s) leads a dull life looking after her neurotic and demanding mother, with whom she lives, and working on the local paper, where she is the solid workhorse on the home and gardening tips, and the one who never goes to the pub after work with the rest of the staff. She is gently tolerated, benignly patronised, being regarded as in need of protection, as she threads her way through the modern world.

But her insistence on being the person who picks up the story when a local woman stakes her claim to a virgin birth changes her life. She becomes closely involved with the family: mother Gretchen, her husband Howard and the “miracle” daughter, 10 year old Margaret. Jean’s attachment to Margaret, and

subsequently to Howard, is encouraged by Gretchen, for reasons that become clear as the book progresses.

Jean turns detective, delving into the possible explanations for Margaret's conception, which could only have occurred while Gretchen was in a convent sanatorium with arthritis, confined to bed and diligently watched over, hawk-like, by nursing nuns 24 hours a day. And constantly in the company of the three other sick young women on her ward. Jean tracks down Gretchen's fellow patients, and for me, this brought back vivid memories of the polio epidemics that held the nation in fear each summer, and of the iconic and unimaginably grim iron lung which became the treatment of choice and filled the news pages with grey photographs of stoical sufferers locked in their metal cladding.

This book is less of a scientific mystery tale and more a compassionate examination of the drab lives of so many women in that era - here the 50s are laid bare: the dull food, the ubiquitous smoking, the gendered behaviour stereotypes, with women left lagging behind and kept in their place.

Definitely worth a read.

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

In reply to the three witches' prophecy about Great Birnam Wood coming to Dunsinane Hill, 'Macbeth proclaims, 'That will never be. Who can impress the forest, bid the tree, Unfix his earthbound root'.

He wouldn't have said that nowadays of course, because we have mini diggers at our disposal...

Around here it is the hedges not the woods that are on the move, or to be precise a 12 metre length of hedge in our neighbour's garden which runs along part of the boundary between our gardens. A wire stock fence marks the boundary, and until a few days ago, on our neighbour's side a scruffy and rather pointless path ran alongside the fence, made of a few slabs of stone but mostly heavy municipal concrete paving slabs. Beyond the path was a hedge in dire need of renovation – dead sections, gaping holes and a few brambles and nettles woven through. It was never very beautiful, and the path, which didn't really go anywhere, was full of weeds.



'I am thinking of moving this hedge closer to the fence,' announced our neighbour last week. It was an ambitious project, but with the aid of a mini digger it was achieved in only a couple of days. Each section was lifted with as large a rootball as possible, the tatty bits - quite a lot of tatty bits - discarded and the path removed. A new trench was dug, where the path used to be, and the hedge was replanted with plenty of compost and a scattering of Rootgrow (mycorrhizal fungi) around the roots to give the plants the very best chance to re-establish themselves.

For a few hours we revelled in the view that we gained of our neighbour's lovely green lawn and the view across to the distant hills. It disappeared again the next day of course, but we now have a much tidier hedge running along the boundary. We don't even have to wait for it to grow as it is already six feet high. It has given our neighbour more lawn - his pride and joy – and as it is all laurel it has given us a good solid green backdrop to our own garden.

It was a project most people would not have had the courage to try but with the soil still being warm and moist and with the plants being lifted with a large rootball, I have every confidence that it will be successful.

There is only one problem; having lost the path and all the gaps, we are no longer able to have our occasional chats over the fence. Perhaps a window needs to be cut in the hedge to enable the nattering to continue...

Julie Davies

Pegs Follow Up from Viv Ray



I was delighted by your article about pegs. Something so ubiquitous and necessary. I too have had long debates about how to manage the pegs, the line and how to hang each garment to best advantage. But I wanted to add another possibility. I have discovered the joy of stainless steel pegs. As you say, wooden ones rot, and plastic, apart from the plasticity usually have springs that rust. Stainless steel can stay out for ever. They are also a really pleasing design and, for some reason, they awaken a childlike delight in me that makes hanging out the washing more of a pleasure.

Washing hanging above the rayburn now. One of the joys of spring is the first day that the washing can go outside.

Put stainless steel pegs on your Christmas wish list!

(Many thanks for the suggestion Viv. I have looked them up and they are rather stylish! *Fiona Mynors*)



www.isabelsbakehouse.com

Pork chop with sage & apple mash

Ingredients

- 1 tsp oil
- 6 dried sage leaves
- 1 British free-range pork chop
- 1 small bramley apple
- 150g potatoes
- 125ml milk
- 2 tbsp crème fraîche
- 25g butter
- Vegetables of your choice and wholegrain mustard to serve

Method

1. Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6.
2. Peeled, core and roughly chopped the apple and potatoes.
3. Chop 2 sage leaves. Put them in a small pan with a lid, along with the chopped apple and potato. Add the milk and just enough water to cover, then put the lid on and bring to the boil.
4. Turn down the heat and simmer for 10 minutes until the apple and potato are soft.
5. Heat the oil in a small ovenproof frying pan and season the pork chop on both sides with salt & pepper.
6. Fry the chop for 8-10 minutes on each side until just golden. Add 4 sage leaves to the pan, then transfer the pan to the oven and cook for 10 minutes until the sage leaves are crisp and the chop is just cooked through. Set aside for the chop to rest in the pan for 5 minutes.
7. Once the potatoes are soft, drain, reserving the cooking liquid, then return the apple, potato and sage to the pan and mash until smooth.
8. Mix in the crème fraîche and just enough reserved cooking liquid to give a smooth consistency. Taste and season with salt and pepper.
9. Serve the chop, mash, and your choice of vegetables with wholegrain mustard.

Chuckle Corner

Thanks to Janet Harvey for these:

After watching a video of Captain Tom Moore walk 100 laps of his garden, the Department of Work and Pensions has now declared him fit for work.

As a wife was sitting on the family sofa, her husband sweetly whispered: "The one good thing about lockdown is that I get to spend more time with you". Looking at him lovingly, his wife realised he was talking to their dog.

If you run out of toilet paper, considering using newspaper. Times are rough!

Thanks to Frances Phillips for this:

A priest, an imam and a rabbit walk into a blood donation centre.

The rabbit says, 'I think I might be a type O?'

Longtown and District Historical Society



Longtown Historical Society was established in 1971 to promote knowledge of local history in an area of southwest Herefordshire between the Golden Valley and the Black Mountains. This includes much of the ancient **Hundred of Ewyas Lacy**, now centred on the village of Longtown.

Talks and events are held throughout the year and are normally publicised through a membership list and this magazine.

To get in touch email:- jmdrh@btinternet.com

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 especially commenting on latest reports about housing design; and worries about loss of democracy with the suspension of the planning committee.

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email: franjphillips@gmail.com

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

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

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

Contributions by email to archenfieldmag@btinternet.com
or paper notices to: Miss June Griffiths, Hillside, St Weonards

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Garway:	Mark Hearne Email: clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	01981 251887
Orcop:	Mark Hearne Email: clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org Parish council website: www.orcop.wordpress.com	01981 251887
St. Weonards:	Mrs Kate Hughes Meadow View St Weonards HR2 8QS Email: clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org	01981 580498 or 07967 352903
Llanwarne:	Mrs Kate Hughes Meadow View, St Weonards, Hereford, HR2 8QS Email: clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	01981 580498 or 07967 352903
Hentland:	Kath Greenow AILCM Hackford House, Dinedor. Email: clerk@yourparishcouncil.co.uk	01432 840874

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Garway	<i>Vacant</i>	
Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm	01989 730201
Hoarwithy	Peter Pember	01432 840254
Hentland	Mr Robin Symonds	01989 730439

Local Contacts

Editor Parish Magazine	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
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OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Rigler	0794 030 8696
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St. Weonards Group website		www.stw.org.uk

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

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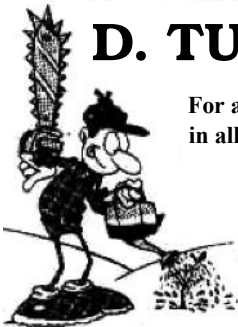
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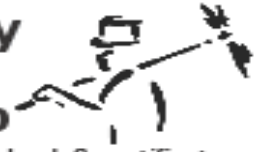
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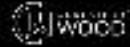
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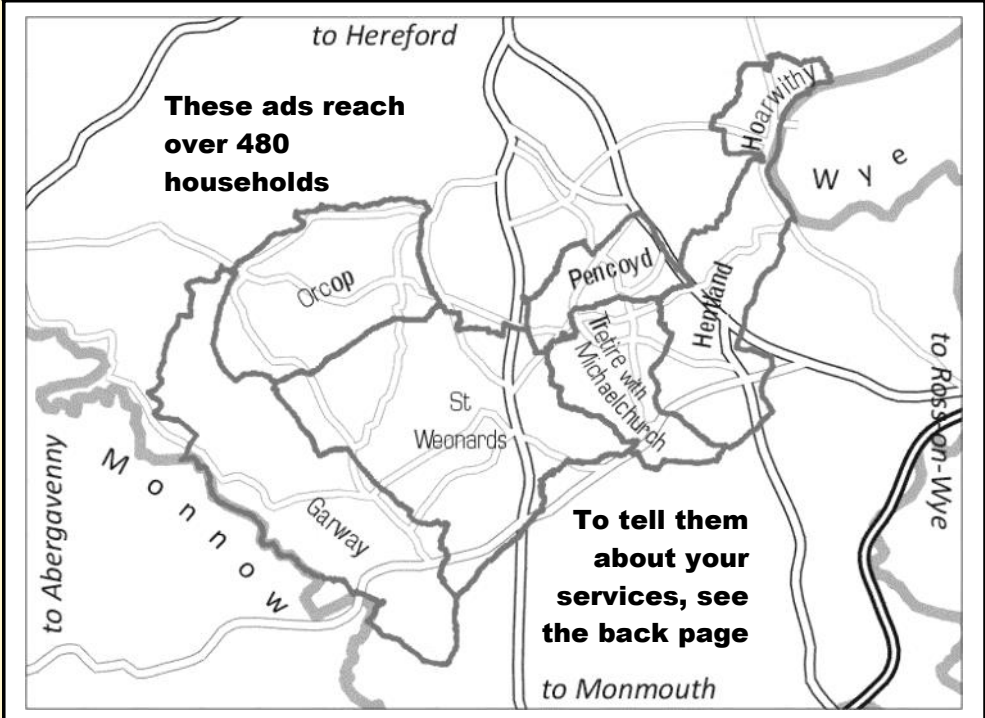
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