

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



Illustration from Pat Macrae

## PARISH NEWS

### MARCH 2021

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Garway	Vacant	
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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
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Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson	01600 750465
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Gardening Club	Linda Ashton	01981 540804
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Rigler	0794 030 8696
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St Weonards Group website		<a href="http://www.stw.org.uk">www.stw.org.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 you 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.**

## MAGAZINE CONTACTS

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

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

## Vicar's Letter

Hello Everyone

There's no doubt that the pandemic and the restrictions on everyday life which the various degrees of lockdown have enforced over the past year have all been difficult for everyone – in a whole variety of ways which have been, and still are, different for each of us. Some elderly, sick people or people living alone have experienced a distressing degree of isolation; many parents have struggled with home schooling while maintaining their own employment from home or workplace; the closure of social, sporting and leisure activities, limited shopping opportunities, not being able to visit friends and family at home, life-events postponed or marked in a very low-key way – these have all impacted on our mental health.

Within our Benefice, good things have arisen from the pandemic situation. The All-age service has increased to twice a month and is a real joy to those who attend. Frances has done great work in establishing the Zoom Holy Communion services – which are also held twice a month and which also draw a good number of people. The monthly lay-led service continues thanks to Peter Pember and the team, and we've begun to add in a monthly service of Morning Prayer and of Evening Prayer, with occasional services recorded and available on Youtube. I feel sure that once we are able to return to our churches on a regular basis, then some of our new-found ways of doing and enabling worship will continue to happen and will continue to be beneficial particularly to those who – for whatever reason – find it less easy to be in the church buildings. So, thank you to all those of you who create and lead our services and to all who contribute with music, readings and prayers.

### Lent

The season of Lent has begun. Traditionally it's a season of giving things up.

This year instead of the old favourites of wine, beer, cigarettes, chocolate maybe we should ponder giving up some of these things.....

- Fear of failure
- Negative thoughts
- Doubting ourselves
- Destructive relationships
- Criticizing ourselves, or others
- Fear of success
- People pleasing
- Fear of success
- Procrastination

Create your own list. Make it realistic and manageable so that it becomes a part of an enhanced way of living your life, not just through Lent but on through the coming year.

Blessings, **Elizabeth**

### March Benefice Service

Our March benefice service is at 10am on Sunday March 7th via Zoom. 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.

If you are not already a member of our Zoom congregation, and would like to be, then please send me an email today at [franjphillips@gmail.com](mailto:franjphillips@gmail.com)

I hope to see you there--**Frances**

**Service Rota March 2021**

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.

Here is a part of our recent message from the bishop, sent on 5<sup>th</sup> January, concerning use of our church buildings during the current lockdown.

*Following the PM's announcement last night about the new lockdown, you will have noted that places of worship are allowed to remain open both for private prayer and public worship. I am glad that this is the case, as in this time of crisis our buildings provide a place of peace and restoration.*

*Having said that, I want to make clear that there is no obligation either way..... Where it is decided that churches are to remain open, risk assessments should be reviewed and, in particular, all mingling before and after worship must be most rigorously discouraged. You should be aware that risk assessments conducted on the basis of the previous variant of COVID may no longer be valid. It would appear this variant is far more transmissible and can remain active for longer on surfaces. **Many medical professionals would advise us that closing the buildings would be the most socially responsible thing to do.***

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. In the St Weonards Benefice we plan to hold most of our services on Zoom during March, with the possibility of some services in church if an improving situation allows for that.

<b>7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>10.00m</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>All-age service</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>All-age</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Lay-led Iona style service</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Pax service at Hentland</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Evening service</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
			<b>(see below for info)</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion service</b>	<b>Zoom</b>

**4<sup>th</sup> April** It may be possible to hold an Easter Sunday morning service in one or two of the churches, if so then details will be available nearer the time.

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

For invitations to the Morning and Evening prayer, please contact Elizabeth Malcolm [elizabethAmalcolm@outlook.com](mailto:elizabethAmalcolm@outlook.com) and the Zoom will be setup and sent.

## Lent Course

Mark is going to use the Live Lent resource provided by the C of E and meeting on a Friday morning 10.00 to 11.00 (doors open at 9.45) on the theme of **God's Story, Our Story**

Download at <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/22995>

Mark Johnson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Archenfield Lent Group

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353562230?pwd=WGd3bmxRdFVyWGgwNFRMQllnb0p5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 873 5356 2230

Passcode: 576500



Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. As a Benefice we would ordinarily gather together at Broad Oak for the distribution and blessing of the Palm Crosses before beginning our walk down to Garway Church – stopping off at the chapels in Broad Oak and Garway to sing Palm Sunday songs and hear the story of Jesus entry into the city of Jerusalem in the days before the crucifixion. It's always a lovely –if sometimes wet and windy – occasion with lots of people and dogs joining in.

This year we're not able to gather in that way. But that doesn't mean that we can't do a Palm Sunday walk. I'll be putting Palm crosses inside each of our churches during the week before Palm Sunday and I would encourage folks to include a visit to their local church on a walk that day. While you're in the church pause to recall the Palm Sunday story, say a prayer and collect your Palm Cross. Maybe take one or two crosses to distribute to a friend or neighbour. **Elizabeth**

### The Palm Sunday story – St Mark's Gospel chapter 11 verses 1 - 11

#### Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna!

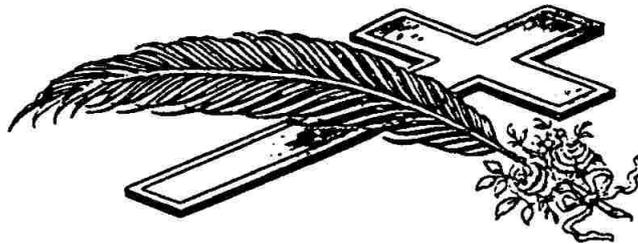
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

### A Prayer for Palm Sunday

True and humble King,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory. Amen



### !!Magazine News!!

Many thanks to those who have managed to pay their subscriptions. We are sorry that some people are disappointed about the limited hard copies available during lockdown. Because of the risk of increased infection with the new variants, the decision was taken by the Magazine Committee that we should not put distributors at risk until more information was available from the government. We appreciate that many people can access the magazine on the parish website [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk). For those who have no access to the internet, a few hard copies are being printed by me at home and collated by hand, which is time consuming as you can imagine! If you have a neighbour who is without internet access it would be most helpful if you could print one off for them too. Please do not blame Broad Oak Garage or St Weonards Shop if copies run short! They generously stock them for us. We hope to resume normal service for April, assuming all goes well.

As usual the profits from advertising go to support local charities. This year applications were accepted from Garway School, Garway Youth Group and Dore Transport.

Meanwhile we hope that everyone is keeping well and safe. **Fiona Mynors** editor

### PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



2<sup>nd</sup> March Liz Lloyd 01981 580002

## LOCKDOWN LENT LUNCHES

### THE BIG SOUP SWAP



Just because we can't do things the way we used to, doesn't mean we can't try a different way.

#### The Big Soup Swap. -

- Send your favorite soup recipe to us - we will keep a schedule, which you can obtain by request online (PDF), or a printed copy. Email: Tretire and Pencoyd PCC <[stdenystsmaty@gmail.com](mailto:stdenystsmaty@gmail.com)>
- Make a soup (or two!)
- Share your soup with friends and neighbours who may be less able to get out and about - (you can drop off pots and still be within the Covid regulations).
- Swap soup with friends and neighbours - other people's cooking is such a lovely change.
- Tune in to a virtual lunch - and swap your reviews of the recipes, tell us about the little extra delicious additions and changes you introduced.
- Before Easter we will have compiled a complete package of recipes including your suggests for tweaks and additions. Perhaps some bread ideas to accompany?

Save the dates:

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 - 12.00 to 14.00** - join when you can for as long or as little as you like.

Topic: Lent Lunch 1 - Soup swap

Time: Mar 3, 2021 12:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82612142048?pwd=R3M5L1BoYTFndkUyRWRvZ2M5ODdWUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 1214 2048

Passcode: 680345

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 - 12.00 to 14.00** - join when you can for as long or as little as you like.

Topic: Lent Lunch #2 - soup swap

Time: Mar 17, 2021 12:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83590136604?pwd=eitkd2V4VkpoMDBEOG00MDlHSjJpUT09>

Meeting ID: 835 9013 6604

Passcode: 622880

**Raise some funds for: The Cart Shed: <https://thecartshed.co.uk/>**

Either donate directly to this excellent local charity helping people in a practical way with skills improving mental health. Or send your contribution to Church Warden to pass on to the charity.

## **Much Birch Surgery**

To date 1600 patients from Much Birch Surgery have now received a first dose of the Covid vaccine.

The practice achieved the government's target of vaccinating all patients in the first 4 priority groups ahead of schedule and was able to begin vaccinating some patients aged 65-69.

Further to updated government guidance we are now required to focus on Group 6 'at risk' patients. The remaining patients aged 65-69 will be invited by NHS letter to attend one of the local mass vaccination centres.

Any patients over the age of 65 can also ring 119 to book for their vaccine or visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/) to book directly.

To improve the efficiency of the booking process Much Birch Surgery is now using a text message system to facilitate Covid vaccine appointment bookings. The text will say it is from Much Birch Surgery inviting you to book your Covid vaccination. It includes a link to an 'accurx' booking site from where you can choose your appointment. The practice will continue to contact patients without mobile phones, using their landline.

Appointments for 2<sup>nd</sup> doses will commence at the beginning of March. Once vaccine delivery dates are confirmed we will be contacting patients who had their 1<sup>st</sup> doses through the surgery (at either the Larruperz Centre in Ross on Wye, or at the practice), to book their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointments.

# **VILLAGE PAGES**

## **St Weonards**

All Age Services on Zoom are well attended with a wide range of ages enjoying this short informal service. Different families take part and we enjoy a good sing with hymns and songs with actions, and a brief talk based on our theme. We also catch up with friends and neighbours nearby and some much further afield. If you have never come before, do join us. For an invitation do contact St Weonards Church [stweonardspcc@gmail.com](mailto:stweonardspcc@gmail.com) and details are on the parish website [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)

***Fiona Mynors***

## **Ross Food Bank**

If you happen to be going up to the shop or taking your exercise in the churchyard, please remember a contribution to the Ross Food Bank, if you are able to do so. The boxes are still in the church and there is a crying need for everything we can donate in the way of food and/or toiletries. Lynn or I will see that whatever you can give goes in on a regular basis. Many thanks to all who contributed.

***Lyn & Gillie'***

# Garway

## Garway School and Pre-school

The pupils in school and at home have been busy. Home-schooling is challenging for all parents and the school has been providing as much support as possible to families and their children. Although the annual Eisteddfod has been cancelled, the annual World Book Day celebrations will take place on Thursday 4th March. Plenty of activities will be provided for those who want to get involved. We include below some useful information for parents.

As I write half term is beginning and we hope that the whole school team and parents and children have a well-earned break. **Fiona Mynors**

### Keep your child safe online

Whilst there are huge benefits to being online in order to stay connected to family and friends during this period, the government recognises many parents may feel concerned about the activities and content their children are accessing.

It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online. These resources provide guidance for parents and carers to keep children safe online. They will, amongst other things, support you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a child friendly way and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices:

**Thinkuknow** by the National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (NCA-CEOP) provides resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online

**Childnet** has developed guidance for parents and carers to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as guidance on keeping under-fives safe online

**Parent Info** is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has guidance for parents and carers to help keep children safe online

UK Safer Internet Centre provides tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online - you can also report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre.

Further guidance is available using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>.

## Is your child two? Did you know about?

### Funded childcare for eligible two year olds

Your child might be eligible for up to 15 hours of funded childcare per week.

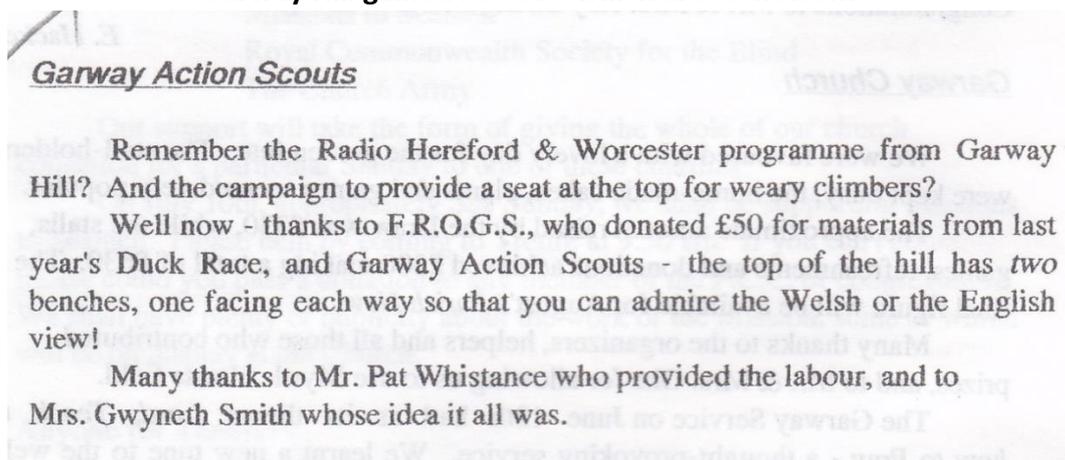
If you live in Herefordshire and meet certain criteria your child could have a funded childcare place until they start school.

To check if you are eligible please use our simple on-line checker: [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/NEF](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/NEF)

You can also ask your Health Visitor, Children's Centre or Early Years childcare provider for more information.



### Ruth and Nigel Deeley sent in this extract from the July 1994 Parish Magazine which explains how Garway Hill gained its seats which are so welcome!



### Garway Common Playground

Garway Common Playground has become a very popular place since the first lockdown last March and has been very well used by children, and others.

The playground was installed in 2003 and has served the community well, but play equipment has evolved and the demographics of the village are changing so maybe time to have an upgrade.

The Spice Girls have had some discussions with users and it seems one urgent need is more suitable equipment for toddlers. The Parish Council support this project and we are working together to raise the necessary funds. Three companies have visited the playground to give us quotes enabling us to have some idea on how much funding we are looking for. Once the funding has been secured it will be important for playground users to have input into the final designs.

Firstly we have to secure funding and are receiving advice from Hereford Council on suitable funding bodies to approach. It has been suggested that evidence should be presented on consultation with users. A questionnaire has been created and it would be really helpful if people would complete it please.

The link is <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QVFND6B>

It only takes a few minutes to complete and no personal details are required. If you don't want to use the 'Survey Monkey' form please feel free to email us any ideas or thoughts you have.

Thank you and fingers crossed, exciting times ahead hopefully!

**Sue Thomas** on behalf of Garway Spice Girls! [Garwayspicegirls@outlook.com](mailto:Garwayspicegirls@outlook.com)

### **A point of view**

I was interested to read your article re dog poo bags on Garway Hill. When I lived in Malvern the same problem occurred. Why is it common sense fails folk where their dogs are concerned!!? I recall writing to the Malvern Gazette about it then, which letter was printed because of other articles about litter on the hills. PLASTIC POOH BAGS DO NOT DISINTIGRATE in the environment, even the so called environmentally friendly type!! Much better surely to just remove the pooh off the path so folk won't tread in it! The weather will do the rest! I get so cross that so called animal lovers can't see this – pooh breaks down, plastic does not and is a danger to wild life. Small creatures suffocate, hedgehogs can get caught up in it because of their prickles, cattle choke etc. Some folk in Malvern even used pink and perfumed nappy bags – unbelievable! And, all tied neatly at the neck! For our God's sake folk hear this and dispose of your dogs' pooh in thought for the creatures and our environment. Take a trowel with you or find a suitable stick to push it off the path, but, better still take it home and bury in the garden or compost it. Then wash the bag for re-use.

P.S. I used to live in a flat in Malvern in my early days there and my landlady had the gardener dig 'bin' holes at the bottom of the garden in which the dog pooh was placed and a little soil scattered over until the 'bin;' was full then covered with a layer of soil and tamped down. Successful composting of dog pooh straight into the ground. She owned two delightful Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

**Mrs M Brown**

## **Tretire with Michaelchurch and Pencoyd**

What a strange month January has been! Weatherwise, it has been fairly predictable, with a lot of rain, though not as much as the end of December, when at one point the road just beyond the bridge was completely covered, causing traffic to turn round and go back to find another way. Our little stream overflowed its banks and water came halfway up the garden, but fortunately, as our lawn is going uphill, it never reaches the house. But we have had bright and sunny days too, and have managed plenty of walks, and it has been good to chat to neighbours over hedges!

Another strange aspect of January has been the decision of our clergy and churchwardens in our Benefice, not to hold services in our churches during lockdown, because of Covid numbers continuing to increase. Instead we have resorted more and more to holding services via Zoom. So on Sunday, January 10th, instead of a communion service at Tretire church, with a lot of thought, imagination and effort on the part of Elizabeth our vicar, and Elizabeth our churchwarden, we had an Iona style morning worship via Zoom. We were able to sing the hymns as I could accompany them on our piano, and Elizabeth Cathie preached on the gospel reading about the baptism of Christ. The format of the Iona Style worship has become quite familiar to a number of us now, as a copy of it, with a reflection, or sermon, has kindly been made available to us each week by our churchwarden, throughout lockdowns.

If you have never attended any of the Benefice Zoom services, I strongly recommend them. Of course it is not church as we know it, for our own homes can never have the ambience of a church building. The invitation to the service usually arrives in an email, a few minutes before the service is due to begin. That gives us an opportunity to greet Frances Phillips who is usually leading the service, and other participants

as they arrive on our screen. So there are a few minutes to chat before the service begins, much as we have in church.

At 10.00 am, Frances "mutes" us all, and we have a few moments silence, before the service begins. We are fortunate to have a number of musicians in our Benefice, who provide accompaniment for the hymns. Frances and Elizabeth, our vicar, have given a good deal of thought to the content of these services. The words of the service, the singing of the hymns, hearing the Bible readings, and the priest's reflection on the readings, all help to draw us into a true sense of worship within the community that we know are gathered in their homes, sharing the service on their screens, just as we are.

On the first Sunday of the month, the service is one of Holy Communion. We are invited to bring with us some bread and some wine, and at the appropriate point in the service, when we see the priest hold up the bread and the wine, we eat and drink our own bread and wine, knowing that all the other participants will be doing the same in their own homes. So there is very much a sense of "communion". There is reverence, and it feels like a meaningful act of worship in which we, and many others have taken part.

If you have felt that element of your life has been missing all these months, because of the lack of church services, then email Frances Phillips, [franphillips@gmail.com](mailto:franphillips@gmail.com), and ask to be included in the Zoom service notification. You will be very warmly welcomed, and may be pleasantly surprised to see some familiar faces. We have particularly enjoyed seeing Peter and Liz Everall since they moved away, as Peter continues to accompany one of the hymns each service, on his clarinet. That is the joy of Zoom; it doesn't matter where you are, if you have a computer or tablet screen, then you can join in!

Some of you may have already heard, but at our service this last Sunday, we heard that Elizabeth our vicar has decided that, because of a continuing decline in her mother's health, she is unable to maintain the amount of time needed for the care for her mother, with all the pressures of parish life. So she has decided to take early retirement, and will leave us at the end of April. She and Sean, her husband will retire to Hereford, and she will be able to give more time to caring for her mother in Newent.

***Margaret Oubridge***

## **Orcop**

### **ORCOP NEWS: March 2021**

We are sad to report the recent passing of Yvonne Anne White, who died on 6<sup>th</sup> February. Her funeral and burial will take place at Orcop Church on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

We have been fortunate to escape the 2021 edition of "The Beast from the East". We have had only a dusting of snow and temperatures down to about minus 5 degrees Celsius. Cold enough, but positively mild compared with the minus 23 recorded at Braemar in the Scottish Highlands. We are not out of the woods yet: Beware the "Pest from the West"!

Many readers will have seen the wonderful You Tube video of the Handforth Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Some 3.2 million have seen it so far. In case this may have raised doubts about the efficacy of Parish Council meetings in general, you can rest assured that the meetings of the Orcop Parish Council are much more civilised and productive.

We have received notice from Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council that the C1236 road from Herons Court to the bridge over the Garron will be closed for resurfacing from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March, from 09.00 to 17.00 each working day. We would not normally report road closures but this one could be quite disruptive. The road certainly needs repair and resurfacing, not least because there is very deep and dangerous erosion alongside the carriageway. Anyone unfortunate enough to put a wheel in this trench would never get out. It is pleasing to see that it is being fixed. However, the length of road to be resurfaced

is about 500m, but the diversion follows the full perimeter of the Orcop Basin, a distance of about 12Km (or about 7 miles). So, worth taking note if you have need to travel thereabouts.

**Peter Garratt**

**Orcop Cleaning Rota (No flowers in Lent): March 6th and 13th Mrs. A. Morris**

## AWOL

**(Not “Absent Without Leave”, but , “About Walls and Owls in Lockdown”)**

As the lockdown drags on, some may have completed their household DIY backlog and be looking for other ways to keep busy. Here are three suggestions:

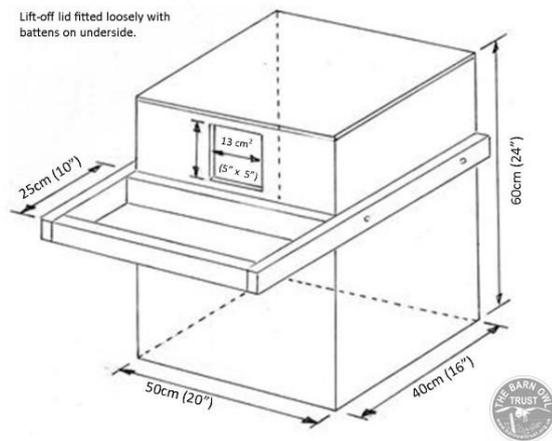


Wall-building has the merits of providing physical exercise, scope for ingenuity and a long-term challenge. On the downside, it can be quite frustrating for the uninitiated (like me). I am sure we can all find a reason for building a wall, preferably of Herefordshire stone, somewhere in the garden.

Mine is a relatively modest structure that will form the base of a greenhouse, but others may be more ambitious.

What about “The Great Wall of Garway” (or GWOG, which is what sailors with a lisp drink)? My humble wall has kept me busy for four months, working every day when not too wet or too cold. There have been many such days of course, when it was not possible to mix or place mortar. Hence, an indoor project is needed as well, which brings me to my second suggestion.

Many of our readers will have a barn or large agricultural shed that might provide a suitable nesting site for barn owls. The Barn Owl Trust website <https://www.barnowltrust.org.uk/barn-owl-nestbox/barn-owl-nestboxes/> is excellent and there you will find everything you need to know, including detailed instructions



for making and erecting an “owl box”. You will see from the picture that they are quite large (the dimensions shown are minima), but they are quite easy to make and should keep you happily occupied for many hours, with the satisfaction of providing a home for these splendid birds, whose habitat has been under threat for many years as a result of changing agricultural practices.

If neither of these is of interest to you and you fancy something more sedentary, why not write an article for

the next magazine?!

Anyway, stay safe and busy, whether jabbed or not.

**Peter Garratt**

# Hentland

## Last Gasp at St Dubricius

The end of the renovation of the chancel decoration at St Dubricius is now in sight, though still just tantalisingly out of reach, thanks to the cold weather which means that the final slick of plaster cannot be applied until it warms up a bit. Once that is done, the decoration can be applied and that's it! It will only take a few days, although time must be allowed for the new layer of plaster to cure before the decoration can be painted. But that doesn't mean we can relax and put our feet up – oh dear me no! – for there is the stained glass in the east window – three fifteenth century figures inserted in nineteenth century patterned background – which is now in a very delicate state needing re-setting and the addition of a protective screen, all needing funding, not to mention John Pollard Seddon's lychgate which is quietly rotting from the ground up.

Forecast for next month's edition: Chancel decoration finished and the Walker organ playable having been totally rebuilt by David Gallichan and his team. **Robin Symonds**

### Book Review *The Shepherd's Life* by James Rebanks



Set in the Lake District, *The Shepherd's Life* begins with a fascinating and passionate diatribe on the received wisdom that education is everything – what his teachers packaged as “getting on”, he, and many of his contemporaries saw as a not so subtle exhortation towards “getting out” – towards rejecting the “dead-end” job of farming. In response to this indirect insult to generations of their families who had taken pride in working the land, and the job to which they as their sons and daughters likewise aspired, they waged a subversive war of attrition against their teachers: “.....I was a dumb and thirteen in 1987, so I just made a farting noise on my hand. Everyone laughed.” How else could he begin to convey “the idea that we, our fathers and mothers, might be proud, hard-working and intelligent people doing something worthwhile, or even admirable ....”? To the teachers, success was “demonstrated through education, ambition, adventure and conspicuous professional achievement” and the land was to be admired as a “playground for an itinerant band of climbers, poets, walkers and daydreamers.” He even went so far as to tell his headmaster that school was “an infringement of human rights.” He hones in on a mindset that fails to see education as simply providing choices, and values academic achievement over practical skills. Even many decades after the abolition of the 11+, education is still struggling with this legacy of division and the basic snobbery that underpins it; and we pay the price with aimless lost youth, put off school by the rigidity of the curriculum, and failing to find a role in which they can take pride - what a waste of talent. Rant over!

Rebanks clearly did get something out of his education though, not only because his writing is fluent, absorbing and erudite on the subject of rural history, but, as an adult, he went to Magdalen College, Oxford after studying for A-levels at night classes, and emerged with a double first in history and a Masters in Modern American History. So – a man of two sides: practical and proud of his farming and its heritage, whilst also finding satisfaction in academic study. This all makes for an interesting book by an interesting man.

There are few flowery descriptions of beautiful vistas – nothing twee here. For him “*Landscapes like ours are the sum total and culmination of a million little unseen jobs.*” In place of the poetic we hear a detailed account of farming life, and the traditions of community cohesion that maintain it; neighbours cooperate over the rounding up of sheep from the fells; one farmer sells on lambs to another, who takes the process on another stage. Each knows the other, their land and their stock; their strengths and their weaknesses. We hear about the challenge facing every farm when the patriarch dies – who will carry on the farm? – how can it be divided fairly without making it unproductive?

Central to the whole story is a sense of belonging; and deep sense of rootedness. The way of life he describes has been little changed for thousands of years. The word “heft”, he tells us, refers to livestock becoming accustomed and attached to an area of upland pasture; and Rebanks is well and truly “hefted” to the farm where his family have lived and worked for over 600 years. There is something comforting and reassuring about the fact that there are still people around who value the past, whilst also embracing elements of progress that add to but not destroy their way of life in the harsh and very particular landscape around him. It may seem crazy to let hundreds of sheep out onto the freezing fells, but those animals have the knowledge to survive bred into them, and they do not need expensive supplementary feedstuffs nor comfortable expensively-heated sheds.

It is not a life that many would choose, but throughout this book there is a sense of pride in their traditions and in the vital role that farmers play. It is a joy to read the words of a man who values what has gone before and takes seriously his duty to the future.

**Hilary Smallwood**

### **Lockdown reflection**

It is extraordinary to think that last February half-term we travelled with family to Switzerland. As I walked in the beautiful crisp air of the wonderful mountains and watched the tiny skiers slide gracefully down the slopes, I couldn't have imagined how different life would become. Is it really only a year since then?

The glorious weather helped to sustain us last year, but the lack of knowledge about how covid was transmitted made life feel dangerous. How to shop? Should we wipe everything bought with disinfectant? What about the daily paper? How far and where to walk? How would *bubbles* work? What about church? Shopping proved easy. The family went to supermarkets. St Weonards shop kindly handed the paper and other things through the window. The shopping sat in the sun for a bit to kill off - what...We walked locally and on Easter Day sneaked up early to Garway Hill to glimpse the world beyond. Zooming became normal. How quickly that word Zoom, only used before for cameras, became part of the language. Church on Zoom linked us across our parishes. We Zoomed family and friends.

Difficult moments- when a young granddaughter rushed forward for her customary hug and, ‘No’ rang out as her mother reminded her that we were *out of bounds* - I nearly cried. I did cry when our daughters sang ‘*All our troubles will soon be over*’ for Richard’s birthday, on Zoom of course! Cancelling the planned party for our 50<sup>th</sup>. Helping with home schooling, me to cover the arts and Richard the sciences. One of our labradors, usually a gazelle, jumping over a wall and breaking her leg badly....

Good moments- appreciating technology and learning to use it better. Masses of gardening. The blessings of outdoor space. After lockdown, seeing family again. Walking the fells for a few days in the Lake District in wonderful sunshine. An unexpected present from our Dorset daughter of coffee machine to make proper cappuccinos-wonderful, with real frothy milk! (It did take us about a week to master it with the instructions in about 20 languages!) A haircut!

But this winter and the inevitable lockdown has seemed harder than before. The cold, grey weather lowers the spirits. The news is tough listening. Watching teachers and young people struggle to communicate and

learn online without the dynamic of the classroom. Knowing that people living alone are struggling. But again there are moments which have lifted the spirits. A brief Christmas interlude. Communion in church with family on Christmas Day. Sharing time round a huge bonfire with family.

And of course, the hot topic of the moment across the world- *Have you had your vaccination yet? We have,* which is wonderful. How astonishing that a vaccine has been created within a year. What skill and perseverance?

For the future I hope that we remember to pause and keep our appreciation of the natural world. That the dreaded daily commute for so many may be reduced as we know that home working is possible. That we continue to look out for those around us who may be isolated in society. That I have some wonderful blooms in the garden as I have been tough in my pruning this year! And what about our holidays !????

**Fiona Mynors**

## STAMP COLLECTIONS



Does anyone in our Benefice collect stamps, or know anyone who does? We never throw a stamp away, so over the last couple of years we have amassed a number of stamps which include a number of foreign ones, and some fairly old British ones. We always used to take them to a church in Hereford who collected them for charity, but of course that outlet is closed now, and we have amassed rather a lot!

We know of no outlet for them now, so please let us know if you would like them.

We don't know if people do still "collect" things. When we were children,( a while ago now) collections of all sorts of commodities were quite normal.

I remember my middle brother collected beer mats, which I think was a sort of boast as to how many pubs he 'd been to! My youngest brother next up from me collected Dinky cars of all sorts for years after he was too old to play with them, and then he changed his allegiance to Goss China; those little pieces of white china with a crest of the county on them, particularly common in sea side towns , and other touristy areas. At my junior school our collections were always changing, but the real thrill of whatever collection was in vogue, was the "swappsies". So at one point I remember it was buttons, and I did very well with that as my mother had a button box into which went every button removed from garments one had grown out of, or the spares supplied on cardigans, or shirts, or dresses. When my Father's and brothers' shirts had finally been declared past it, ( so had had the collars and cuffs turned, and been through all three boys ) the buttons were taken off them and put in the box. So I had a really good selection for "swappsies". I still have that button box, and have added considerably to its contents over the last 30 or so years.

There was also a phase of collecting jewellery; well not real jewellery, but sparkly brooches and necklaces, and rings out of crackers; and I seem to remember an embarrassing occasion when I had swapped one of my mother's very few pieces of real jewellery for some gaudy cheap bauble from another girl. My poor mother had to go and ask the girl's parents if she could have her jewellery back!

I think ribbons was another one. Quite a few of us wore our hair in plaits then, so a bow on each plait, and some had bunches, again with ribbons.

For the boys, there were cigarette cards. Do any of you remember collecting those?

Has this sparked any memories for any of you?

Maybe some of you still have collections gathered over years? Do share the memories.

But back to my original question. Does anyone want our stamps?? Or do you know of a charity that collects them?

### **Wildlife in our Garden**

We've been aware of only three mammals in the garden this last few weeks: moles, hedgehogs and squirrels.



The hedgehogs should all be asleep at this time of year, but twice now I have come across the dead bodies of small ones out in the open. Apparently, adult hedgehogs sometimes have two litters a year, but the young of the second litter do not have time in the autumn to get big and fat enough to survive through the winter asleep. In mild spells they wake up and go out foraging, but then a hard frost can creep up and kill them anyway.

The squirrels are always trying to get at the food we put out for the birds. We rather enjoy seeing their clever antics as we try to outwit them. I don't mind if they have a reasonable share, but if undeterred they soon eat through the supplies of expensive nuts and seeds. We put peanuts in a clever sprung feeder that closes up when something the weight of a squirrel lands on it. That has worked well for several years now. But we haven't found anything similar for seeds, and all the usual deterrents, grease on poles and guards above, have failed to stop them. Last autumn I thought I had found the answer, by suspending the seed feeder on a fine wire from a high horizontal branch. It had to be high enough off the ground for them not to be able to jump up, far enough from any trees to stop them jumping across, and the wire too fine for them to abseil down. It worked until the other day one of them found it could manage the horizontal leap, 1.4 metres, from a vertical trunk. It's not always successful and sometimes falls off, but it has held on and had a quick feed more than once. I shall have to get out the ladder and reposition the wire further away from the tree.

It has been lovely to hear birdsong again, especially first thing in the morning. Most birds are easier to hear than to see. My favourite is the song thrush. Its song is very distinctive: short musical phrases repeated two, three or four times each, then repeating a different one a few times before moving on to the next. Each phrase has one, two, three or four syllables, such as, "there-you-go, there-you-go", or "rivet, rivet, rivet". Their repertoire of phrases seems to increase as the year goes on and always provide us with much interest as we listen out for them. Another easy to recognise song is that of the great tit: its loud, confident, far-reaching and repeated, "teacher, teacher, teacher" has been heard on milder days since Christmas. The robin's song is much more difficult to describe, but is about the only one we hear all through winter. Although it does not seem to "say" anything in particular, its tuneful notes are always recognisable by their sad and wistful tone; Margaret says they sing in a minor key. Some people say they sound sadder in winter.

*John Oubridge.*

***Editor's note: We were sad to hear of the death of Dr Robert Taylor after a short illness. We are grateful that he was able to share with us his knowledge of birds.***

## Garden (and Knitting) Notes

It is getting near to the end of the period when we can plant bare root trees – which is unfortunate as I have two trees on order and the ground is frozen solid. I have ordered a hawthorn and a crab apple for a border that I am changing completely. I am going to dig out the Rubus and the Scotch rose that have completely taken over and swamped other plants. The new trees will give both us and our neighbours some privacy (their windows overlook our lawn and summerhouse) and I will have the opportunity to rethink the rest of the planting. Needless to say I will be looking for impeccably behaved shrubs and plants; no more thugs allowed here. The hawthorn I have ordered is *Crataegus laevigata* 'Paul's Scarlet' and the crab apple is *Malus* 'John Downie'. However, for the moment they are going to stay safely at Border Nurseries until I can manage to prepare the border for them.

Whilst I wait for the weather to warm up enough to tempt me back out into the garden, I have rediscovered my love of knitting and like many people this past year I have been learning new skills. Some thirty years ago I was an enthusiastic knitter of jumpers – lovely lacy patterns in double knitting wool and, best of all, fluffy mohairs in gorgeous shades of blues and greens. Then somehow life got in the way and I was too busy with my career and house renovation and the knitting was forgotten.

This winter however I have discovered a brilliant family company who stock hundreds of patterns and such a vast choice of beautiful wools that I am like a child in a sweetshop wanting to try everything. In the last two months I have completed two jumpers for myself – one in a variegated wool with a lacy panel across the bust and a grey one in a cable design.

Before I tackle a huge teal coloured Aran jumper for my husband, I have been learning the art of knitting a pair of socks. I know that seems daft when socks are so cheap and easy to buy but I have always been intrigued by the mysteries of sock making. 'Turning a heel' seems to be the critical skill to acquire, not to mention the ability to knit round and round on four small double pointed needles. I am one of those ham-fisted people who could never master chopsticks so knitting on four little needles has been a steep learning curve. *(I originally wrote cack-handed in this sentence but apparently that is considered offensive language by today's sensitive flowers).*



But I got there and just look what I made! I am feeling ridiculously smug and so proud that after all these years I can 'turn a heel' and 'graft a toe' and I'm a past master with the four needles now. My new sock even fits me perfectly too! I had mishaps along the way, of course I did: the needles that I wasn't paying attention to that fell onto the floor; the stitches that I dropped 20 rows back which created a ladder all the way up; not reading the pattern correctly so that there was lots of unravelling and reknitting - the usual mistakes.

OK, it's just the one sock so far, but the second one will be easy-peasy. My new skill will be useful for using up all those odd balls of wool left over from other projects and this summer when I'm tired of gardening I can sit quietly next to the newly planted trees and knit a pretty new pair of gardening socks. ***Julie Davies***



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## Welsh Cakes

### Ingredients

- 
- 85g caster sugar
- 225g plain flour
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 100g butter
- 50g currants
- 1 egg,
- Splash of milk
- Sunflower oil / lard
- Caster sugar – for sprinkling

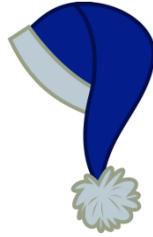
### Method

1. Cut the butter into squares. Using your fingertips, rub the butter into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs.
2. Stir in the sugar and spices.
3. Crack in the egg and stir to bring it together. Add a splash of milk if needed to make a smooth dough.
4. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured work surface to the thickness of your little finger.
5. Cut out rounds using a 6cm cutter, re-rolling any trimmings.
6. Grease a flat griddle pan or heavy frying pan with oil or lard, and place over a medium heat. Cook the Welsh cakes in batches, for about 3 mins each side, until golden brown, crisp and cooked through.
7. Once cooked sprinkle on caster sugar and allow to cool.

## **Freezing February**

I really hope that by the time you read this, spring will have sprung and we will be having lovely weather, but as I write this in mid February, it is COLD! We have an inch of snow on the ground, the molehills are rock hard and the poor birds are looking very pathetic in the garden.

Last time we had the 'Beast from the East' a couple of years ago (or was it 3 years ago? COVID, or perhaps incipient senility, has made me lose track) we were alarmed one morning to find the taps dry because the water pipes in the roof space had frozen solid. We were very lucky on that occasion: a hurried opening of the ceiling hatches and putting a blower heater up into the roof space thawed everything out without any bursts, but we realised that the 'improved' loft insulation a couple of years before, although keeping the house warmer, actually makes the roof space even colder, as the north-easterly wind finds its way under the slates and through the eaves. This year, we are better prepared, and hope that just keeping the hatches open will allow enough warm air to rise from the house to keep everything flowing. It has made the bedrooms perishing cold, though! My other half complained that the top of his head was cold during the night (it was, after all, the only bit of him visible above the duvet). I am thinking of making him a night cap -perhaps with a tassel.



My daily walks with the dog continue as usual, made much more interesting by all the animal tracks in the snow - rabbit, fox, deer and pheasant. I wear as many layers as I can fit under a full length windproof coat. This year I have discovered some really warm trousers which have a slightly fleecy lining, comforting to put on first thing in the morning in a cold bedroom. In the house they are the perfect solution, but there is a slight snag to wearing them on those dog walks with wellies, which is just when I need them most. The trouble is that as my socks gently ooze downwards in my wellies, they grip onto the fleece lining of the trousers and pull them down as well. A tight belt prevents total descent, but being pulled up by the belt and down by the socks makes the trousers become tighter and tighter, until it is really difficult to bend my knees to get up the hill!

Roll on springtime! **Frances**

## !!! Chuckle Corner !!!

**With apologies to Yeats!**

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
I'll sanitize the doorknob and make a cup of tea.  
I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all,  
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.  
There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu  
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think, will you.  
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay  
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.  
I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye  
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.  
About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go  
To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow,  
And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,  
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.  
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends  
Nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

**Anon**

**More one liners courtesy of Peter G.**

Describe yourself in three words-lazy.

*I'm sorry* and *I apologise* mean the same things unless you're at a funeral!

To err is human. To blame someone else shows management potential.

### **This challenge from Liz Overall.**

Try this and don't cheat... it's very interesting. Everyone needs to try it, it's an Alzheimer's Eye Test. Count every "F" in the following text:-

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.

Now see below:-

HOW MANY DID YOU COUNT? 3...or 4...?

Wrong, there are 6 – no joke, read it again! Really, go back and try to find the 6 "Fs" before you look at the reasoning. Apparently the brain cannot process "OF", go and look again. Anyone who counts all 6 "Fs" on the first go is a genius!!! Three is normal, four is quite rare. Good isn't it?

### **Courtesy of Janet Harvey.**

Scientists are researching the impact of cannabis on seabirds. They are leaving no tern unstoned.

From Dr Spooner: "You have hissed all my mystery lectures and you were caught fighting a liar in the quad. You have tasted two worms and will leave by the next town drain."

### **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.

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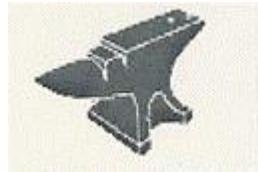
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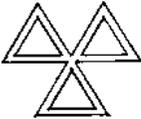
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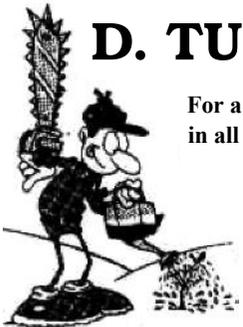
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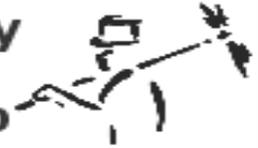
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[hollow.ash@gmail.com](mailto:hollow.ash@gmail.com)



# ARD

## Pest Control Ltd

**Your local pest control specialist.**

**All aspects of domestic or commercial  
pest control undertaken.**

**Call Dave for advice and service**

**mobile: 07533 915640**

**home: 01600 750391**

**Email: [dave-atkinson@fsmail.net](mailto:dave-atkinson@fsmail.net)**

**Web: [ardherefordpest.co.uk](http://ardherefordpest.co.uk)**





**OWL  
GOOD  
NEIGHBOUR  
WHO ARE WE?**

**We are local people  
who have volunteered  
our time to help in the  
community.**

**We offer telephone  
support and also visit  
local people at home if  
they need it.**

**CALL US ON: 0794 030 8696**

***ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE DBS CHECKED***

## ***Golden Valley Construction***

**Groundworks & Civil Engineering Contractors  
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**Licensed Street works contractors  
Registered carrier/ broker of waste**

**Drainage - Driveways – Surfacing – Concreting – Demolition –  
Sewers Trenching – Ponds & Lakes – Kerbing - Fencing**

**Office: (01981)240 342  
Mobile: Chris Hales 07831 126 645  
Email: [goldenvalleyconstruction@hotmail.com](mailto:goldenvalleyconstruction@hotmail.com)  
[www.goldenvalleyconstruction.co.uk](http://www.goldenvalleyconstruction.co.uk)**



**Williams Dental Care**  
General Dentistry | Implants | Aesthetics

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Tel: 01600 716 677  
[info@williamsdentalcare.co.uk](mailto:info@williamsdentalcare.co.uk)



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Matters.....  
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[rossonwye@physioandhealthmatters.com](mailto:rossonwye@physioandhealthmatters.com)  
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