

# *The Link August 2020*



*55p*

*The Link magazine covers the Borderlink Parishes of  
Blakemere, Bredwardine with Brobury, Clifford, Cusop, Dorstone,  
Hardwicke, Moccas and Preston-on-Wye.*

### MEETINGS OF CHURCH GROUPS

#### **MESSY CHURCH(ALL AGES)**

Please note new e mail address:

Margaret Price 01497820464

[margaretp2014@gmail.com](mailto:margaretp2014@gmail.com)

#### **MOTHERS' UNION**

Cusop

Janet Bumford 01497831264

Bredwardine, Moccas & Preston

Kath Woods 01981 500 247

Dorstone

#### **BORDERLINK BELLRINGERS**

Ringling for Services

Alison Alcock 01497847510

Roger Bowen 0154432731

Clifford Practices 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

Sylvia Corrick 01981 550564

Bredwardine 2nd,4th & 5th Wednesdays

#### **PRESTON-ON-WYE BELLRINGERS**

Pam Parry 01981 500617

every 1st Monday of the month Bell ringers practice at Preston on Wye. Pam should be contacted if any new ringers.

#### **HARDWICKE MEET AND EAT**

every 4th Wednesday at 2.30 pm

Lou Tingey 01497 831090

#### **PRAYER CHAIN MEETINGS**

Third Tuesday 7.30pm

Harvey Bromley

01497 821480

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**SECOND** Tuesday 11.00 am at **Preston on Wye**

#### **TEA AND CHAT**

Fourth Tuesday 2pm-4pm

Janet Bumford

#### **JULIAN PRAYER GROUP**

Second Tuesday 11.30 – 12.30 pm

Janet and Mark Robinson 01497821348

#### **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Monday at 7.30 p.m

Celia Cundale 01497 820396

**CHURCH CONTACTS  
FOR THE BORDERLINK PARISHES**

Priest in Charge of the Borderlink Group of Parishes :

Rev'd Luci Morriss, The Rectory, Cusop HR3 5RF

Telephone : 01497 821877

Email : [luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com](mailto:luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com)

The Rev'd Jane Rogers [jane@blakemerehouse.myzen.co.uk](mailto:jane@blakemerehouse.myzen.co.uk) 01981 500478

**FOR OTHER CHURCHES:**

St.Mary's Hay - Fr. Richard Williams

01497 820448

St Joseph's Hay - Fr. Jimmy Sebastian, The Presbytery, 4 Belmont Road

Hay-on-Wye HR35DA Mob :07922 042079 (any time)

email: [hayonwye@menevia.org](mailto:hayonwye@menevia.org)

Society of Friends, Hay - Janet Robinson

01497 821348

Belmont Abbey - Fr. Paul Stoneham

01432 374718

Email : [parish@belmontabbey.org.uk](mailto:parish@belmontabbey.org.uk)

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

Bethesda Evangelical Church - Gordon Bingham

01497 820685

**Oasis Church, Hereford** (formerly Jubilee Christian Centre, Preston-on-Wye),

Pastor Philip Arnold, telephone: 01432 355088



**Benefice Prayer :**

**Thank you Lord for loving us**

**Open our minds and give us the strength to do your will  
for the rest of this day.**

**Amen**

Amos Chapter 5 verses 23—24

Away with the noise of your songs!

I will not listen to the music of your harps.

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing  
stream

## **August Letter from Revd. Luci**

It's good to see life returning to our communities after lockdown. Some children and young people were able to return to school for the final weeks of term; a broader range of shops are now open; those pubs and restaurants with sufficient space are finding ways to welcome customers; every Thursday more stall holders and customers are returning to Hay Market; some of our churches have been able to open for worship and we have our first wedding of the year next week. With masks on and hands freshly sanitised, we're cautiously venturing into our new normal.

But none of us have to look very far to come across people whose new normal is far from comfortable. People are grieving many losses: loved ones, jobs, a whole host of missed life events and that general feeling that they knew where they were going in life.

It feels as though the pandemic and the resulting lockdown has reminded us all of our own vulnerability. We've felt concerned for our physical and mental health and wondered, perhaps for the first time, if we might be able to fill our shopping baskets. I hope that this recent experience of vulnerability will help us to be more empathetic towards those who still find themselves in that place. A

There is evidence of this in the brilliant response from villages across the Borderlink Benefice in their support of the Hereford Food Bank. As I write to you on 15<sup>th</sup> July, we expect our total tally to exceed 300 bags of donated food during the crisis; thank you so much, your generosity is making a huge difference to the lives of many people in Hereford and the surrounding area.

Within Jesus' teaching is the call to love whilst humbly accepting there will be times when we'll be dependent on the love of others. As we find ourselves increasingly distracted by the things we are able to do once again, let's not forget our mutual vulnerability.

Blessings  
Rev Luci

## A Fishy Tale...

During 'lockdown' and 'shielding' perhaps some of you (like me) have taken up a new hobby or interest or perhaps you've gone back to something that you previously enjoyed, but until these extraordinary times had not had the time to pick back up?

I've been immersing myself again into genealogy and family history, unravelling mysteries and making connections as I work my way back through the years – generation by generation. Around the year 1790 my sixth Great Grandfather (on my maternal side) was a coracle fisherman on the River Towy at Carmarthen. This community were amongst the poorest people within the town; life was hard; the work was dangerous. Some years later the town council decided to impose a significant increase for the cost of a fishing license, which they simply couldn't afford. They approached the Vicar, of St Peter's who helped them pay their licence fees, allowing them to continue to fish and to earn a living. Ever since and to this day, each and every year the coracle people have gifted a fish to the vicar of St. Peter's as an expression of their gratitude – a gift of one of the first Sewin of the season!

Generosity changes lives; generous acts and generous giving change lives. Some two-hundred years later the generous giving of the Vicar of Carmarthen is still celebrated each year; it was a gift which was much more about people than it was about fish; his giving made a difference to the lives of others. Here in Abbeydore Deanery many have been inspired by what God has been doing in these recent times; the church has grown in new ways; faith has been found and deepened; love has been shared; giving has made a huge difference to the lives of others; and lives have been changed. Thanks be to God!

We'd like to ask you to take just a few moments to see more of this uplifting story in a short video. Please respond in each and every way that you can; with your prayers, with your messages of support, by sharing your amazing gift and skills to add to what God is doing here, and to give generously with a regular financial gift. We're delighted that you can now give to four of our churches within the Borderlink Benefice through the Parish Giving Scheme. Together, our generous giving to support ministry and mission in the parishes of the Abbeydore Deanery makes a difference. Giving makes a difference to making a different world.

Thank you and God Bless.

Enjoy this short, inspiring and uplifting little video... <https://youtu.be/QUIDrNaTdWA>  
*Your Story; Our Story; God's Story - Making a Difference in Abbeydore Deanery.*

Richard D Jones  
Parish Giving Adviser, Diocese of Hereford

[richardjones@hereford.anglican.org](mailto:richardjones@hereford.anglican.org)

## August Readings

02.08.20 <b>8th Sunday after Trini- ty</b>  Green	Isaiah 55: 1-5	The prophet encourages Israel that God has not forgotten them: even though they are in exile, God will restore them.
	Romans 9: 1-5	Paul stated that the Law cannot make people right with God. Most of his fellow Jews did not agree and Paul expresses great distress that so many of his own people have rejected the salvation available through Christ
	Matthew 14: 13-21	Upon receiving the news that his cousin, John the Baptist, has been beheaded on Herod's orders, Jesus seeks to be alone. However, the crowds do not leave him in peace for long.
09.08.20 <b>9th Sunday after Trini- ty</b>  Green	1 Kings 19: 9-18	After running away from God and hiding in a cave, Elijah hears God speaking to him not in a spectacular storm, but in the lull afterwards.
	Romans 10: 5-15	God is Lord of all and generous to all. Everyone who calls upon him will be saved by him.
	Matthew 14: 22-23	When his terrified friends see Jesus walking on the surface of the lake and observe how the elements obey him, they can't help but worship him.
16.08.20 <b>10th Sun- day after Trini- ty</b>  Green	Isaiah 56 1,6-8	Isaiah urges a commitment to justice and righteousness and foresees a time when God's Temple will be a house of prayer for all peoples.
	Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32	Paul agonises over the fate of the people of Israel who have rejected Jesus. When you are called by God, you are called for ever.
	Matthew 15: (10-20).21-28	We are defiled by the words we speak, not the food we eat. A Canaanite woman's words reveal deep love and great faith.
23.08.20 <b>11th Sun- day after Trini- ty</b>  Green	Isaiah 51: 1-6	God's people should look to their history to see that they are blessed. They are assured that there are many blessings to come.
	Romans 12:1-8	We who are many are all one body in Christ. We each use our own gifts and talents to work together as a community for the glory of God.
	Matthew 16: 13-20	Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
30.08.20 <b>12th Sunday after Trinity</b>  Green	Jeremiah 15: 15-21	Jeremiah, the faithful prophet, complains to God of his miserable circumstances and seeks justice. The Lord demands that he continue to speak God's word and he will be delivered.
	Romans 12: 9-end	Jeremiah, the faithful prophet, complains to God of his miserable circumstances and seeks justice. The Lord demands that he continue to speak God's word and he will be delivered.
	Matthew 16: 21-end	Jesus predicts his violent death. Peter tries to rebuke him but is in turn rebuked by Jesus. Jesus goes on to say that all who seek to follow him must first take up the cross.

### **Messy Church – in a bag!**

Messy Church teams across the Abbeydore Deanery have been thinking creatively in terms of keeping in touch with children and families who usually attend their Messy Church sessions. Bags containing a number of themed summer-time crafts are being distributed and there's a new Messy Church Summer Special on the Abbeydore Deanery's YouTube channel. Do share this news with anyone who might enjoy this during the summer holidays. A big shout out of thanks to Clifford Primary for helping us to distribute Messy Church in a bag – it's much appreciated. We hope you all have a fantastic summer holidays.

Love from your Messy Church teams across the Abbeydore Deanery x



### **Goodbye Year 6!**

Sadly we were not able to go into school this year to say goodbye in person but we were able to offer an special on-line Year 6 assembly, you'll find this on the Abbeydore Deanery's YouTube channel if you want to take a look.. All Year 6 children across the Deanery received a copy of 'It's your move', a secondary school 'survival guide' published by Scripture Union.

## Parish Magazine letter for August from the Diocesan Office

It is said we are shaped by our culture. If that is true, then one of the strongest leadership motifs is that of the hero leader. In film we have James Bond, Indiana Jones and Princess Leia; in television we have Doctor Who, Buffy and Danger Mouse: we are surrounded by heroes. (I'm a big action film and sci-fi fan)

However so often they are flawed individuals, some like Bond or The Doctor are anti-heroes just staying the right side of the line but edging on many occasions into the ambiguous middle ground, the grey moral no-man's land of society's values. Some like Batgirl or the Green Arrow seem to have turned to the darkness to right the wrongs of society and they are shaped by a deep inner drive and personal angst.

Many of the old heroes like Captain America and Wonder Woman knew which side of the line they stood, firmly in the light righting wrongs with justice, compassion and fairness. We could always tell the good guy or girl because they wore the white hat (The Lone Ranger) while the bad guys always wore black (Darth Vader).

The problem for the Church is that these heroes and anti-heroes always win the day, good always triumphs and the hero wins the applause and adulation. This is extremely seductive for those who seek or feel called to leadership positions, being the saviour raises us to the standard of hero, it places us at the centre of the action. It creates status, position and power but it also creates problems. There is only one saviour in the Christian story and it isn't us.

In Jesus temptation in the wilderness Satan offers him the chance to be a super hero, to be adored and feted but instead Jesus chose a different path. He chose the path of servant and constantly refused to be the hero. Not only did he choose a different path he chastised James and John when they sought power and position and Peter was rebuked for refusing to have his feet washed. Those in religious power consistently found Jesus challenged them for abusing their positions. Jesus' challenge is for the leader to be a servant not a hero, to seek the path of service, generosity, hospitality, compassion and self-giving.

Even in the business world it is now widely recognized that the hero leader or heroic CEO is more hindrance than help.

As Jim Collins, the author of Good to Great, says:

*Virtually everything our modern culture believes about the type of leadership required to transform our institutions is wrong. It is also dangerous. There is perhaps no more corrosive trend to the health of our organisations than the rise of the celebrity CEO, the rock-star leader whose deepest ambition is first and foremost self-centric.*

If you feel a call to leadership in the Church then perhaps you need to stop and ask yourself what is your motivation, do you want to serve or be served?



**Diocesan letter continued/**

A good friend of mine used to ask prospective ordinands how they'd feel if he asked them to sweep up the leaves on his drive or to help him wash the dishes at their first meeting, he understood that leadership began and ended with servant- heartedness. So heroic leaders need not apply! What is wanted here and now in our church as we emerge from COVID are servant hearted leaders who are ambitious for the Kingdom and not for themselves.

They are those who point to Jesus as the one who transforms lives and society, they recognise they are only signposts to a Kingdom that is both here and yet to come. If you feel you are called to leadership that points to Jesus, then the Church needs you!

Derek

The Ven Derek Chedzey is Archdeacon of Hereford and Ludlow

**Blakemere News**

It is a great relief to see a loosening of the coronavirus constraints, even though there is some way to go (and Government advice is not always easy to interpret!).

Our small contribution has been to open Blakemere Church twice a week for private prayer, on Wednesdays from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., thus giving us the recommended 72 hours interval between openings. Many thanks to Revd Luci for her bulk purchase of hand sanitisers for churches in the Benefice, and for the sanitising liquid to go in them – Black Mountain Botanicals have switched from making gin to making sanitiser. It's possible than gin might do quite a good job, even if more expensively. Our sanitiser is on a board in the porch for use on arrival and departure.

Many thanks to Mal Lowther, Carol Smith, Margaret Morris, Sheila Meredith and Revd Jane for their thorough clean of the Church (observing distancing rules) after three months of closure. And thanks to Revd Jane for ringing the bells for the NHS on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> July.

## Blakemere

We are now looking forward to the first service in the Church since early March, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00 a.m. It will be Morning Prayer, without hymns alas but with organ music. And on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August we hope to be hosting the Trio Service, although this is still to be confirmed.

Very many thanks again to so many people who have been looking out for, shopping for, and supporting, those isolated and most at risk; and for those who have been so generous with much-needed donations for the Hereford Food Bank. Let us hope that the weeks ahead bring steadily improving news.

*Robert Lisvane*



## Bredwardine & Brobury

[www.bredwardine-brobury.org.uk](http://www.bredwardine-brobury.org.uk)

Yet another month is going by and we are now well into the second half of the year. What was so new about our lives in March is somehow almost normal now and we are a bit wary of returning to our old ways! Perhaps not such a bad thing in some respects. It is good to see the Church open (on a Sunday) and the doors of the Lion open again, but we have got used to less traffic and aircraft noise which were improvements. Fledglings and butterflies are out and about in the garden, the crops are growing and ripening and we have enjoyed the cherries and strawberries which are all ignoring coronaviruses! We can't afford to do the same, but it is good to have some permitted activities to announce in this issue, at last!

Jen Maddison

### CHURCH NEWS

#### Greetings from St. Andrew's

Wednesday, 26th June 1878

*"Walked with E. Awdry to Arthur's Stone in the morning. Very hot. In the evening we climbed up to the Knap but the fine weather haze prevented a clear view. On the way up I visited Joseph Gwynne and Sarah Lewis. Joseph Gwynne told me that when he was a boy the great stone called Arthur's Stone was much longer than it is now. A hundred sheep could lie under the shadow of it. Also the stone stood much higher on its supporting pillars than it does at present, so high indeed that an ordinary-sized man could walk under it.*

## CHURCH NEWS

### Greetings from St. Andrew's

*cross the green lane and opposite the stone was a rock lying flat in the ground upon which were imprinted the marks of a man's knees and fingers. These marks were believed to have been made by King Arthur when he heaved this stone up on his back and set it upon the pillars."*

An extract from the Reverend Francis Kilvert's diaries.

### Private Prayer

St. Andrew's has now been open for private prayer for the last three Sundays; I hope that during this time you have been able to visit and find solace in the quietness and spirituality of our beautiful church.

As you will have noticed, the church looks a little different: any items that were in place for people to look at or take away (postcards, visitors book, the Liturgy, prayer sheets etc) have been put away for the time being. At the church door, we have hand sanitiser available for visitors to sanitise their hands as they enter and leave the building and various advisory notices about maintaining social distancing at all times during visits. Despite these necessary changes, St. Andrew's remains our church and at the centre of our community.

I would like to say thank you to those of you who cleaned, rearranged and made the opening of the church possible for private prayer, the measures taken should hopefully reduce the risk to those who visit.

St. Andrew's will continue to be open on Sundays between the hours of 12 noon and 6:00pm

### Services for July and August 2020

**Sunday 26th July**, 9:30am Morning Prayer **inside** St. Andrew's Church

**Sunday 2nd August**, 6:00pm Evening Prayer **in St. Andrew's churchyard** (this will be weather dependent) please bring a chair or picnic blanket

**Sunday 30th August**, time TBA, Morning/Evening Prayer **inside/outside** TBA

I know that many of you will be continuing to be careful about the number of people with whom you have contact, and so for the time being will not be attending church services. Abbeystead Deanery will be continuing to stream a 'Church at Home' service on a Sunday morning, from 10:00am, on the Abbeystead Deanery YouTube channel, and various services and prayer groups throughout the week on the Deanery Facebook page, YouTube channel, via Zoom and on the 'a church near you' website, [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com). All the details and links are available in the weekly Abbeystead Deanery newsletter, which I hope you are receiving via email. Please contact Anne Lloyd, [abbeydredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydredmc@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

If you are unsure sure about anything to do with a church gathering, please contact Luci, Anne Lloyd or Catherine

Cathy

## **Bredwardine with Brobury**

### **And More -**

**Sales of books** in the church porch have been so successful that we urgently need more book supplies. So far, (ie. this is mid-July), we have raised over £300, which is a tremendous total. If you have any unwanted books – novels, cookery, gardening, travel, biography 'coffee table', etc., please do bring them and leave in the porch. They must be in really good condition, as otherwise they just don't sell.

-St. Andrew's PCC had planned to hold another **Auction** this autumn, but has decided to postpone it until next year. As the whole point is to have a great social evening with lots of people bidding against each other, it really wouldn't work under current restrictions. However, please do bear in mind that we will reschedule it as soon as we are able to, and look out for the date. There will be some fabulous lots to bid for – eg. Gin made at Knapp Cottage, a stone house sign carved by Hugh Peachey, a trailer load of manure, an original oak pew from Brobury old church, a set of Kilvert diaries, food hampers a telescope and tripod.....so it will be a great event. ....eventually.....

Charlotte

### **Friends of St. Andrew's 100 Club**

As has become the 'new normal' the July draw was streamed live, this time with Perspex screening(!) and the winners were: 1st Prize (£50) - No. 55 Pat Hammond; 2nd Prize (£25) – No. 64 Jacqueline Seymour; 3rd Prize (£15) – No. 56 Marion Howe.

The August draw on **Thursday 6th August** will take place in the Red Lion at 8pm, again streamed live on the Red Lion facebook page. The Lion is now open but space is very restricted to maintain social distancing and we cannot yet encourage everyone to attend. However there are plans to do things a little differently so do make sure you go online to watch the action!

Jen

### **VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

from Sarah, Chair of the Village Hall Committee

**August Bank Holiday BBQ** At present it is doubtful that we will have the BBQ this year. If the VHC consensus changes, and we decide to have a BBQ on the 31st August 2020, we will advertise the event on a board at the Bredwardine crossroads.

**Bookings in the VH:** The VHC has decided to take bookings beginning in August 2020. We will endeavour to provide a safe, clean meeting environment.

Throughout the month of August 2020 the following activities are scheduled:

Jacqueline's Quilting Sessions will take place on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 10am until 4pm.

The newly-formed Craft Group, which has been meeting for over a year now, will meet monthly on Thursday.

The Art Group meet in the village hall on Friday afternoons from 1-4pm.

**The Monthly Market** will not start up again until later in the year. Date and time to be determined.

**Bredwardine with Brobury**

If you would like to book the village hall for any occasion, please call Sarah on 07880 521 551. Due to Covid-19, we have put in place a cleaning checklist to be completed by the person booking the hall after each use. This is in addition to our monthly cleaning schedule.

**Solar PV Panels** reading taken on 13 July 2020. Total Electricity Generated to Date: 36520kWh; CO2 Saved: 15641kg. Our solar panels are doing their bit to keep our country on green energy.

**COFFEE MORNING****Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 25th September 10.00 - 1200**

Depending on the government guidelines, I hope to hold this in the village hall, or socially distancing in the garden or will try a Zoom coffee time.

For more information please contact Jane 568230 or jane.plaisted@travelcounsellors.com

**BREDWARDINE ART GROUP**

The group is thriving in its virtual existence with members continuing to set a group project each week and sharing the resulting work online via our Facebook group. We continue to meet via Zoom on a Friday 2.30-4pm, which is lovely having the chance to see each other including Kari, now living up North but who can be part of the Zoom group. Some group members are also taking part in online tutorials to develop their skills during this time when we cannot hold our own workshops e.g. on portraits. The group is considering how and when to resume meeting in the hall but this is a complex decision for many members who have been shielding for so long.

Some examples of our work are pictured on the recent themes of: something we miss in lockdown, still life, abstracts, collage. If you are interested in joining in the virtual art group, contact Brenda Taylor on 07855 143048. Or find us on Facebook @Bredwardine Art Group.

Sheila

**Pictures**

Something we miss in lockdown: Bredwardine Hall – Sheila Marsh, cafe with friends – Brenda Taylor, Newquay Susan Sahota

Still life: Peaches – Jenny Price, onions & garlic – Jenny Johnston, Lemons – Brenda Taylor

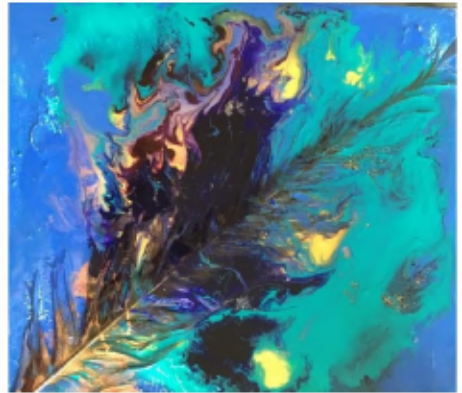
Abstract: Bubbles - Jenny Price, Pheather – Di Furlong

Collage: Sea - Kari Manning Lawson

**WYESIDE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the Zoomed Council meeting in July are available on the village website.





I don't think looking at these wonderful pictures in black & white in The Link does them justice. I hope Bredwardine and Brobury will have an exhibition of them all so we can see them (socially distanced of course) in all their lovely colours.

<b>WHITEHOUSE WEATHER REPORT, BREDWARDINE</b>						
<b>Monthly Values, June 2020</b>						
Avg Temp	Average Daily Temperature		Total Wind Run miles	Max Wind Speed mph	Rain Total mm/ inches	Days with Rain
	Max	Min				
15.4 C 59.7 F	20.6 C 69.0 F	10.8 C 51.5 F	2126	29	97.8 mm 3.85 "	16
<b>Daily Extremes of Temperature, June 2020</b>						
Coldest night	Coldest day	Warmest night	Warmest day			
6 June 6.0 C 42.8 F	29 June 13.6 C 56.5 F	25 June 16.2 C 61.2 F	25 June 32.2 C 90.0 F			
<b>Other Daily Extremes, June 2020</b>						
Windiest day	Calmmest day	Wettest day	Highest UV Index			
5 June 190 miles run	17 June 16 miles run	18 June 25.7 mm 1.01 "	22 June 6.8			

Weather summary over the page

### **Bredwardine Weather Report**

The warm dry weather of late May lasted just two days into June before cool, wet and windy conditions took over. There were a few warmer days mid-month but still with rain. It was drier from June 22nd and temperatures reached 32.2 C on the 25th (hottest June day since records began at Whitehouse in 2004, previous hottest 32.0 in 2017), but cooler wet conditions returned on the 27th until the end of the month. Overall in the region, June average temperatures were about 1 degree C higher than the averages for 1961-1990 (Met Office Anomaly Graphs).

Rainfall was well above average for June: at Whitehouse 3.85" fell (average 2.43" since 2004); at Brobury Farms the total was 3.16" (average 2.24" since 1986); and at Springfield it totalled 3.09" (average 2.74" since 2005).



## **Clifford News**

For more news, events & information  
[www.cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk)

Over the last few months during this national "lockdown period" gardens have been dug, sowed, hoed, and now reaped. The house cleaned from top to bottom, brass and all metal work polished, covers, curtains and upholstery washed and cleaned and of course dogs walked off their feet.

We are now offered freedom of a kind. Shops are opening as are pubs, cafes and restaurants. We can at last get our hair cut and nails trimmed but "sorry" if you have a beard or moustache that needs attending that will have to wait!!

From Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July masks must be worn in shops and on all public transport so perhaps now is the time to make some unusual wacky ones to bring a smile to the face.

On behalf of Clifford Community Centre 100 Club may we say "thank you" in anticipation of your continued commitment to supporting the 100 Club competition, the proceeds of which go towards the maintenance of the Community Centre.

As usual, there will be 5 prizes (£50, £35, £25, £20 and £15) at each of the three prize draws: the first in December this year, the second in February 2021 and the third in April 2021.



**Clifford continued/**

Also a big “thank you” to members who subscribe with Standing Orders. Perhaps some who pay cash might consider paying by Standing Order?

If there is anyone who would like to join the 100 Club competition but who has not subscribed before, please contact Greta on 01497831488 or Julia on 0197831275 and we will contract you with a competition form as soon as we are able.

Here is a golden opportunity for those for have not yet committed to the 100 Club to do so. By belonging to the Clifford Community Centre 100 Club you are contributing to one of the ways of helping to maintain your Community Centre.

It is with great sadness we hear of the death of Tommy Davies’s mother, Dora Alice, who lived at Springfields with her family. All friends and family will be thinking of you at this sad time. Dora died just before she became 100 years old.

**Clifford Primary School**

Dear Parents, Wow, we made it to the end of this academic year! This year has shown that life isn’t straightforward- it’s definitely full of surprises. We have had a year like no other and it will definitely make the History books. I have said it before but I would like to say it again, I am so proud to be the Head of Clifford. I work with some wonderful people and amazing families, and I would like to thank you all for all your hard work and support. I am so proud of how we all worked together through the difficult times. For our year 6’s, it is the end of their journey with Clifford School and they are all ready to move on to their next adventure. Everyone at Clifford would like to wish each and every one of them all the best. You will be in our memories forever and I know you will all do very well.

### **HELP NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE GOLDEN VALLEY WAY**



In conversation with Jose Pearson and others Clifford Parish Council have put to Council a proposal to remove 2 stiles along the WVV in Clifford Parish on the boundary with the former golf course and replace them with wide metal gates. This

would continue the work Cusop Parish had done along their section of the WVV to make it accessible to everyone including for the disabled. This proposal would mean everyone would have access to the WVV where it runs through the former golf course.

*Continued over*

## **HELP NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE GOLDEN VALLEY WAY** *continued/*

We are delighted that the Herefordshire Council have approved this but it is down to Clifford Parish Council to fund the materials and labour, which comes to just under £1000.

If anyone feels they would like to help Clifford Parish Council towards the cost of this it would be hugely welcome. The Golden Valley Way is a beautiful walk and should be accessible and enjoyed by everyone.

If you would like further information or wish to donate please contact the parish clerk at;

[clerk@cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk). Alternatively, you can find information on the Parish Council website [www.cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk)

Many thanks

Emma Noble



## **Cusop News**

[www.cusop.net](http://www.cusop.net)

It's been wonderful to open our church doors again - first for Private Prayer and then on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July for Morning Worship Services. The entire bookstall, all leaflets, hymn books and other possible "touchables" have been removed from the main body of the church. We have clear 2m social distance signage and hand sanitiser at the main door. Everyone now knows the rules and our services have gone very smoothly with everyone seated appropriately and safely. If people prefer to wear a face covering then we encourage it. Sadly, we are still unable to sing but the congregation can appreciate hymns and music played during the service. Both services were very enjoyable and well-attended. They were also special because the banns of marriage were read for Michelle and Chris. It's so uplifting to be gathering together again for worship in our beautiful church!

Cusop church will remain open for Private Prayer every Sunday from 10am to 6pm.

Due to current circumstances, it's not proved possible to return to our normal pattern of services. **Please check the church noticeboards, the church pages on the village website, and "The Link" magazine for services taking place at Cusop.**

If still in doubt, don't hesitate to contact the Churchwarden –contact details are on the back of this magazine. On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July, we plan to join Clifford at their outdoor service. We are praying for some settled, warm weather so outdoor services can take place through the summer months.

## **Cusop**

### **Two Weddings!**

We're delighted that two weddings will soon take place at Cusop Church. Due to current restrictions, they will be small weddings but both couples decided that they wanted to make their vows this summer rather than postpone the ceremony to next year. The wedding of Michelle Peel and Chris Driver-Williams takes place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Jessica East and Stuart Seddon plan to marry on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. We pray for both couples as they prepare for this very special day.

### **Thank you, Tony!**

For many years, Tony Charles has been picking up "The Link" magazines for Cusop and Hay (approximately over 130) and ensured that they are safely received by all the volunteers who kindly deliver them to individual houses. It's a personal touch that everyone appreciates and has been successful for over 30 years – our Editor, Ann, knows all about the history of "The Link" as she was there when it first started! A very big thank you to Tony for being part of this important network and helping with the distribution for so many years, we are very grateful.

### **Norway Spruce in Churchyard**

I'm sure many of you will have noticed that a large Norway Spruce has been chopped down. The tree was planted next to the boundary wall and, unfortunately, when people plant trees, they seem to forget that trees grow, especially a Norway Spruce! The top of the tree was dead and we were reliably informed that the rest of the tree was dying. Branches were overhanging Greystones (the old school) and it was becoming increasingly dangerous. The PCC came to the inevitable conclusion that the tree had to be removed. In the space remaining, the plan is to plant some smaller trees (possibly apple trees) away from the boundary.

### **Caring for God's Acre Taskforce Day: Friday 21st August from 10am to 3pm**

Our Bee and Butterfly Garden is looking beautiful – thank you, Kitty, for all your hard work and thank you anyone else who has magnanimously quietly beavered away in the churchyard alone.

Our next Taskforce Day will be on **Friday 21st August from 10am to 3pm**. Government regulations will still need to be followed so all volunteers please bring your own tools and refreshments. Unfortunately, the toilet will still need to be locked so please join us for as long as short as you want. The plan is to plant some yellow rattle seed, but, as always, you can choose whatever job you wish. All help is greatly appreciated! We look forward to seeing you.

### **Developing a Wildflower Meadow**

For over ten years, we have had meadows at the back of the churchyard where bees, butterflies and insects can feed on the long grasses and wildflowers. Many of the grasses are fabulous and the knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil and yarrow are all very pretty flowers (and loved by bumble bees) but we would like to encourage more species. I've been in touch with God's Acre and the advice is to plant yellow rattle,

## **Cusop**

*“Yellow Rattle is really useful in creating and enhancing wildflower meadows. It is a semi-parasitic, meadow annual which attaches itself to neighbouring grasses through the root system and reduces the vigour of the grass. Where yellow rattle is present you can see that the grass is shorter and less dense.”*

Some of our meadow areas have thick tussocky grass which prevents the wildflowers from germinating. Our plan is to plant some yellow rattle seeds which will rob the grass of its nutrients and so allow more wildflowers to grow. We are discovering that developing a wildflower meadow does not happen overnight and is a process that takes many years.

## **Identifying Fungi and Botanical Walk**

I had a lovely conversation with Harriet Carty who works for Caring for God’s Acre. Harriet has offered to organise a fungi session in the autumn and a botanical walk next year. These will be in Cusop Churchyard which is very exciting! We know we have the rare Earthstar Fungus so we could discover more. We have never had a botanical survey so it will be brilliant to start recording some of the species growing in our churchyard and learn how to identify them. Watch this space for dates of these special events which will be open to anyone who is interested.

## **Choir Practice in the Churchyard!**

We’re delighted that throughout the lockdown when all other public spaces were closed, our churchyard remained open for everyone to enjoy. This included a small and very talented choir from Hay-on-Wye who have been regularly practising their harmonies in our beautiful churchyard. It’s a wonderful experience to hear them singing whilst sweeping the path! We do hope they will come and sing in our church when the lockdown ends.

## **Tea at Three is Alive and Kicking!**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, we had a “Tea at Three on your Doorstep” enjoyed by the residents at Cartref and a few extra neighbours close by. Everyone managed to produce a comfortable chair and sat on their doorstep with their cup of tea. After all the self-isolation, there was a lot of catching up with news and the necessary socially distancing didn’t stop the chatter and the laughs. The “Tea at Three” regulars are a happy and very friendly bunch of people. They always jolly each other along. Everyone enjoyed Cherry’s delicious homemade scones and some homemade biscuits as well. Those who lived further away and were self-isolating were not forgotten as, when the party was over, scones and biscuits were also delivered to their doorsteps.

## **Building Links with Cartref**

It’s been such a difficult time for the residents and staff at care homes and hospitals. especially as relatives and friends have not been able to visit for several months. We thought some cards of our pretty Millennium Window at Cusop Church would cheer them up. It’s great to know that the W.I are on the same wavelength and have been posting handmade cards to some long-term residents of Llewellyn Ward at Bronllys

Hospital The manager at Cartref, Sylvia Illingsworth, has told us that the cards produced some lovely memories of special occasions and events at our beautiful church. Some residents remembered their weddings in Cusop Church as far back as 71 years ago. When the lockdown eases, it would be wonderful to talk to the residents and record some of these memories with the help of Cusop History Group. We have also delivered "The Link" magazine. They have particularly enjoyed reading the Cusop news and especially "Sue's Snippets" on the History Group pages which have provided such entertaining descriptions of life in Cusop many years ago. Thank you, Sue.

### **Donations to Hereford Food Bank**

Please continue to donate to Hereford Food Bank. In August, the Food Bank would especially like healthy treats for children but tinned fruit and vegetables, rice pudding, custard, UHT/ dried milk, tea, coffee and toiletries are always appreciated. The box is in the porch at Cusop Village Hall .Thank you!

### **Happy Birthday, Derek!**

Alison Matthew's Dad, Derek Raine, has greatly enjoyed staying with Alison and Laurence in Cusop since February. Derek celebrates his 90th birthday on August 26<sup>th</sup> so we offer him our warmest congratulations! He is certainly well placed to celebrate this very special day. We wish Derek a Very Happy Birthday and many more to come!

### **Thank You for a Lovely Party!**

Frances Jones, Flowermead, Cusop, would like to thank all her friends and neighbours for their generosity and kindness on her birthday. Frances thoroughly enjoyed the party with everybody sharing this special celebration with her from their doorsteps. Frances says thank you to everyone for the beautiful flowers, the garden vouchers and most of all, the birthday cake which was a wonderful surprise!

Celia Cundale

### **CUSOP HISTORY GROUP**

We would normally be having our AGM at this time of year but we have put this on hold until we can meet up again. For those who are missing our talks, Penny Platts from Dorstone History group has kindly sent us the link for her talk on 'A Short History of Dorstone, Herefordshire' <https://youtu.be/k4FhlyOqqfk>

### **This month in Cusop History.**

This advert from the Cusop Parish Magazine **August 1904** sounds just the thing! Grape-Nuts were a breakfast cereal developed in 1897 by C.W. Post in the US, a former patient and later competitor of the 19th-century breakfast food innovator Dr. John H. Kellogg. The cereal originally prepared by C. W. Post when developing the product was a batter that came from the oven as a rigid sheet. He then broke the sheet into pieces and ran them through a coffee grinder to produce the "nut"-sized kernels.

From [the Cusop Parish Magazine](#) **August 1913** by Rev E W Stredder

*“We are very pleased to be able to announce that a most generous offer of a new rectory has been made by J.C. Clay, Esq. one of our Patrons of the living, who is prepared to give a free gift to the Parish of Cusop Lodge grounds.*

*For many years past the question of a residence for the rector has been very prominently before the parishioners, and various schemes have been discussed only to be abandoned through lack of funds. The present kind offer has now brought the matter within the bounds of possibility: the great point being the sale of the present rectory to obtain funds for making the necessary structural alterations at Cusop Lodge. My warden, Mr Armstrong, is moving energetically in the matter; and with a view of obtaining some outside assistance approached the Bishop and Ecclesiastical Commissioners. We hope that from the various sources sufficient means will be obtained to get a rectory worthy of the parish.*

*The parishioners will appreciate the generosity of Mr Clay and this further evidence of his deep interest in the welfare of the parish”.*

This advert from the Cusop Parish Magazine **August 1904** sounds just the thing! Grape-Nuts were a breakfast cereal developed in 1897 by C.W. Post in the US, a former patient and later competitor of the 19th-century breakfast food innovator Dr. John H. Kellogg. The cereal originally prepared by C. W. Post when developing the product was a batter that came from the oven as a rigid sheet. He then broke the sheet into pieces and ran them through a coffee grinder to produce the "nut"-sized kernels.

### ***FEED Your Thinker***

*Brain (and other nerve matter) wastes away exactly as other portions of the human body give out – a little every hour. Unless this waste is repaired the brain gets weak and brain-fag and nervous prostration set in.*

*This waste is restored naturally by Albumen and Phosphate of Potash found in*

### ***GRAPE-NUTS***

*All worn-out, broken-down brains can surely be rebuilt by the use of GRAPE-NUTS, the most scientific food in the world. If you are a thinker your brain wastes away in proportion as you use it. It can be kept KEEN on GRAPE-NUTS.*

*Look for the little book “The Road to Wellville” in each packet.*

### ***There’s a Reason***

From the Rectory in **August 1948** by Rev. George A. M. Griffiths

*“My Dear Friends,*

*Like a great many other people, I have been trying to get rid of the weeds, or rather some of them, in the Rectory garden. It seems to be an unending task but must be done if the garden is not to be spoilt. Weeds are rather mysterious things. Nobody plants them or tends them yet they always seem to thrive. Neglect seems to be the greatest cause of their increase.*

**From the Rectory in August 1948 by Rev. George A. M. Griffiths *continued/***

*It is very much the same with the human character. It should be a thing of beauty but so often is marred by weeds... the ugly things of life which grow apace if not checked."*

Visit our website at <http://cusophistory.wix.com/cusop> to see the latest information, including the research and our photos of historical Cusop.

Email us at [cusophistory@gmail.com](mailto:cusophistory@gmail.com) or call Sue on 01497 822523.

### CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST  
10.00AM TO 3.00PM

Please bring your own tools and refresh-  
ments

Everyone Welcome!  
All help appreciated!



### Cusop, Ty Glyn, rainfall gauge



Almost the opposite of May. Just eight dry days A (welcome) total of 111.6 mm (4.39") with frequent showers, almost traditional April-like weather.

Ainsleigh 01497-820332

***Please don't forget that The Link's new e mail address is  
[linkeditor@outlook.com](mailto:linkeditor@outlook.com)***

***It confuses me if I suddenly get a Link e mail within my personal e mails.***

# Dorstone News

www.dorstone.org.uk



## News from St. Faith's

### August Opening Hours

St. Faith's will be open **every day in August from 9a.m. – 4.30p.m.** Access will be only to the roped-off carpeted area where there is a Prayer Desk. Please respect the social distancing rules and use sanitiser and spray provided. At this time, we are not planning to have any Sunday services. Do check the **Link** and the **Abbeydore Deanery** website for services elsewhere.

**Evening Prayer** in St. Faith's - **Thursdays 8p.m. – 8.20p.m.** – Thanks so much to Richard Jones for making this possible. Everyone most welcome.

### Survey Results

Grateful thanks to those of you who completed our Churchwardens' Survey Form. We will use the results to plan what services we may be able to offer from **September** onwards.

### Bat Licence Report

We are glad to tell you that the final part of our Bat Licence has been completed. Various types of bats returned to the top of the tower as soon as the bell work was finished, and it is used regularly for roosting.

### Churchyard Wild Area - Saturday 22nd August 3p.m. – 4.30p.m. Just turn up!!

**Help** needed - from a **few people with strimmers** to cut down the wild area in the old churchyard, and carry away the grass. 'Caring for God's Acre' advise this cutting at the latter end of summer, when the seeds have been shed, as it is the only way to properly maintain a wild area, and will encourage a wide variety of plants to re-establish for next year and not be choked out by the old grass.

Churchwardens - Sylvia Corrick & Penny Platts

### Dorstone History Society

At the time of writing, we still do not know when we will be able to resume our meetings. We will continue to re-book the speakers for next year for all the meetings we have missed.



### **Dorstone History Society**

In the meantime, we will have to content ourselves with being part of history in the making. Just think – one day there might be a History Society talk on the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020!

**Dorstone's Good Samaritans** continue to help with sending out regular information, arranging bread deliveries, plant sales, fresh eggs, takeaways, prescription collections, shopping and just conversation! Thank you, everyone.

### **Other News from Dorstone**

**The Pandy Takeaway** has been every popular – especially the pizzas. Paying by tap card has kept the virus at bay!

**DFR Information Services** – Grateful thanks to Karen for keeping us all in touch with the latest Covid19 news. Also connect to Dorstone Forum Facebook page – lots of up to date news there too.

### **Violet Smith**

Dad, Duncan and myself would just like to say a big thank you to all who came to pay their last respects to mum / Vi on the 4th July, and for all your kind donations. We are just lost for words to express our sincere thanks to everyone, who in some way or another has comforted us by sending us flowers, letters, cards and telephone calls and offers of help. Mum was such a big character in Dorstone having lived here all her life, she was involved in everything going on in the village, and loved being a part of countryside way of life. She was one in a million and will be hugely missed by us all and all that knew her. We will be planning a memorial service later in the year / next year depending on the ongoing Covid-19 situation. Thanks again to you all

Clare Smith

### **Dorstone and District WI**

We have no news yet on when we will be able to hold our normal meetings again. The committee had an informal, socially distanced and masked get-together in early July, just to keep in touch and talk about possible options. We are hoping to re-book the speakers for the meetings we have missed, for the same month next year.

WI members were very sad to hear of the death of Violet Smith. Vi was a very long-standing member of Dorstone WI, having joined in the late '60s or early '70s. She was on the committee in 1971 and was a very active member. Vi was very competitive and entered the monthly competitions and quizzes, quite often winning! She played rounders for the WI team, and also darts and skittles.

<b>Borderlink Benefice Ser</b>			
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> August</b> Trinity 8	<b>9<sup>th</sup> August</b> Trinity 9	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b> T
<b>BLAKEMERE</b>	11am outdoor Trio Service		S Clus at
<b>BREDWARDINE WITH BROBURY</b>	6pm outdoor* Evening Prayer		
<b>CLIFFORD</b>		11am outdoor Cluster service*, with Hardwicke/ Cusop	
<b>CUSOP</b>		<i>join outdoor Cluster service at Clifford</i>	11a V
<b>DORSTONE**</b>			
<b>HARDWICKE</b>		<i>11am join outdoor Cluster Service*at Clifford</i>	
<b>MOCCAS</b>	<i>11am Trio service at Blakemere</i>		9.30 at
<b>PRESTON ON WYE</b>	<i>11am Trio service Blakemere</i>		9.30 at
<b>Notes</b>	<p style="text-align: right;">*weather dependent **Dorstone – informal ev</p>		

<b>Worship Rota – August 2020</b>		
<b>10<sup>th</sup> August</b> Trinity 10	<b>23 August</b> Trinity 11	<b>30 August</b> Trinity 12
9.30am Eucharistic service at Preston		
		9.30am or 11am (time tbc) Morning Worship
11am Morning Worship	11am Morning Prayer (lay led)	
11am Cluster at Preston	11am Morning Worship in Churchyard*	
11am Cluster Preston		
<p>*, check arrangements with Churchwarden if wet. Evening prayer in church 8pm every Thursday evening</p>		

### **Dorstone and District WI**

In the '80s the WI used to hold a Christmas party for local children, followed by a pantomime. Vi was always in the panto and loved making the children laugh. With other members from Dorstone WI she went on several WI holidays to Holland, Belgium and Scotland. Great fun was had on these trips.

Vi will be sadly missed in our WI and will be long remembered. We send our sympathy and love to Peter, Clare and Duncan at this sad and difficult time.

### **Dorstone Bowls Club**

Dorstone Bowls Club held a committee meeting on 15th June and decided unanimously not to open the Club or green during 2020 season because of the coronavirus pandemic. By taking this action they would be protecting their membership and also the public especially those living near the green.

Advice given by Shropshire Crown Green Bowls Association and Bowls England would have allowed the Club to play, however, it restricted the number of players on the green and there were other regulations that the committee thought they would have difficulty in keeping.

However, the lockdown has given the Club time to reorganise itself after the very sad news of Mrs Violet Smith's death. She had been the life and soul around which the Club had revolved. Her death has reverberated around Herefordshire as well as Shropshire bowls clubs and she will be sorely missed.

Because there will be no play and no social events the Club (after looking at its finances) realised that it would be financially embarrassed unless it acted swiftly. It appealed for donations which were generously given. It applied for a grant to Bowls England which was successful and between the two and its own savings will survive 2020 with just pennies left for 2021. We are hoping that it will be "business as usual" in 2021 with play and social activity restored.

It is very important that the Club survives and continues to provide a place of recreation for the local populace. That is why the committee are hard at work thinking of ways to attract new members and new money-spinning social events as they look forward to 2021 and a bright future. Your help with membership, fund raising and new social events will be much appreciated so call Barry Megson 01981 590691 for a friendly chat – thank you.



# Hardwicke News

[www.hardwickechurch.co.uk](http://www.hardwickechurch.co.uk)

We have had mixed weather over the past few months in Hardwicke but the rain has assured a bumper crop of lettuce, Japanese edible chrysanthemum, chard, spinach and mange toute. Various beans are now in full flower so hopefully we shall be able to enjoy the fruits of our labours over the next few weeks.

I was really excited when I received some samphire seeds for my birthday back in February but just when I thought I might as well chuck them out, two tiny shoots materialised and over a period of several months grew into two inch high plants resembling the samphire in the market but infinitely smaller! The taste was delicious but I would really like some tips on germinating these minute seeds. If anyone has been successful in growing samphire perhaps you would let me know so that I can enjoy a real meal rather than a mere taste!

'Bells for hope'. Bells will continue to be rung on Thursday evenings in most of the Benefice as a reminder of our continued presence in our parishes and to mark a time when our community is being prayed for. Our sincere thanks to David who will continue to ring the bells at Hardwicke. He also rang them on Sunday 5th July at 5.00pm when the final clap for the NHS took place on its 72nd anniversary and at a time when we are so thankful for the dedication of all who work in this marvellous organisation.

Although some churches in the Benefice are re-opening for short periods, Hardwicke Church will sadly continue to remain closed due to the measures needed to be implemented prior to re-opening.

We were really sorry to hear that Ange Grunsell had had a nasty accident playing tennis and wish her a speedy recovery.

The hall committee are delighted with the COVID grant of £10,000 which has been awarded to the hall by Herefordshire council. We are hoping to put the money towards insulation, and improving the kitchen and the lighting. If you know of anyone who would be interested in quoting for the work, please contact Flo Stoney ((01497 832487)

## Hardwicke

Life Drawing classes will resume every Monday from 10am to 4pm in Hardwicke Hall from September but there will also be a couple of classes in August. Just turn up on the day or call Denise to find out more on 01497 831 544. Everyone welcome.

For those of you who were thinking of visiting The Castlefields they are now open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. They have all the Social Distance Measures in place to keep both Customers and Staff safe and are now taking bookings.



## MoccasNews

<https://sites.google.com/site/moccasvillage>

**No Flower Show** this year just when the gardens were looking so amazing after all the tender, loving care they have been receiving during lockdown. There looks as though there will be an abundance of apples too, the branches are bowing down already.

**No Wedding** to look forward to this year but Natalie and Tom hope to tie the knot next year. Very sad after months and months of planning to have to postpone it, so much hard work goes into these special occasions.

**No Church** but there is light at the end of the tunnel with the organ restoration and the organ case cleaning. Thanks to our lottery Heritage Grant and generous supporters, the organ is mostly back in place and final assembly will take place when the work on the case has finished. It will be something to look forward to quite soon. Watch this space.

**Sadly No Ivor** - he died peacefully in his sleep on his 84th birthday. There will be a small gathering in the churchyard on 23rd July where he will be buried next to his wife Pam. He was a very talented carpenter and when the church is reopened we will be able to admire his Rector's chair which he "made to measure" for the Revd Paul Barnes, a good few years ago now. His other love was Art and he was a keen member of Moccas Art Club for many years.

## **Moccas**

Many congratulations to Dave and Jill Collins on their Golden Wedding Anniversary and to Owen and Julia Whittall on their Silver. How the time flies, vivid memories of 25 years ago on a sweltering hot July day. Very best wishes to them all for lots more healthy, happy years together.

### **Update on Moccas Church**

#### **Repair and conservation of 1870 RW Walker organ.**

The organ was dismantled in early [January 2020](#) and taken to the Worcestershire studio of organ builders and conservators, Nicholsons and Co for repair. It has now been fully restored to its original condition.

See <http://nicholsonorgans.co.uk/pf/moccas/>

The organ is now being reinstated in the church, using health and safety guidelines in relation to the pandemic. This process is being photographed and monitored by a village volunteer who is also collating information about the internal workings of the organ (none of us had any previous notion of the complexity of an organ!) and writing a diary about the reinstatement, which will then be uploaded to the church website

#### **Repair and conservation of the original Bailey's hydraulic engine.**

We have also decided to restore the original hydraulic engine which was used to power the organ before the advent of electricity in the village in the 1950s, and this has been done by Duplex, who will be reinstating the hydraulic engine in a few weeks time, dovetailing with Nicholsons as appropriate . We have discovered that this Bailey's hydraulic engine is now the only one of its kind left in the country. The organ will be able to move seamlessly from electric power to water power. We are also renewing the wooden cupboard housing of the hydraulic engine and organ blower, partly as it was riddled with woodworm, and partly so we can insert a glass fronted door so that the engine can be spot lit and readily viewed in action.

**The Gilbert Scott Junior case** will be repaired and conserved in situ by the International Fine arts Conservation Studios once the organ has been reinstated.

We hope to be ready by the end of [August 2020](#) to relaunch the organ, but of course this is somewhat unpredictable in the light of the pandemic.

#### Easy Fundraising for Moccas Church

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for St Michael and All Angels Church, Moccas with easyfundraising?

## Moccas

There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

All you need to do is: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/moccaschurch/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=fb1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/moccaschurch/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=fb1) and join for free.

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Moccas Church at no extra cost to you whatever!

**There are no catches or hidden charges and St Michael of All Angels Church, Moccas will be really grateful for your donations.**

Thank you for your support.

Any more information contact Julia Whittall – 01981 500 250 or [whittallmoccas@gmail.com](mailto:whittallmoccas@gmail.com)



**Raise free funds for us  
every time you shop online**

**Find out more**





## Community Items

### **Hay on WI ....*Inspiring Women.***

This month we have been looking at *Womankind*, and we focus on women's issues, kindness and the way women can work together to change things for the better.

As part of the WI's ***Alleviate Loneliness*** campaign we have launched ***Cards of Kindness***, posting initial contact cards to some long-term residents of Llewellyn Ward at Bronllys Hospital. Our craft group have been making cards for the follow up posting in the next couple of weeks, when we have a clearer idea of the interests, circumstances and birthdays of our Bronllys friends. We hope to expand this to Cartref residents in the future, but this is a long-term commitment so we need to make sure we can keep the correspondence up over time. Can you help by becoming a penpal, sending a card now and again to cheer someone's day? If you would like to be involved then please contact us.

Are we heading back to a 1950s style of living? It is increasingly looking like women are disproportionately suffering from the impact the pandemic. Research from Sussex University found that more mothers are responsible for childcare, with 72% describing themselves as the 'default' parent. As women take on the role of primary carer and educator; they are more vulnerable to future redundancy and are less likely to be promoted. Fifty years since the first Equal Pay Act, the gender pay gap stubbornly remains.

The WI first campaigned for equal pay in 1943. Still just 35% of local councillors and 34% of MPs are women. The ***Equal Power*** campaign aims to support and train women to get involved in government. Interested in online training? <https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/free-online-equal-power-workshops-for-women>

Our WI is continuing to meet on-line via Zoom and looking forward to when we can get back together again. For more information on Hay on WI call Sue Hodgetts on 01497 822523, email us on [hayonwi@gmail.com](mailto:hayonwi@gmail.com) or visit our website <http://hayonwi.wixsite.com/haywi> for more information.

**Hay Youth Theatre** (Saturdays at Cusop Village Hall at 10.30 until 12.30 for Juniors aged 7-11 and 1pm until 3 pm for Seniors aged 12-16) is currently on hold. [Don't forget to vote for our Community project to put on an outdoor production of Midsummer Night's Dream in 2021. We would love your help - by using your Co-op membership card and choosing Hay Theatre as your cause, every time you buy Co-op branded goods helps raise funds for this valuable project. Check our website and Facebook for changes. Top of Form](#)

For details call Janine on 07733 055430 or email [haytheatre@gmail.co.uk](mailto:haytheatre@gmail.co.uk). For more information check our website [www.haytheatre.co.uk](http://www.haytheatre.co.uk)

### **Hay Adult Theatre Studies (HATS)**

We normally meet on Thursday evenings 7.45 to 9.45 at **Clyro Village Hall** in term time. Sessions are currently postponed but we hope to be part of the Midsummer Night's Dream production planned for next year. For more information check our website [www.haytheatre.co.uk](http://www.haytheatre.co.uk)

### **HayDay Cafés**

Whilst we can't meet at the HayDay Cafés at Cusop and Clyro, Dementia Matters in Powys have set up Powys wide virtual Meeting Centres on Thursday mornings at 11am for an hour or so via Zoom with chat, activities and singing. See our website <https://haydaycusop.wixsite.com/hayday> Facebook page or call Sue Hodgetts on 01497 822523

*(I realise that this is very long but it does give a clear picture of how surgeries have been handling the consequences of the virus)*

### **To all the Weobley and Staunton-on-Wye surgery patients,**

We hope you are well and staying safe during these difficult times. We wanted to take this opportunity to firstly say thank you to you all for the offers of help and support during the Covid outbreak. They have been much appreciated.

We also wanted to give you an update via the local newsletter as we are aware that not all of you have access to the internet and our surgery website.

When the Covid outbreak struck and we went in to lockdown we had to urgently change our systems at the surgery in line with the rapidly changing guidance from NHS England. This we know caused difficulties for all of us but we have continued to maintain a medical service locally, run our dispensary and also help out at the regional "Amber hub" in Kington which is where we assess patients from our surgery and all surgeries across the north of the County who might have Coronavirus.

**To all the Weobley and Staunton-on-Wye surgery patients,**

Whilst it might appear that we have "closed the surgery doors" we want to reassure you that we are still here for you and that General practice is open for urgent and important work. If you need to see or speak to a doctor we will first book you into one of our telephone clinics. To prevent the spread of the disease we will try to sort out your problem over the phone. We may do a video consultation with you which we can set up if we feel it's required via a link from our computer system direct to your mobile phone if it's a modern touch screen type (Smart phone). If you don't have one we can use someone else's in your social bubble if they are available when we call. We might also get you to send us a picture by e-mail.

If we can't sort out your problem by phone and feel we need to see you we can arrange for you to be seen face to face either at Weobley surgery, for non-covid problems, or in Kington if we think you might have Covid symptoms. If we see you we will take all the precautions required to keep you safe. We will wear PPE and only bring you into the building one at a time. If you have a mask or face covering please wear it.

All these steps and precautions along with the need to do extra work up in Kington and having staff off sick and needing to shield due to their own health conditions does reduce down the number of patients we can deal with at any one time. Despite this we have had to manage over 140 direct patient contacts in a single day recently, and whilst it may appear to some that the surgery "is closed" we'd like to reassure you all that we've been here working as hard now as before the pandemic started and are still here for you.

In the last few weeks we have started to see a rise in demand for appointments as people can no longer put off contacting a doctor and we are trying to cope with this along with the measures above to keep everyone safe.

Currently we have been operating from a single list of phone calls due to the unpredictability of staffing levels and also trying to deal with all the work load in a single day, but we realise this prevents people from forward booking appointments and removes the ability to select which doctor you speak with. We hope to soon return to more personalised list system for non-urgent work and a single list for urgent cases. However, this may mean having to wait to speak to a doctor if your problem is not urgent, rather than having it dealt with on the day you ring up.

Our dispensaries are still open and still managed to prepare over 12,000 items last month!

**To all the Weobley and Staunton-on-Wye surgery patients,**

We are sorry you are not currently able to collect prescriptions from inside the building but feel it's best to dispense from the window to keep you all safe and keep the inside of the building for patients who need to be seen by a doctor or nurse.

Due to the volume of work the dispensary does we would be very grateful if you could use the on-line ordering system or get someone else to do it for you if at all possible. This is because it vastly speeds up our processes and saves us having to manually enter the request on to the computer, which is very helpful and safer when we are dealing with thousands of requests.

Nationally the NHS is currently on level 4 which means routine work is suspended but we suspect that this may change in the coming weeks to level 3. When this happens we will need to incorporate some routine work into the system along with the workload we already have whilst still follow procedures to keep everyone safe. We are also starting to think about how we will be able to look after you in the future, as it is clear things will need to change. We know that a large number of our patients are on treatment for high blood pressure, have diabetes or have cardiovascular disease (heart attacks, strokes or TIAs) and need their blood pressure measuring. Normally we call you in to the surgery to do this or lend you one of our machines, but obviously this is a problem due to the risk of spreading the virus. We would therefore like to suggest that those of you who are able to do so buy your own blood pressure machine. These are relatively inexpensive at about £25 and can be bought from high street pharmacies and on-line retailers and could be shared within your household or social bubble. Whilst we realise not everyone will be able to afford to do this, for those that can it will be a relatively small sum to invest in your future health. We would then ask that you send us blood pressure readings once or twice a year so we can monitor your treatment. There is a form on our website which can be printed out which gives you the instructions and also the levels you are aiming for, or you can collect one from either reception.

We are also thinking about how we do other things like Flu vaccinations in the Autumn and other more routine work. All of this will be challenging and we hope you will be patient with us and understand that it can't simply be business as usual yet. Whilst the levels of Coronavirus cases in the Country are falling a lot of medical professionals, ourselves included, think it is unlikely that we are through this and expect a second wave of the virus, which may be even worse than the first.

**To all the Weobley and Staunton-on-Wye surgery patients,**

It is important that we all do our best to comply with the advice we are given and follow the rules as the situation changes, even though these are often inconvenient.

Please stay safe and remember we are here if you need us.

Drs Rob Sykes, Ritesh Dua and Tom Moore of Weobley and Staunton-on-Wye surgeries

Samantha Price

Medical Secretary

Weobley Surgery, Weobley, Herefordshire, HR4 8SN

(T) 01544 318472

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**Golden Valley Day Centre**

Again it has been another quiet month for the Day Centre.

We as a committee have decided that a good way to keep connected would be to have a draw at least once a month. So everyone by now should have been issued with their own unique number. I wish everyone good luck and I hope to be able to let you know who our first winners are.

I am sorry that our news isn't much at the moment but if any of our members wants to let me know how it's been for them during this time please get in touch.

So in the meantime keep staying safe and well.