



The Link

November 2020

50p

*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

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

The Rev'd Jane Rogers 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

Society of Friends, Hay - Janet Robinson

01497 821348

Belmont Abbey - Fr. Paul Stoneham

01432 374718

Email : parish@belmontabbey.org.uk

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

1 Corinthians Ch. 2 verse 9

**But as it is written, what no eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has it
entered into the heart of man,
the things which God has prepared for them that love Him**

Parish letter from the Revd. Luci Morriss

November is a season for remembering ...

All Souls Day on 2nd November, when we celebrate the lives of those we love but can see no longer. This year we've written to those who've been bereaved in recent years, and invited them to find a quiet moment that day to light a candle and pray this prayer, you may wish to do the same:

You may wish to find a candle and some memento or photo to have with you as you pray

When I feel the pain of loss, comfort me, God of love.

Put your arms around me and hold me.

Let me feel your love surround me.

Fill me with comfort.

Help me to remember good times Lord, for you are the God of joy too. Help me to remember joy, fun and laughter. Help me to remember special times that we spent together.

As you watch the candle flicker, say out loud what is on your mind.

Fill me with gratitude and thankfulness for those good times.

As you look at your memento or photo, say out loud what is on your mind.

Thank you, Lord of sorrow, Lord of joy, thank you for all those who will share this prayer with me, for my friends in the church, neighbourhood and beyond.

Thank you, Lord, for being there for me.

The names of those who've died in our parishes in recent years will also be displayed in our churches that are open for private prayer (a list of these appears elsewhere in The Link), should you wish to visit.

Remembrance Sunday on 8th November acknowledges the sacrifice of those who've lost their lives, or whose lives have been changed forever, as a result of conflict and war. We give thanks for those who wait/waited anxiously at home, often under very difficult circumstances. Remembrance Sunday services includes an opportunity for each of us to commit ourselves to, and pray for, peace, justice and fairness. This year Remembrance Sunday services will be held at both Dorstone and Bredwardine, at 10.45am.

Parish letter from the Revd. Luci Morriss *continued*/

Perhaps this season gives us all a chance to reflect on what has been an extraordinary year. What might you be mourning this year - job security, the opportunity to spend time with loved ones, the chance to travel without concern, spontaneity? And have there been times be thankful too – for our families, our friends, our faith, a strengthening of our communities, an appreciation of our local shops and businesses? Let’s be gentle with ourselves and one another, knowing that we each carry a sometimes confusing bundle of both sadness and gratitude this season.

Blessings
Revd Luci

Churches open for private prayer:

Blakemere: Wednesdays, 10am – 1pm and Sundays, 1pm – 6pm

Bredwardine: Sundays, midday until 6pm

Clifford: Sunday - Wednesday, during daylight hours

Cusop: Sundays, 10am until 6pm

Dorstone: Daily, 9am – 4.30pm

Hardwicke hopes to reopen during the course of November. Opening times will be shared on Hardwicke church’s Facebook page and the Benefice’s fortnightly newsletter.

Keeping in touch

The Borderlink Benefice Newsletter is sent out fortnightly, by either email or post. It contains a list of services, the Sunday readings, news and events.

The Abbeydore Deanery Update is sent weekly by email, or fortnightly by post. This contains links to our weekly Church at Home service and Zoom invitations to Evening Prayer (Mondays) and Compline (Wednesdays) as well as news from across the deanery and beyond.

If you’d like to receive either of these, please contact Anne Lloyd, our Deanery Mission Coordinator on 07432 873422 or email abbeydoredmc@gmail.com

Alistair Morriss (Luci’s husband) is Legging it for Longtown! See page 36

November Parish magazine article by the Ven Derek Chedzey, the Archdeacon of Hereford and Ludlow

I write this as the view from my window is looking very autumnal. The leaves are turning and the nights are drawing in, the warmth of summer is slowly ebbing away. This time of year marks a change in the churches year as we move away from Easter and Pentecost and begin to prepare for Advent. In the Church Calendar we have some significant moments coming up and the Kingdom Season is almost upon us. The liturgists and those who plan our lectionary have created a number of markers along the way that help remind us of the role that Kingdom has in our faith. We have All Hallows Eve (Halloween), All Saints and All Souls and then Christ the King. In between we have Remembrance Sunday and in more recent years Armistice Day has taken on new resonance in society as a whole.

These moments all have something in common they are about memory and remembering and they remind us that we belong to something bigger than ourselves. These memories are all the more poignant this year for me as we have just had a significant family funeral. We have been looking through old photographs. It was a very odd feeling as photographs going back to the early part of the last century were recovered. I am sure over time we will as a family sit down and work out who they all are and no doubt scratch our heads as we work out the significance of why certain shots were taken. It struck me that the black and white photographs have lasted far better than colour from the 60's & 70's. I guess most of us of a certain age have boxes of old photographs and possibly even slides. Slide shows feature strongly in my memory as when I was growing up every friend and relative seemed to want to show us their holiday slides. What struck me is that these pictorial records of life are very much a unique part of 20th Century life, everything now is digital and dare I say it disposable. Now if we don't like them we simply delete them or manipulate them in a computer until they look the way we wanted them too.

These church festivals allow us to remember. All Saints reminds us that we are part of a worldwide church which stretches back through history and we give thanks for the ordinary Christian men and women who worshipped and prayed often in the same churches as we do today who have gone before us. There is a strong and unbreakable spiritual bond between those in heaven who have gone before us, and the those of us living in this present time.

Parish magazine article by the Ven Derek Chedzey, the Archdeacon of Hereford and Ludlow *continued/*

The Book of Common Prayer refers to those in heaven as the Church Triumphant and those of us who are here and now as the Church Militant. Strange terms in the 21st Century but it captures well the sense that the Kingdom is both here and yet to come. Those who have gone before us are the great cloud of witnesses that cheer us on that the writer to the Hebrews reminds us of, for we collectively are the Saints.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ...” Hebrews 12:1

All Souls allows us a moment of reflection as we remember with thanksgiving those who have died who we love but see no more. It offers us a powerful window in to God’s heart of compassion for those who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones and allows us as a church to accompany one another on that journey. It reminds us too that we have a Saviour who has overcome the sting of death and fulfilled for us the promise of eternal life.

It is in the festival of Christ the King that we are reminded that our faith has a Saviour who will return to wind up history and restore God’s Kingdom. Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and it is to him and him alone we owe our homage and worship. It marks the end of the Church year with a strong reminder that Jesus Our Saviour is prophet, priest and King.

Ultimately this is a period of reflection, of memories and of thanksgiving like the season of autumn it can feel full of melancholy but it is also one of joy and celebration. In our COVID dominated world it is good to be reminded that there is life beyond ourselves and that there is an unbroken chain of Christian witness going back through the centuries. Sometimes we need to stop and reflect that there is more to life than this present moment, that things will change and we will see a new creation. Until then we simply need to share with each other the joys and tears of our common humanity and remember with thankfulness those who have gone before us in faith who have ensured that we can take forward the message of hope for our world.

Derek Chedzey

November Readings

<p style="text-align: center;">01.11.20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Saints Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Green</p>	Rev.7: 9— end	A great multitude from every nation gather together with the hosts of heaven to worship God. The martyrs of Christ are present, clothed in white robes washed in the blood of the Lamb.
	1 John 4: 1–3	The believers are encouraged to test the spirits, knowing that only those who confess Jesus Christ have come from God. The spirit that cannot confess this is the antichrist, who is already at work in the world.
	Matthew 5: 1-12	Jesus goes up a mountain and begins to teach the crowd. His sermon begins by listing all those people who will be blessed. The kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit, and those who are persecuted for Jesus' sake will enjoy great rewards.
<p style="text-align: center;">08.11.20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3rd Before Advent Remembrance Sunday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Green</p>	Amos 5: 18–24	Amos gives us a vision of the day of the Lord as darkness rather than light. People should not celebrate the fearful day, but let justice and righteousness flow like water.
	1 Thess.4: 13–end	The letter offers a frightening vision of the second coming of Christ – yet one that is encouraging for those who are alive in Christ.
	Matthew 25: 1-13	The story of the ten bridesmaids, five of whom were foolish and five of whom were wise. The foolish were sleeping when the groom arrived, and did not have enough oil to replenish their lamps. Consequently they missed the wedding banquet and were not recognised.
<p style="text-align: center;">15.11.20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2nd Before Advent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">White</p>	Zeph.1: 7, 12–end	The prophet warns of the Lord's imminent and cataclysmic day of judgement on a people who have broken faith with him. Those who have presumed upon God's indifference will find their material securities powerless to save them.
	1 Thess.5: 1–11	Paul reminds the Thessalonians that, since no one knows the exact time and date of the Lord's return, they are to encourage one another in consistent Christian living as children of the light, always prepared for God's coming.
	Matthew 25: 14–30	Jesus compares his ultimate return to an absent master coming back to settle accounts with the servants to whom he has entrusted his wealth. Those who have used their Lord's resources fruitfully are rewarded; the one who has done nothing is cast out.

November Readings *continued*

22.11.20 Next Before Advent White	Ezek. 34: 11-16, 20-24	God never gives up on his people, but promises to bring them into his kingdom of justice and peace.
	Eph. 1: 15 – end	The risen Christ rules in heaven, and we have an inheritance in his kingdom with all the saints.
	Matthew 25: 31-end	We will, in the end, all be judged by our attitude towards people in need of our help.
29.11.20 1st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64: 1 –9	The prophet pleads for God to reveal himself to his people in acts of power. He acknowledges that the Lord's apparent absence is a consequence of their sins, but beseeches their Father and Creator to have mercy on his people's helplessness
	1 Cor. 1: 3 –9	Paul greets the Corinthian Christians, thankful that they have responded to the Gospel and received God's grace and gifts. Through these they are equipped to live for Christ as they anticipate his return.
Red or White	Matthew 13: 24 –end	Jesus tells of his return in glory at the end of this age. He recounts signs that will point to the imminence of his coming, but warns that the exact time is known only to his Father. He urges his disciples to remain vigilant and ready for whenever he returns.

Editor : Ann Cordle , Upper Newton Cottage, Kinnersley,
Herefordshire. HR3 6QB.

e-mail address : linkeditor@outlook.com Telephone : 01544 327664.

The closing date for Link material is the : ****15th of the month**** Please label your e mail the village to which it refers or 'community' if you want it to go in the back. It is much easier for me if everything comes from your local correspondent.



Blakemere News

I begin with apologies for failing to congratulate John and Carol Smith on their 50th wedding anniversary in August, and Elwyn and Sheila Meredith on their 60th last month. Congratulations to them all, and commiserations that the present restrictions have rather limited the parties appropriate to such great events.

Blakemere hosted the Trio Service on 4th October, and we had a very good (distanced) turnout for our first Service in the Church since the start of the pandemic. We marked the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, particularly appropriate for Moccas, and Luci preached on the theme of "Angels", assisted by a spectacular pair of feathery wings. Lyndon Eatough-Smith and I took up the angel theme with Stanford's *The Angels' Song*, Handel's *Angels, ever bright and fair* from *Theodora*, and some edgy variations on *Darwall's 148th (Ye Holy Angels Bright)* to finish. At Luci's request we played as music for reflection *The Angel Gabriel*.

I have no more to report, so I will follow the advice given by a 19th century Speaker of the House of Commons to an MP about to make his maiden speech: 1. Stand up. 2. Speak up. 3. Shut up.

Robert Lisvane



Bredwardine & Brobury

www.bredwardine-brobury.org.uk

The autumn is most definitely with us as I write, there is a nip in the air when the sun is not shining, and the nights have been distinctly cold at times. But the cider apples and potatoes are being harvested and the leaves are changing their colours, and when the sun does shine the days are glorious.

Gwynneth Mackenzie's departure from Pool Cottage was one of the main events of last month, after what must be one of the longest and most fraught of all moves, yet to be completed. We will all miss her and wish her well in her new life, hoping that she will be able to settle down again soon. Pin, her lovely black and white cat has had the opposite experience and is already happily settled in with us at Springfield!

Gwynneth was not the only village resident we said goodbye to last month, as Neil Robinson and Xania, Illizane and Talia have moved out of Bredwardine Lodge. It will be strange not to have them as our near neighbours and we wish them all well in their new lives. Although they have kept a low profile in the village they will long be remembered by many for their expertise in Tai Chi, exotic dance and circus skills, and we will miss them.

Do go and visit the Art Group's exhibition in Peterchurch, which should (fingers crossed) be Covid-19 proof. Otherwise the virus continues to disrupt most planned attempts at normal village life, and there is no end in sight before, or even after Christmas. We are lucky to be in an area with very low level of infection and to live in a supportive community, and we must continue to count our blessings!

Take care everyone.

Jen Maddison

A message from Gwynneth Mackenzie

The long goodbye came to an end on September 22nd. My sale went through fine, but my purchase has stalled for boring legal reasons. Fortunately I've been able to leave my furniture and car at my 'home to be' in Liverpool until my sale can complete, though when that will be is anyone's guess currently. I am now staying at my son's very good B&B, called Tanglewood, in Ullapool which is in North West Scotland.

A message from Gwynneth Mackenzie

I would like to thank everyone for their support and good wishes over the past few months and to say it's not goodbye but au revoir.

Gwynneth

CHURCH NEWS**Greetings from St. Andrew's**

21 Sunday after Trinity, 10 November 1878,

Heavy rain in the night, thaw on the hills, snow melting and river rising fast. People busy all day saving cattle and sheep in the low river meadows. Torrents of rain this morning. Church almost empty. When I came home from Brobury at 7.30 the flood had risen much and was nearly over the road by the Bridge gate. Mrs Jenkins was wading in the water saving her fowls from being drowned and Alice lacing up her boots again preparatory to a flight from the house. Mr Stoke's people were going about with a lantern in his orchard saving and fencing round some heaps of cider apples.

From the Reverend Francis Kilvert's Diary

Services at St. Andrew's in November 2020

Sunday 8th November, 10:45 am. St. Andrew's Churchyard, Remembrance Sunday

Cathy

And more -

Do make time for an autumnal stroll down to the church, which is now open every day. We now have a lovely selection of crafts and gifts for sale, including Christmas presents and stocking fillers, all locally made. There is also a huge selection of books to buy, plus local apples and pears, village tea towels, cards and prints of the church. All proceeds go to St. Andrew's Church. In the absence of our Christmas Fair this year, this is the place to come to stock up on all those little things which make you feel good! Come and see for yourself.....

Charlotte

Friends of St. Andrew's 100 Club

The October Draw Night was back inside the Red Lion. Not such a big gathering as we are used to but safe, and it was good to be back. Live streaming is suspended for the time being, and sadly numbers have to be much reduced because of the regulations Mike and the team have to contend with. I am very grateful to them all, especially Mike and Gordon for keeping the show on the road.

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

As there was no double draw in June, October was the double draw with two lots of prizes and two In It To Win Its! Brenda Taylor drew the first and the results were: 1st Prize (£50) - No. 96 Alan and Jen Maddison; 2nd Prize (£25) - No. 13 Andrew and Ildiko Head; 3rd Prize (£15) - No. 22 Charlotte Sellar. The first In It To Win It Prize (£10) was won by Pat Blandford.

Charlotte Sellar drew the balls for the second draw and this time the results were 1st Prize (£50) - Mark Blandford; 2nd Prize (£25) - No. 94 Phil Minton; 3rd Prize (£15) - No. 87 Heloise Kirby. The second In It To Win It Prize was won by Dave Blandford.

Hopefully the **November draw** will take place on **Thursday 5th November**, in the Red Lion at 8pm as usual! Tickets for the 2021 100 Club season are now available - still just £20 for the whole year, cash or cheque only. Please remember that I must have your money before the January 2021 draw night - and I am happy to take it any time from now on!

Jen

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

from Sarah, Chair of the Village Hall Committee

New windows and insulation for the VH

The Committee have decided to spend our COVID grant on double glazed windows for the hall. We will replace all fourteen large windows and both small loo windows with Cottage-style, white PVC windows, opening from the top with Georgian Bar insets. They are A energy rated and will look very similar to our existing windows but will be maintenance-free. We considered custom-built hardwood windows but the cost to built would have consumed our total grant of £10,000.

We also plan to insulate the roof and the walls. Currently, there isn't any insulation in either. For the walls, we hope to use Rockwool Batts to fill the gap between the corrugated metal exterior and the tongue and groove walls inside. For the roof, we hope to remove the corrugated metal roof and insert a layer of rigid insulation. The look of the village hall will not change, inside nor out. That is our goal.

The steps leading outside from the kitchen are very slippery and narrow. Although this door is not a fire exit, in an event of an emergency, it may be necessary for people in the kitchen to leave the building using these steps. We are currently discussing the best design and materials to build a safe exit.

All of these improvements will make the hall a warmer, safer venue for the community.

We only have 14 years remaining on our lease with the Red Lion so we need to spend accordingly.

More exciting news! Lesley Hickins, who lives at the Weston Barns, has agreed to join our VHC. She has also agreed to join me as Booking Secretary. **Bookings in the VH:** Covid-19 guidelines are in place and working well. The focus remains to provide a safe, clean meeting environment while not interfering with the enjoyment of the classes.

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

Jacqueline's Quilting Sessions will take place on Mondays and Tuesdays, morning classes from 10am until 1pm and workshops from 10am until 4pm. The newly-formed Craft Group, now called the **Sew 'n Sews**, meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month.

Tai Chi meet Wednesday evenings from 7pm

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

Hay Writer's will meet on the Tuesday, 20th October, at 1.30pm.

The **Village Hall Committee** will meet on Tuesday, 3rd November, 6pm.

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

If you would like to book the village hall for any occasion, please call Sarah on 07880 521 551. Rental costs are low due to the fact that when people book the hall they clean and tidy up afterwards. 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 October 2020. Total Electricity Generated to Date: 37,558 kWh; CO2 Saved: 16,084 kg.

Opportunity: Hereford Times Correspondent. We are still in search of someone who could regularly send our village news to the Hereford Times for publication in the County News section. Please contact me on 07880 521 551, if you could be persuaded to help out.

ART GROUP

The main excitement for us this month is our **Annual Exhibition at The Hub, Peterchurch 2nd -20th November 2020** (during Hub opening hours Tues-Thurs). This year's exhibition features members' work around the themes we've worked on this year, both during 'lockdown', when we met virtually, and since August when some of us have been able to meet again in the village hall.

Art Group *continued*/

The virtual meetings and Facebook group were a real lifeline for many members, especially those shielding, some of whom are still staying safe at home. We are keeping in touch through the Facebook group and all members can exhibit in The Hub.

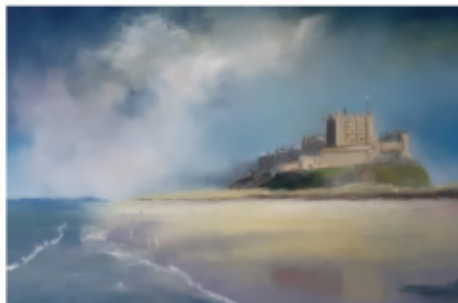
We've had a real mix of themes and it was exciting to have a clear focus to keep us involved in our art! Some were based on art topics such as an abstract, a still life, a monochrome image, nudes/semi-clothed figures & life drawing, self-portraits (for our eyes only!), collage and versions of Old/Modern Masters; other themes drew on the Covid-19 experience e.g. isolation, goats (inspired by the goats of Llandudno!), view from a window and 'something we miss in lockdown'; still others were broader themes such as Spring, 'all things bright and beautiful', and animals, or simply ideas we liked such as dragons, jacarandas or 'something with feathers'. The exhibition will include pieces of work from each contributing artist across any of these themes – we work in all media from watercolour to oils, inks and acrylics, pencils, pastel, charcoal and more. We hope some of you will take the time to come and have a look!

We continue to meet – those who can – on Fridays 1-4pm at the village hall: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th November. Our recent group work has focused on interpreting members' photographs of jacarandas and of Bamburgh Castle. Some of these are shown here. If you are interested in the art group, contact Brenda Taylor on 07855 143048. Or find us on Facebook @Bredwardine Art Group.
(More pictures next page)



WYESIDE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday, 7th October can be found on the village website.



WHITEHOUSE WEATHER REPORT, BREDWARDINE

Monthly Values, September 2020

Avg Temp	Average Daily Temperature		Total Wind Run miles	Max Wind Speed mph	Rain Total mm/ inches	Days with Rain
	Max	Min				
13.8 C 56.8 F	18.9 C 66.1 F	9.6 C 49.2 F	1884	35	37.6 mm 1.48 "	8

Daily Extremes of Temperature, September 2020

Coldest night	Coldest day	Warmest night	Warmest day
28 September 2.8 C 37.0 F	26 September 12.9 C 55.2 F	8 September 16.0 C 60.8 F	14 September 26.6 C 79.8 F

Other Daily Extremes, September 2020

Windiest day	Calmmest day	Wettest day	Highest UV Index
25 September 220 miles run	1 September 15 miles run	24 September 11.2 mm 0.44 "	9 September 3.9

WHITEHOUSE WEATHER REPORT, BREDWARDINE

September 2020 was a changeable month but thankfully much drier than August which had broken local and UK high rainfall records. Whitehouse recorded only 1.48" for September (average since 2004 of 2.28", driest 0.88" in 2009), Brobury Farms had 1.61" (average since 1986 of 2.31", driest 0.33" in 2003) and Springfield 1.24" (average since 2005 of 2.49" and driest 1.02" in 2009).

During the month, temperatures fluctuated from 2.8 C to 26.6 C at Whitehouse, but these extremes were not quite records for September where 0.5 C was recorded in 2018 and 26.8 C in 2004. Overall in the region average temperatures were about 1 C higher than those from 1961-1990. Fittingly, sunshine was up and rainfall down!



Clifford News

For more news, events & information
www.cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk

Due to the on-going pandemic with rules and regulations changing rapidly sadly there is little to report in the way of events taking place in Clifford and it looks rather as if it is going to stay this way for quite a while to come.

Many people in Clifford will have fond memories of Frances Copping and her family but perhaps few were aware of some of the antics she and her siblings got up to during their stay at Clifford Place during the war. Very sadly Frances died earlier this year and due to the situation we find ourselves in the family were unable to hold a funeral for all her many friends and acquaintances.

Frances had many attributes but writing was her great love and the following short story written by her gives an insight of Clifford village life during World War II

WHEN I WAS SEVEN

When war broke out in 1939, we were taken to the safety of the country. Living as we did, near Aston Manor Chemical works in Birmingham, where my father worked, it was thought that the factory would be one of the first places that Hitler would bomb and if the bomb missed, it would certainly hit 39, Livingstone Road.

When I was 7 *continued*/

So my sister Gill, brother Michael and I arrived with my mother on 3rd September to the safety of Clifford Place, near Hay. A reluctant uncle, knowing that this little war with Hitler would be over by Christmas, agreed to take us in and thus make us his contribution to the war effort.

Clifford Place was a place of freedom for us, with no limits as to where we could go. But the countryside, wonderful and exciting as it was, also held dangers, real danger, especially to town children who had not been brought up aware of its natural hazards.

Birmingham had dangers of course. Cars that ran you over, men in dirty raincoats offering sweets and bears, who would grab you if you stepped on a line in the pavement. But now the men had gone to war And, there were no pavements in Clifford (although there'd once been a dancing bear in Hay) and the Wye below the house was safe, unless the river was in flood. And, although I knew Hitler was a bad man and my father had gone away to fight him, I felt Hitler must have been a little bit good to cause us to be plucked out of Birmingham and land us in this unending place of freedom and paradise.

One day, when I was seven, on a spring morning, Gill and I set off up the hill from Clifford Place, with a large basket and a shopping list for Mrs Lloyd, the grocer in Clifford village. Rabbits crossed the lane, birds carried worms to hidden nests in the high hedges and a skein of geese flew below us as they followed the line of the river. At the top of the hill in a big meadow on our right, sheep and lambs snuggled together and some Hereford cattle, one known a different life, I never took these wonders for granted and I never will – because when you are seven, the world is new and exciting, and everything is to be remembered and savoured. Even seventy years on, I still have wonderfully sharp memories of my life as it was then. It took us some half hour to reach the village and we collected the newspaper and the letters and the groceries and then we set off back up to the Ton Pitch and branched off to the track which led to Clifford Place. At a point where the lane narrowed, we heard the sound of an approaching horse. Round the corner came a pony and trap. Mr Lloyd of Lower Court was standing in the cart – he hadn't been called up to war on account of his feet – and his brother Danny, who smiled a lot and my uncle said was one cake short of a picnic, was sitting in the cart behind him. Gill and I stepped back as far as we could, pressing into the hedge, to allow the cart to pass. It was a huge surprise to see, first the new born calf at Mr Lloyd's feet and then, as it passed, the mother cow butting the back of the cart.

When I was 7 *continued*

The cow came within a few feet of Gill and I and when it saw us, it turned on me, thrusting me into the bottom of the hedge, while I crawled frantically through the roots, the head of the cow hard against my leg and its hot breath blasting my body. I can smell it still. I desperately pulled myself through the hedge, tearing skin off my legs and arms, with dirt thrusting into my mouth and nose. One horn pinned my leg. But as it positioned itself for a further attack, I pulled my legs under me and squirmed myself further through the hedge.

With a final bellow, the cow turned to follow its calf and I became aware of blood seeping into my sandal and my torn, filthy dress. And then it was gone. And Mr Lloyd and the cow, and Danny still smiling, carried on down the track.

It took me some time to wriggle back out of the hedge. I never felt the cuts on my legs or the bruises, but I remember Gill crawling out of the grass picking up the groceries and shaking and trembling. We'd both learned a bitter lesson. Life in the country wasn't always perfect, there are many hidden dangers and I learnt that day to have a good respect for the country and its ways. Even today, when walking on the Begwyns across the fields, I always look for cows. When I see them, even far away, I still smell the breath of that enraged mother cow, as it pinned me in that hedge on the lane to Clifford Place over seventy years ago.

Clifford have put together a draft Neighbourhood Development Plan. You can read it on page 35



Cusop News

www.cusop.net

During the last month, there have been times of happiness and sadness; with the return of redwings in my garden, a wonderful wedding at Cusop, a fabulous God's Acre Taskforce Day and a fascinating Fungi Session in our beautiful churchyard we have been filled with hope and optimism but great sadness arrived with the news that Eileen Underhill and George Gilbert had both died. These were two very special people in our community who also had close links with Cusop Church. We are so grateful for all they contributed to the life of the church and for their generosity and loyalty over the years.

Cusop

Church Services

In a recent interview, Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, said, "Worship in church is fuel for what we do in other places" and those attending our services at Cusop have found this to be true. We greatly miss those who are shielding and unable to join us but we always remember them in our prayers. Service times are advertised in "The Link", on the church noticeboards, and on the Cusop website under the "Cusop Church" tab. Everyone is very welcome at our services. All safety measures are in place with hand sanitiser, seating 2m apart, and the compulsory wearing of face masks. We may not be allowed to sing but music plays a central role in our services and the congregation have found this truly uplifting!

Wedding!

Congratulations to Jessica East and Stuart Sneddon who were married at Cusop Church on Saturday 19th September. Due to ever-changing regulations, Jessica and Stuart constantly had to rethink their wedding plans but they never gave up and were always positive – such was their determination to get married. Their perseverance justly paid off as they were rewarded with a fabulous wedding! It was a glorious late summer's day and all the guests were comfortably seated in the churchyard. The marriage service took place outdoors with the happy couple stepping inside the church to make their vows surrounded by their close family, whilst the congregation (and residents of Cusop) heard the vows over the loudspeakers! It was a truly memorable and unique wedding service. We wish Jessica and Stuart many years of joy and happiness in their married life.

Ninety Years Old!

Congratulations to Mrs Margaret Watkins, Lower Mead, who has just celebrated her ninetieth birthday with her family. Our thanks to Margaret who so thoughtfully and generously donated some of her beautiful birthday flowers to Cusop Church where they were much appreciated by the congregation and visitors. Thank you, Margaret, and we wish you many more happy and healthy years to come.

Welcome to Cusop!

A belated but, nevertheless, very warm welcome to our new residents at Thirty Acres - Alison and Mike, and Frances and Martin now living next door. We also welcome Jo and Patrick who have moved into "Westbury". It must have been so difficult for them to meet people in our community when there's not much happening!

Cusop

However, one day, when we all meet again at the Village Hall (possibly a summer barbecue in 2021?) they will have that opportunity. Meanwhile, we hope that they have comfortably settled into their new homes and that they will all be very happy living in Cusop.

A Special Thank You to our Cleaners and Flower Arrangers

Since March and during the whole of the pandemic, our loyal cleaners have left our church spotless and flowers have been arranged beautifully. This has been hugely appreciated especially by those attending weddings and funerals as well as our regular congregation. It has made all the difference when welcoming people to our church so a very big thank you to you all.

Condolences

Eileen Underhill

Eileen died peacefully at the County Hospital, Hereford on 19th September aged 90 years. Her funeral took place at Hereford Crematorium on Friday 2nd October and her ashes will be buried in Cusop Churchyard. Eileen will be greatly missed by so many. She was a very special member of our congregation having attended Cusop Church all her life. Eileen was a member of the PCC for many years and a dedicated fund-raiser renowned for her mouth-watering Welsh Cakes. She will be remembered for her generosity, her quiet commitment, and for her warmth and kindness. We pray for Peter, Jane and Ann, and all her family and friends at this very sad time.

George Gilbert

We were so sorry to hear that George died peacefully on 6th October aged 96 years, less than a year after his dear wife, Hilda, passed away. We remember and pray for Phil, Dave, Nick and Tim, and all George's family and friends at this difficult time. There will be a Tribute to George in next month's Link.

Eileen Gladys Underhill (1930-2020)

Eileen was one of three children, born at Church Farm, Cusop, to parents, Arthur and Gladys Jones. St Mary's, Cusop was an important part of Eileen's life from an early age and her father served as Churchwarden. Eileen would later serve the church herself by being a member of the PCC, helping with fund-raising and being a leading light in the flower and cleaning team for many years. Until very recently, Eileen and Peter had continued to place beautiful arrangements in the south window at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Eileen Underhill met Peter when he came to work as gardener at “Woodlands” in Cusop Dingle and whilst Eileen was working in the Council Offices in Hay. They were married in 1957 at St Mary’s in Cusop – the start of a strong partnership; married for 63 years, living and working together. They built their home, “Sunnyglen” on what had been part of the garden of “Woodlands”.

Later, Peter and Eileen bought the garage and petrol station in Hay when there was just one petrol pump on the pavement and another by the showroom. Together, they built a successful business selling in turn Morris, Wolsey, Ford and Vauxhalls - scooping a national award for the highest sales of Morris cars at one point. More than a business, they saw it as a service to their local community too especially during the fuel shortages in the 1970’s when they held back reserves of fuel for the emergency services.

Daughters, Jane and Ann, were born and Eileen balanced being a mum with continuing to work at the garage, supported by Peter’s sister, Phyllis. There were times when Peter couldn’t leave the garage, so he would take Eileen, Phyllis and the girls down to Borth to stay in a caravan and these were very happy memories. The family shared their lives with a variety of dogs including Labradors and Collies. Jane and Ann learnt to ride so weekends were often spent at local horse shows.

In later years, Eileen and Peter loved to travel and enjoyed cruises – with a trip to the Bahamas after their retirement being a very special memory. They treasured their garden and Eileen especially loved her roses and rhododendrons.

Eileen was summed up by her family as “generous and caring. She loved her home and family and was a devoted grandma to her grandsons, Oliver and Tom.

Eileen was a woman of faith, and it was a sadness to her that she wasn’t well enough to attend church regularly in the last few years of her life. Reading the Bible was an important part of her daily routine and she used to sing hymns as she went about her house chores, including ‘There is a Redeemer’ which was played at her funeral service.

These words written by grandsons, Oliver and Tom, and read at the service, “Eileen was a loving grandmother to Oliver and Thomas. They enjoyed her company, both at home and at the garage that she and Peter owned. Their fondest memories are of family barbecues in the garden and going up to Rhosgoch Golf Club on Sundays for her favourite roast dinner.

Eileen Underhill

She made the best toffee ever, and a very good pancake! They will miss the wonderful stories she used to tell them about all the dogs they'd had, her childhood growing up in Cusop, and when Eileen and Peter met. She was a very loving, hard- working and caring grandmother and always put her family and others first."

Our sincere thanks to Peter and all the family for sharing these very special memories of Eileen.

Caring for God's Acre

We finally started planting yellow rattle seed in our meadow at our last Taskforce Day on 25th September. It was fabulous weather and a joy to see everyone cutting the grass with scythes (see under Church News & Events on the Cusop Website for a photograph of some of our volunteers.) We had to carefully prepare the ground until there was bare soil, scatter the yellow rattle seed and stamp on it (apparently cattle used to naturally do this.) We now hope that next year we will see yellow rattle flowers! **A very big thank you to our energetic volunteers – it was a fantastic day's work.**

On 7th October, we had a wonderful Fungi Session with George and Rob from Caring for God's Acre. Nick Blayney, who was part of our group, was so inspired that he's written all about it! Thank you, Nick, for such an interesting article.

Celia Cundale

Fungi hunting in God's Acre

Colossians 1:16 says, 'by him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible'. Churches can be one of the best places we have left to study

not just the visible natural world – but also the invisible. The land outside our buildings is often teeming with life.

The area of one acre around a church for burial was laid down in 943 by the Welsh king Hywel Dda. By the 10th century the area of 'God's Acre' was being marked by wooden crosses in churchyard corners.

When we look at a burial site today what comes to mind? If we see only a group of tombstones, then we are missing much that these special places can tell us. Now relatively undisturbed and peaceful, they were once places for community activity; where the sacred and the secular met. The erection of tombstones was largely an eighteenth century fashion, with obvious exceptions for the great and the good.: in earlier times the land was simply marked by prayer crosses but used for public gatherings of all types.

Fungi Hunting

There are records of Saxon Moots, parliaments, markets, meetings and outdoor religious gatherings, Miracle plays and sacred dramas in which clergy took part; Morris dancers took part in ritual dancing relating to pagan fertility cults, games such as quoits, ninepins, and wrestling took place in churchyards, and church or chapel walls were used to play fives. Even cockfighting occurred in the shadow of the church or chapel. King James the First had decreed in 1619 that 'traditional churchyard games' were to be encouraged, providing they were held 'in due and convenient time, and without implement or let of Divine Service'.

Burial grounds were amongst the first pieces of land to be enclosed, long before the development of the field system. The old ones predate the working of the land and were kept under control by grazing. The hay collected was the property of the vicar and part of his tithe.

Having remained undisturbed for centuries, many churchyards are rich in biodiversity as such offer much needed refuge for our native wildlife of all varieties – plants, mammals, invertebrates, reptiles.

Which brings me to the fungi hunt: a small group of resolute fungi hunters descended on St Mary's Cusop on 7th October, led by Georgina and Rob, project leaders with Caring for God's Acre. The purpose was not just idle curiosity, though there's nothing wrong with that; it was also in order to carry out a survey of the fungi present.

Caring for God's Acre works nationally to support groups and individuals to investigate, care for and enjoy burial grounds and graveyards. They also contribute to the work of the National Biodiversity Network in recording the biodiversity across the Land.

At this time of year, and after several days of rain, conditions were perfect for this kingdom of organisms to strut their stuff and the group unearthed a plethora of fungi which were then discussed and identified with the help of the project leaders. Our eyes were opened to this oft neglected class of organism which occupy a particular place in the biosphere was that the default position. An understanding of the vital importance of various fungi and their symbiotic relationship with the plant kingdom is only now emerging. The 'no'dig' approach to gardening (which certainly gets my vote!) argues that tilling the land damages the fragile network of hyphae which exist within the upper layers of the soil and help to nourish plants and trees. Every now and again these hyphae stick their heads up and produce fruiting bodies, the various fragile fungi which we see and which only survive long enough to shed their spores.

Foraging for edible fungi is quite the fashion these days but the advice received was not to consume unless you are sure of the species: and, further, that the tolerance can vary greatly between individuals. We were warned of this, though also encouraged to use our sense of smell and maybe even taste and spitting out, though I did not see anybody following that particular approach.

It was fascinating to develop some understanding of the conditions and relationships with trees and plants that determine where fungi reveal themselves.

Fungi Hunting

Their anatomy is wonderful and beautiful to behold with the aid of a magnifying glass.

Cusop churchyard is tended by a group of hardy volunteers who meet regularly throughout the year. It is tended according to the Eco Church principles of church land management; the vision of which is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully and to work together to make church green spaces beneficial for all of God's creatures, whilst also acknowledging the need to keep things carefully managed in some of the more formal area.

When out walking in God's creation I for one will be looking more carefully at what fungi may be underfoot, hopefully before I have landed on them.

Nick Blayney

If you find this sort of thing interesting you may wish to browse '[caringforgodsacre](#)', '[nationalbiodiversitynetwork](#)', or '[ecochurch](#)', where you will find a fount of information on the projects.

CUSOP HISTORY GROUP

This month in Cusop History from [the Cusop Parish Magazine](#) 1931:

"A meeting of the Church Council was held at the Church Room on Tuesday 25th November. The Rector took the chair. The financial statement, presented by Mr Eckley, Churchwarden, showed a credit balance of £34. The Report of the Standing Committee was adopted recommending the payment of the following subscriptions:- Hereford Hospital, £5 5s.; Hereford Eye and Ear Hospital, £2 2s; Hay and Cusop Nursing Association, £1 1s. A report from the Archdeacon (Bishop Iliff) on his visit on 6th November, made suggestions for improving the state of the Churchyard. As a result, the Council decided to form a "God's Acre Guild" to be responsible for keeping in order and beautifying the Churchyard. It is hoped that all parishioners will join this Guild and help the work either by subscriptions or personal service. Mrs Lilwall and Mr Southwark kindly undertook the preliminary organisation.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mrs Parker and to her helpers at the recent Sale of Work, which realised over £12. This sum is to be used for the repair of the roof of the Church Room."

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 or call Sue on 01497 822523.

Cusop, Ty Glyn, rainfall gauge



Much drier than August; just 38.9 mm (1.53") total rainfall for September during which there were just ten wet days. The 22nd was the wettest with 10.0 mm (0.39").

Ainsleigh 01497-820332

Borderlink Benefice			
<i>All services will take place in church unless otherwise stated. P services held inside</i>			
	1st November All Saints Day	8th November Remembrance Sunday	
BLAKEMERE	<i>Join Trio at Moccas</i>	<i>Join Bredwardine</i>	9.30
BREDWARDINE WITH BROBURY		10.45am Remembrance Service - outside	
CLIFFORD		<i>Join Dorstone</i>	11am
CUSOP	11am Holy Communion**	<i>Join Dorstone</i>	11am
DORSTONE		10.45am Remembrance Service*	
HARDWICKE		<i>Join Dorstone</i>	
MOCCAS	11am Trio service	<i>Join Bredwardine</i>	
PRESTON ON WYE	<i>Join Trio at Moccas</i>	<i>Join Bredwardine</i>	
Midweek	Every Thursday, Dorstone, Evening Prayer at 4.30pm		
Notes	* Please see separate notice about arrangements for this Remembrance Service ** Please bring your own piece of bread to be blessed within the service		

November 2020

Please note that wearing of face coverings is now mandatory for church buildings.

15th November 2 nd before Advent	22nd November Christ the King	29th November Advent Sunday
30am Holy Communion**		
am Holy Communion**		
am Morning Worship	11am Morning Worship	
11.30am on Sat 14th November Morning Worship with Baptism		
		9.30am Holy Communion **
	11am Holy Communion**	

brance service
service

Dorstone News

www.dorstone.org.uk



News from St. Faith's

Annual Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting

This meeting was due to have been held in April, and finally happened via Zoom on October 12th.

Churchwardens for 2020/ 21 - Sylvia Corrick & Penny Platts were elected.

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts, and said that St Faith's had just broken even, thanks to the generosity of people who donate regularly via the **Parish Giving Scheme** and other donations, but there are no reserves to cover an emergency. Many churches are in the enviable position of having funds in hand from previous bequests. Our **Parish Offer** for clergy and Diocesan costs is over £8000 per annum, which is a large amount to find each year.

PCC Members for 2020/21

Rita Teather – Vice Chairman

John Platts – Treasurer

Toni Birchenough, Karen Dowell, Margaret Thomas - with Cathy Gethin (co-opted member to report on FoSF and Bell Tower.)

Evening Prayer continues on Thursdays 4.30p.m. – Everyone most welcome to share his short time of prayer. Masks and distancing observed.

Remembrance Sunday – November 8th – 10.45a.m.

St. Faith's will host this service to include Clifford, Cusop and Hardwicke. Seating will be limited inside St Faith's, so there may have to be a booking system. At the time of sending this information to the Link, there is no indication what the Covid restrictions might be by then, so **please watch out for full details** which will appear on social media, posters, DFR email and the church website www.dorstonechurch.org

St Andrew's, Bredwardine hope to have an Open Air service, and there will also be one on-line. Do check in the Link.

Date for the Diary

Dorstone's 'Angel Night' – Monday 21st December – 6p.m. in the new churchyard.

This will replace our indoor Christingle – so watch out for full details nearer the time.

Dorstone History Society

In light of the 'rule of 6' and the current resurgence of Covid cases, the remainder of this year's programme has now been cancelled.

The programme for the first half of 2021 has been arranged, and meetings will resume as and when the regulations allow.

In the meantime, carry on investigating the history of your house for the Dorstone Dwellings Project!

DORSTONE BOWLS CLUB

Last month we talked about repairs to the ditches which surround the green. Those repairs have been made good and I am advised that they have been done very well. I am looking forward to seeing the repair job when next I visit Dorstone.

"Bowls is for old people"

"I wouldn't be seen dead playing bowls"

All our members have met with repulses like these when trying to attract new players. It has to be understood that you cannot confuse one game called bowls with another.

Lawn green is structured and formal whilst Crown green is uninhibited and less controlled. In my experience lawn green is competitive, a fast game, mentally stimulating and very good exercise.

Crown green has no dress code or uniform and being young and fit is a requirement if you want to enter competitions.

We provide all the equipment needed to play, all you have to provide is a pair of trainers or soft heeled shoes and an hour or two of your time will be lost without you realising the time has gone.

I remember a Scottish comedian called Chic Murray and one of his "throw-away" jokes went something like this.....I rang my local bowls club and asked "Is this the local bowls club?" and the reply was "It depends where you're calling from".

Call Barry Megson for information about Dorstone Bowls Club. Call 01981 590691



Hardwicke News

www.hardwickechurch.co.uk

A service will be held at Hardwicke on Advent Sunday November 29th at 9:30am. More information will in the service schedule in the centre pages of the Link.

As I walked through the church field a couple of weeks ago I saw that a small pile of branches had been put on the site of our Hardwicke Bonfire and became excited at the thought that Guy Fawkes night was fast approaching. However, with the strict Covid restrictions in situ we will have to wait until the pandemic is over before we are able to enjoy those special hot dogs, hamburgers and mulled wine for which Hardwicke is so famous.

Hardwicke

Autumn is fast approaching bringing with it a lot of rain. The hot weather in the summer followed by periods of rain bode well for autumn tints this year according to the weather man on Country File but only time will tell if his prediction is correct. The grass in the garden is so green for the time of year and is covered in various fungi but sadly not the edible variety. The fields on the other hand have provided us with horse mushrooms, parasols and the occasional giant puff ball together with damsons and blackberries. However, we have been less lucky with hazel nuts because the squirrels have got to them first.

It has been good to hear the bells which David has been ringing every Thursday evening after 5pm and to be reminded that we are still part of the community. Dear Joe Price used to say that he rang the bells for 30 minutes so that those living on the outskirts of the parish would be able to make church on time.

Apologies for getting ahead of myself last month. I was unaware that the 6 person rule did not apply to religious gatherings so presumed that the Hardwicke and Dorstone Harvest picnic would be cancelled. How wrong I was. The Harvest Celebration in the churchyard took place on a wonderfully sunny afternoon and attracted over 50 people including children. The service was conducted by Luci who soon got us all up on our feet to find seeds from the churchyard which we held as she introduced the theme of Harvest. She also spoke about the difficulties farmers have experienced during the last year with the changeable weather conditions. Richard Jones from Dorstone told a story about St. Cadoc, a Welsh abbot who supposedly performed miracles to do with food and Richard was assisted by 'actors' from the congregation. After the service we enjoyed our picnics and it was lovely to catch up with people we hadn't seen for months. David Morgan's tractor and trailer was in the churchyard laden with food for the Hereford Food Bank which had been collected from around the Benefice and was added to by people attending the service.

Many thanks to Christine Bates and Penny Platts who organised the event together with their helpers. Also thanks to Martin Leighton for mowing the churchyard so beautifully and to David for cutting the churchyard extension.

It looks as though soaring Covid patient numbers will sadly mean more restrictions in the very near future. Take care everyone and stay safe.

Clifford Neighbourhood Plan is on Page 35

Please don't forget that The Link's new e mail address is

linkeditor@outlook.com

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



MoccasNews

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

Very little to report this month. Our Harvest celebration in the churchyard back in September was an unexpected success and was blessed with a beautiful, sunny, calm afternoon. Plenty of support from around the Benefice which was very welcome. Amazing contributions to the Hereford Food Bank were safely gathered in - a big thank you for all the donations.

It has been a lovely day as I write and there have been some memorable sunsets recently. The leaves are very colourful too - the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness especially in the orchards this year.

There are plenty of events being organised to celebrate the organ and screen renovations. Please look out for adverts and support the fundraising initiatives which will take place when Covid allows.

Moccas Organ Restoration Project

Sadly the culture-cancelling effects of Covid-19 continue, and the community elements of our project remain on hold. However, there was mention in last month's piece about lectures, and we're pleased to report that we have been able to make a *small start* on our activity plans!

Our intention was to launch our activity programme with a series of history lectures at the church. It's obviously not sensible to proceed with this right now, but we're loathed to lose momentum by doing nothing! We therefore thought we'd try and do the lectures differently, so that people can enjoy them from the comfort and safety of their own homes. As of early October, we've recorded two lectures by well-known local historians, and the first part of an introductory guide to our wonderful organ by someone who has really got to the know organ well over the past few months – Lyndon Eatough-Smith. This fascinating footage will become three separate films after some editing and polishing by Hereford filmmaker Jason Hodges, who has produced several films for the Mortimer History Society. Our plan is to 'release' these films over the next few months, so please...watch this space!



Preston-on-Wye News

Preston Church has had four services since Lockdown, one in the Churchyard (east side), one in the Porch and two inside. We were pleased to see folk from Dorstone and Cusop for the Porch service(quite a trip).

The Church remains closed for the time being except for services.

We have been sorting the Churchyard. As the Harris family had been arranging a headstone for Brian, they kindly agreed to have the headstone of Brians parents repaired which had cracked and fallen. Also a cross on the memorial to Jonathan Williams shown by the Architect to be very unstable has been restored. In spite of asking in the Pump, Jonathan(died 1932 and of Lulham Cottage/New House) has no living relations. In this case the Church is bearing the cost of the repair. We are also considering repairing the listed building we have in the Churchyard which is the Preaching Cross. At some point, it lost its top and needs restoring to its former glory whatever it was. The listed building people are being approached about the listing.

To keep the spirit of the Bike Ride going, Judith and I did a run on our collapsible tandem to Bredwardine. We are looking for any sponsorship for that to go to Preston Church. We will add 10% to anything you give(up to a limit). This will help with the hole in our Finances caused by Covid-19. I fail to understand why this outdoor event was cancelled. Such a good event for the young at heart to get out on our so safe and well maintained roads.

The APPM was held on 28th September. We were in the grounds of the Village Hall at commencement but due to soft refreshing rain, we retreated into the Village Hall. I learnt the hard way that if you need reading glasses a vizor rather than a mask is essential if you are not going to 'steam up'.

Andrew Rawstorne

Community Items

Hay on WIInspiring Women.

Our October AGM meeting was a participation one this time. 'A Claim To Fame' was based on an idea from our Treasurer about sharing personal experiences of significant national stories or people. Because it was on Zoom we had a time limited slot for everyone and some time for chat, with our Annual and Finance reports sent out beforehand to minimise the business part of the meeting. This was very interesting and a good way to find out things we never knew about our friends. As the evenings draw in we have changed our weekly walks to Thursdays at 2.30pm by Hay Bridge for a short socially distanced walk and catch up. Our Book Club continues to meet on Zoom and our Craft Club is planning activities for the winter months. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday November 11th at 7.30pm when we will again be meeting on Zoom for an interesting talk by an external speaker.

Why not try the WI with a Membership Taster? 6 months membership for £10.75 (1st Oct 2020 to 31st Mar 2021) ... "One of the best things I ever did was joining the WI. I've made so many new friends and enjoyed great times, laughing and learning new things along the way!"

Now is a great time to find out why 206,000 thousand women are WI members.

For more information on Hay on WI call Sue Hodgetts on 01497 822523, email us on hayonwi@gmail.com or visit our website <http://hayonwi.wixsite.com/haywi>

We would love to see you, why not give us a try?

Hay Youth Theatre

The Saturday Youth Theatre autumn school sessions have moved to Clifford Community Hall (next to Clifford Primary School). The times have changed to start at 11.30 until 1pm. The workshops are split into two groups: Juniors (7-12 year olds) and Seniors (13-16 year olds). We are following precautions with a set of risk assessment and rules and regulations to be Covid safe. Even though distancing is in place, it is loads of fun. Open to newcomers too.

Check our website and Facebook for changes. Top of Form

For details and to book a place, [call Janine on 07733 055430](tel:07733055430) or email haytheatre@gmail.co.uk. For more information check our website www.haytheatre.co.uk

Hay Adult Theatre Studies (HATS)

We have restarted classes on Thursday evenings 7.30 to 9pm at Clifford Community Hall.

For more information check our website www.haytheatre.co.uk, call Janine on 07733 055430 or email haytheatre@gmail.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 and a half via Zoom with chat, activities and singing. See our website <https://haydaycusop.wixsite.com/hayday> Facebook page or call Sue Hodgetts on 01497 822523 for more information.

Golden Valley Day Centre

I am going to start with some good news , our draw was held at the end of September and lucky winners were Mrs Zoe Skyrme and Mrs Hazel Price congratulations to them both.

Now some bad news sorry . Unfortunately we have been informed of the passing of Pamela Edmiston from Dorstone Many of you may know her as the lady that helped Sylvia Corrick with the sales table and also in the kitchen. Our condolences to her family.

Kath Gaze has been in hospital but is hopefully now on the mend.

Once again 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. I hope that you all stay safe and well

So in the meantime keep staying safe and well.

Peterchurch Village Hall

We will be remaining closed until further notice due to Coronavirus restrictions.

For more details please ring Sarah Murrin 07774457887

CLIFFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Consultation on Draft Plan

Herefordshire Core Strategy, prepared by Herefordshire Council, requires parishes with villages to provide guidance about future development in the parish. Clifford Parish Council has now completed a draft plan laying out a future vision for the parish, covering aspects such as the accommodation of new housing, sustainable development, local business, and environment protection, and seeks your views upon this.

Without a plan prepared by the Parish Council with your input we would have to rely upon either: - Developers putting forward their own proposals to meet and potentially continue to exceed the Core Strategy housing targets; or - Waiting until Herefordshire Council prepares and forces upon us a plan for the villages where development has been stipulated as being required.

The Local Steering Group has tried hard to accommodate your feedback from the questionnaire, meeting the housing target set for Clifford Parish by Herefordshire Council in a way that addresses the wishes and concerns of our community.

Currently the draft plan proposes:

- Defining Settlement Boundaries for Clifford and Priory Wood.
- Three housing sites in Clifford which satisfy the required housing target and also provide for environmental improvement.
- A number of other policies reflecting concerns expressed by the community, including preservation of the landscape and views.

You are invited to comment on the Plan, which can be viewed online under 'Neighbourhood Plan' at: <https://cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk/clifford-neighbourhood-plan/>

Hard copies are available for inspection at **Hay-on-Wye Library** - please call Powys Library Services on 01597 827 460 to arrange a reading session.

You can also borrow a copy by telephoning either...

Mark Hope-Jones 01497 831 378 (Priory Wood); or

Egbert Smit 01497 831 364 (Westbrook).

Representations may be posted or hand-delivered to...

Emma Noble, Clifford Parish Clerk, at 20 Manor Fields, Burghill, Hereford HR4 7RR, or scanned and emailed to: clerk@cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk

All comments must be received by midnight at the end of Tuesday 8th December 2020

Alistair is Legging it for Longtown!

Alistair Morriss (Luci's husband) writes:

Longtown Outdoor Learning Centre (LOLC) gives young people (both locally and nationally) the opportunity to challenge themselves, to build self-belief and confidence and nurture trust and friendship. But it needs your support. I am asking for your help and sponsorship to raise money for the Centre so it can continue to provide truly amazing opportunities to young people. It's been a privilege to volunteer at the centre for the last year.

Covid-19 has impacted all our lives and continues to do so. Under current restrictions outdoor centres are prevented from running residential courses, resulting in a 70% drop of LOLC's income. In spite of furloughing staff, voluntary redundancies of instructors and increased use of volunteers the centre is struggling and needs help and this is where I am trying to play my own small part.

To raise money for LOLC I will be running (with maybe a little bit of walking) 50km (just over 31 miles) cross-country through the Black Mountains from Hay-on-Wye to Longtown and back on 29th November. To give me company, encouragement and ensure I don't get lost the Head of Centre, Mike Fawcett, plans to join me on the run.

I have only run one road marathon before and that was in 2004 ... So this will be a serious challenge.

You can donate via Alistair's Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alistair-morriss>

or contact him on 01497 821877 or send a cheque to The Rectory, Cusop, HR3 5RF.





Latest News

Reindeer Run

If your little ones can't wait for Christmas, the St Michael's Hospice Reindeer Run will be right up their street.

We're inviting your Dancer, Prancer or Blitzen to get sponsored and dash around their school field or playground.

It's open to primary schools and nurseries and you can decide the date, distance and location.

We'll even supply the antlers and nose.

The creativity of our community's little ones has already been in evidence during our competition to design our Reindeer Run logo, with nine-year-old Mia Edwards' entry judged the winner.

Your support for Reindeer Run will help St Michael's continue caring to make a difference this Christmas.

So if your school or nursery fancies ho-ho-hosting a Reindeer Run anytime between now and the big day, just sign-up for free at www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk or for more details call Gaynor 01432 851 000.

Amazon Smile

Anyone shopping online with Amazon can raise money for St Michael's Hospice at the same time.

By simply using AmazonSmile, 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) will be donated to a charitable organisation of your choice. To support St Michael's, select St Michael's Hospice (incorporating the Freda Pearce Foundation).

To get started, visit www.smile.amazon.co.uk

For more information contact Paul Broome, Communications Officer at St Michael's Hospice, on 01432 852 643 or email

pbroome@smhospicehereford.org

Whitney Garden Machinery
Your Local Independent
Mobile Machinery Specialist

Our Mobile Mechanics bring their
 Skills to you -

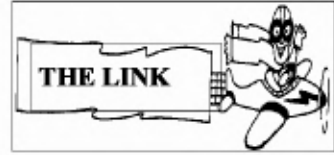
On-site Servicing &
 Repairs for Lawnmowers,
 Ride-on Mowers, Strimmers,
 Hedgetrimmers,
 Brushcutters, Chainsaws &
 Blow-Vacs.

Chain & tool Sharpening
 Stockist of Quality Oils,
 Chain Loops & Strimmer Line.

Sales of New & Reconditioned
 Garden Machinery

**Authorised Cobra Garden
 Machinery Dealer**

Terry & Nicky Smith
Tel: 07870 212358 / 07387 882349
email: wgm.2004@outlook.com



If you would like to advertise in
 The Link please contact :

Anthony Williams on
01497831408



WHEN YOU ARE ON A GOOD THING
 STICK TO IT !



TREES FOR BEES

Trees for sale in pots, with nectar and pollen for honeybees and pollinators.

Locally grown. Sale prices.
40 species

Also live Xmas Trees in pots.

List available.

Tel: 01497-847751 to view
shootgreen@hotmail.com

Plant More Trees



The Handy Handyman

Repairs * Maintenance * Improvements
Garden clearance * Fencing
*Flat pack
Installation * Wood & Laminate Flooring
(Specialising in carpentry)

Are you looking for a friendly, reliable handyman at a reasonable price?

Then look no further

No job too small—give us a call

Timber garden products include
Flower pot men * Timber Garden Structures
* Garden Planters * Bird Tables
Bird boxes * Garden Storage * Log Stores *
Gates * Pergolas * Animal Kennels * Coops
and Runs and many more
Contact me to discuss your requirements

Nick on 07966 048327
n.jameswinforton@gmail.com
www.handyman.weebly.com

CHRIS GORE ELECTRICS

ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA OVER
10 YEARS AGO.

NO JOB TOO SMALL

SMOKE ALARMS

COOKERS

AUDIO &

VISUAL NETWORKING

ANY ASPECT OF ELECTRICAL-
WORK

TEL : 07956 102367

Commercial, Domestic, Agricultural, re-wiring test & inspection.

Chris Gore
Qualified Electrician

chrisgoreelectrics@outlook.com

Ed Hadley

**Plumbing
&**

**General Building
Work**

36 years Experience

01981 500722
Mobile: 07825579319

WILLS AT HOME

Discuss your wishes in your own home
Will Writer Les Andrews will come to you

WILLS AT HOME GIVES YOU :

- Peace of Mind
- Family have the security of knowing your wishes
- Value for money
- There is only one fixed fee for writing your Will
- Single Will £35 Mirror Will £55
- Convenience
- Arrange your Will in the privacy of your home

Telephone: 01432 850303
Email: lesliemhandrews@aol.com

Garden Works Bill Jope, ANCH



I have a diploma in horticulture & over twenty years' experience caring for gardens. Let me help you with yours.

- • Garden design & landscaping
- • General maintenance
- • Skilled pruning, including trees
- • Planting schemes
- • Hedge planting and trimming
- • Organic vegetable gardens

Bill: 01981 550 881
Mobile: 07810 878 943
Yew Tree Cottage, Long Lane,
Peterchurch

JONES & FRASER

Traditional Building

Local, Competitive, Quality

- Lime Plastering
- Lime Pointing
- Timber Repairs
- Stone Masonry

Tel : 07772 917327
Tom@jonesandfraser.com

www.jonesandfraser.com

SHINE

Mobile Hairdressing



All aspects of ladies' hairdressing

**Call Jane for an appointment on
079764 779363**