

# THE LINK

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR THE  
SEVEN PARISHES IN THE SOUTH  
WARWICKSHIRE 7 BENEFICE

March 2020

£1



■ BARCHESTON with WILLINGTON ■ BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH  
■ BURMINGTON ■ CHERINGTON with STOURTON ■ LONG COMPTON  
■ WHICHFORD and ASCOTT ■ THE WOLFORDS

# EVENTS DIARY

Contact: The Editor  
Email: [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)

## March (VH = Village hall; Ch = Church)

Mon	02	Brailes Mechanical Society, Brailes VH	
Tue	03	Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club, VH	14.00
Tue	03	Benefice Lent Service, Tysoe	19.30
Wed	04	Long Compton Chapel, Scrabble Event	19.00
Wed	04	Wolfords WI, Wolfords VH	19.30
Fri	06	Big Yellow Friday Coffee Morning, Kenrene, Burmington	10.30
Sat	07	SW7 Men's Breakfast, The Cherington Arms	07.45
Sat	07	Great Rollright Local Market, Great Rollright VH	09.30
Sat	07	Full English Breakfast, Burmington VH	10.00
Sat	07	Downton Abbey film event, Long Compton VH	19.00
Sat	07	Long Compton Chapel, Whist Event	19.30
Sun	08	Beneficial Book Club, Barton House	17.30
Tue	10	Long Compton & District Walkers, depart Red Lion Car Park	09.30
Tue	10	Cameo Lunch Club, Burmington VH	12.00
Tue	10	Deanery Lent Service, Tredington	19.30
Wed	11	Compton and District History Society, Long Compton VH	19.30
Thurs	12	SW7 Lunchtime talk for Women, The Old Forge, Stourton	12.30
Thurs	12	Public Consultation, The Hall Stourton	15.00
Thurs	12	Long Compton Book Club, VH	19.00
Sat	14	Mad March Fair, Long Compton VH	11.00
Sun	15	Long Compton Chapel, Reflections and Afternoon Tea	15.30
Tue	17	CSSSC fish and chip lunch, The Cherington Arms	12.30
Tue	17	Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club, VH	14.00
Tue	17	Deanery Lent Service, Shipston	19.30
Wed	18	Comptonians, Talk, Long Compton VH	14.00
Wed	18	Long Compton Chapel, Scrabble Event	19.00
Thurs	19	Rural Cinema, <i>Judy</i> , Wolfords VH	19.30
Sat	21	Brailes Picture House, <i>Judy</i> , Brailes VH	
Tue	24	Deanery Lent Service, Butlers Marston	19.30
Wed	25	Long Compton Garden Club, Talk by Jim Buttress, Long Compton VH	19.30
Sat	28	Talk by Michael Macdonald, with Lebanese Meal, Burmington VH	17.00
Sat	28	Cor Y Ffynnon community choir concert, Long Compton VH	19.00
Sun	29	First SW7 'Connect' Sunday Gathering, Long Compton VH	15.00
Tue	31	Benefice Lent Service, Ettington	19.30



**LINK cover:** *Drystone Wall Repair in progress, Great Wolford.* Repair by Paul Moreton of Great Rollright (01608 737006). Photograph by Keith Murphy.

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The LINK welcomes contributions for the front cover or elsewhere. Portrait orientation photographs or artwork preferred. Please send items to [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk).

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<https://editor794.wixsite.com/sw7link>



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**Monday 16 March**

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## The Charge to Electric?

In 2035, five years earlier than originally announced, the government have declared that all sales of new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars will cease. Whilst electric is not the only alternative, it's certainly one of the front runners in the race to find the alternatives for traditional fossil fuelled internal combustion engine (ice) vehicles. In 2018, in a somewhat impulsive and possibly risky move, I bought a second-hand electric car to discover for myself what this possible future might look and feel like. I'd like to share some of my experiences as this transition to alternative fuels looks like a journey that possibly we, and certainly our children and grandchildren will have to make in the future.

First let me say that now, as at the time of my purchase, a new electric vehicle seems massively overpriced in comparison with the alternatives. I suspect that car manufacturers are doing all they can to extract the most they can from those consumers that are called in the marketing textbooks 'early adopters'. Come on, you know who you are; have to have the latest thing or gadget and price is secondary? Consequently, new electric vehicles are like hardback books - a lot more expensive than the paperback that is bound to follow and that will sell in far greater numbers than the hardback. I think what we need to remember is that every new electric car sale, will in time, provide a vehicle into the second owner market. The car I bought was three and a half years old with just over 5000 miles and was around half the cost of its new purchase price. This depreciation loss is higher than the average 'ice' car.

I get asked continually about how long it takes to charge up and how far it will go. To gain 10% extra charge, if I plug in at home using a three-pin type charger into a normal socket, this will take around an hour and a quarter. Therefore for 60 to 70% charges which are pretty normal for my usage, it's an overnight charge. It's exactly the same routine as you may be in for your mobile phone. Remember to charge it up overnight! On a full charge, in the summer the car will travel 105 -110 miles and in the winter 70 – 75 miles. Claimed full charge mileage from the manufacturer is 130 miles (22kW Battery). Beware of claimed mileage ranges! A full charge at home from empty will cost £2.86.

I never planned to charge the car other than at my home, but now local supermarkets in Stow and Chipping Norton have installed chargers that will charge you for free whilst you are doing shopping etc. These chargers are considerably faster than home and can add around 40% in an hour or so and remarkably, it's free! What's not to like? With a monthly battery lease cost to find, most of my savings on fossil fuel purchase are pretty much eaten up, so at the end of the month, the cost of electric is not far off the cost of my now traded in old diesel car. However, I've changed from doing 20,000 diesel miles per year to doing 10,000 petrol miles and 10,000 electric miles with a slight cost reduction.

So what does the world think? Is electric the way forward? Well I read that the price of second-hand electric cars is rising and to my surprise, I found it's true. My car has

supposedly appreciated in value by around 10% during the eighteen months or so I have it. Quite remarkable. Maybe the market knows something we don't?

The move to the 2035 deadline has to be a positive one. It hopefully will accelerate development of technologies that will render the direct use of fossil fuels for transportation redundant. No doubt there will be problems along the way; change is never without painful consequences but there are some things that we have to change. Reduction in carbon emission for transportation is one of these things, and by our personal action and choices, we can affect it.

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk

## The LINK Crossword



*The LINK Crossword.  
The February solution.*

## Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston: Drop-In Clinic

Are you over 65? Do you need advice and/or signposting for services? Are you feeling isolated and want to know how to get involved with groups? Possibly questions about care options? Perhaps you would like a quick Blood Pressure check?

Nurse Jan, who works as part of the Older People team at Shipston Medical Centre, has a Drop-in clinic at Ellen Badger Hospital, Ellen Ward every Wednesday morning between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon. No appointment necessary



## Two Day Introduction to Beekeeping Course

A course is being run by Shipston Beekeepers. It will take place on Saturday and Sunday 25 and 26 April and starts on the Saturday at Brailes village hall.

25 April - How a honeybee colony works; the beekeeping year; how to get started; essential equipment; harvesting your honey and wax.

26 April - Practical at club apiary (OX15 5HZ) Siting an apiary; assembling hive parts; apiary safety; inspecting a honeybee colony / handling bees (weather permitting) Beesuits provided.

Light lunch and refreshments provided both days. Gift Vouchers available. Enrolment online at [www.sbka.org.uk/training](http://www.sbka.org.uk/training). For further information - [secretary@sbka.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sbka.org.uk)

## Lawrence Home Nursing Team

Many people, when asked, say that they wish, when their time comes, to die in familiar surroundings and close to those they know and love – that is, in their own homes. I am a nurse in the Lawrence Home Nursing Team and I was drawn to work in this organisation because its key aim is to enable this ideal to become a reality, whenever possible, for those facing life limiting illnesses in our catchment area.

All the nurses in the team have experience in end of life care and we are guided by a patient's needs and wishes. We can give hands-on nursing care, including medications for pain relief and other symptoms and can access specialist advice, when needed, through our close working relationships with family doctors and community nurses.

We aim to give each person the care they need, respecting their own individual requirements. Communication and the building of trusting relationships enables us to be that listening ear, to answer questions, and give emotional support, both to the patient and those closest to them, in the hope that patients and their loved ones can make the most of the time they have left together.

The care we give is free, and highly adaptable: night care, care during the day, working alongside existing carers and sometimes working alone. We look after anyone, aged 18 and over, who are in their last weeks of life. Patients are referred to us by GPs, community and specialist nurses, hospitals, hospices, and sometimes family members.

Our patients are mainly registered at one of the following General Practices: Bloxham Surgery, Charlbury Medical Centre, Chipping Norton Health Centre, Deddington Surgery, Hook Norton Surgery and Wychwood Surgery. You can visit our website to learn more, <https://www.lawrencehomenursing.org/>

### Thank you - Sarah Bryson

The Lawrence Home Nursing Team is a local charity and depends on fundraising income to maintain this vital nursing service in the community. If you would like to find out about our fundraising events and activities or perhaps are interested in joining our group of volunteers please email, Verity Fifer, Head of Fundraising at [fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org](mailto:fundraiser@lawrencehomenursing.org) (Tel: 01608 684475). Our team of volunteers meet once a month at The George Inn, Barford St Michael to discuss past and present events. We are actively looking for volunteers to join our group especially from Bloxham and Deddington. Thank you.

**Verity Fifer**

*The Post Office van is in the car park by the village shop in Long Compton from 9.30 - 11.30 am Monday and Wednesday, and from 12.30 to 2.00 pm Tuesday and Thursday.*

*Shipston 'tip' is open Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 3.15 pm and 8.30 am to 12.15 pm on Saturday and Sunday. It is closed on Bank Holidays.*

#### DATES AND FETES

Please send us the dates of all your significant 2020/1 social events (i.e. events which will attract more than 100 people), be they fetes, garden parties or concerts. By listing them, we can help prevent date clashes between major events and disappointing attendance figures for all concerned. Please be sure to check this list before you plan a new event.

Saturday 2 May – Burmington Village Tabletop and Garage Sale, Burmington Village Hall  
Saturday 1 August - CSS Flower Show

#### LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

**Chipping Norton**, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 26 London Road, Mass on Saturday evening, 6.00 pm and Sunday morning, 11.00 am. Tel: 642703

**Stow-on-the-Wold**, Our Lady and St Kenelm, 5 Back Walls, Sunday 9.00 a.m. and Our Lady Help of Christians, Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m. Tel: 01608 674354

**Brailes/Shipston/Kineton** Masses: *Saturday* - Vigil 5.00 pm at SS Peter and Paul, Brailes. *Sunday* - 9.00 am at Our Lady and St Michael, Shipston and 11.00 am at St. Francis of Assisi, Kineton. Tel: 01608 685259

**Chipping Campden**, St Catharine's Lower High Street, Sunday masses: – Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m. Sunday 10.30 a.m. Tel: 01386 840261

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#### LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES

Minister Marion Hartwell attends to conduct seasonal services. For details of these, and interim services and events, contact Secretary Sally Franklin 01608 684739 or email longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com

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#### LOCAL QUAKER MEETINGS

**Broad Campden**, Friends Meeting Hse, Broad Campden, Worship Meeting: Sunday at 10.30 am

**Ettington**, Friends Meeting Hse., Old Halford Rd, Ettington, Worship Meeting: Sunday at 11.00 am

**Sibford**, Friends Meeting Hse., Sibford Gower, Meeting for worship: Sunday at 10.30 am

**Shipston on Stour**, Worship Meeting last Thursdays (not Dec) in St. Edmund's Church, 2.30 pm

# PARISH PEOPLE

## Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

### *Barcheston St Martin*

Churchwardens David Hodges 664310  
 Secretary Nick Jackson 684846  
 Treasurer David Cleave 666002

### *Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas*

Churchwardens Sonia Baker 661459  
 Michael Macdonald 662483  
 Secretary Graham Lancaster 663265  
 Treasurer Sue Bradley 661635

### *Long Compton St Peter and St Paul*

Churchwardens Jill Kirby 684923  
 Secretary Zoë Wrigley 650404  
 Treasurer Walter Sawyer 684755

### *Wolford St Michael & All Angels*

Churchwardens Janet Piller 674396  
 John Wrench 674389  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer Ann McKenna 674009

### *Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence*

Churchwardens Hamish Cathie 674303  
 Secretary Gillian Cathie 674303  
 Treasurer Mandy McPherson 674734

### *Cherington St John the Baptist*

Churchwarden Roger Maycock 686404  
 Secretary Paul Levitch 686353  
 Treasurer Rory McLeod 686278

### *Whichford St Michael*

Churchwardens Mandy James 684479  
 Hilary Blakemore 684142  
 Secretary Hilary Blakemore 684142  
 Treasurer Andy Chapman 684652

## Parish Councils

Barcheston  
 Barton-on-the-Heath  
 Burmington  
 Cherington  
 Long Compton  
 Whichford  
 Great Wolford  
 Little Wolford Parish Meeting

## Chair

David Sutton  
 James Coker (674601)  
 Robert Hutchings (661496)  
 Philip Townsend (686529)  
 Bill Cook (684771)  
 Geoff Bromage (684454)  
 Lynn Mathias (674247)  
 Helen Bostock (chairman@littlewolford.org.uk)

## Clerk

Ann Batchelor (661527)  
 Colin Maynell (674104)  
 Meeting Sec. – Graham French (239032)  
 Sara Cole (686250)  
 Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)  
 Sara Cole (686250)  
 Janet Piller (674396)

*If you wish to update information on this page, please email the Editor: [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)*



*Happy  
Birthday!*



## March Birthdays

1st	Jake Bradley	Burmington	17
2nd	Isabelle Sophia Jansen van Rensburg	Great Wolford	5
4th	Matthew Baldwin	Stourton	9
27th	Sam Chapman	Whichford	14
31st	Emily Wright	Cherington	16

**SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CHURCHES – MARCH 2020 CHURCH SERVICES**

<b>SW7 Sunday Worship</b>	<b>St Martin Barcheston</b>	<b>St Lawrence Barton</b>	<b>St Barnabas &amp; St Nicholas Burmington</b>	<b>St John the Baptist Cherington</b>	<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul Long Compton</b>	<b>St Michael Whichford</b>	<b>St Michael &amp; All Angels Wolford</b>
March 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Sunday of Lent</b>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD/CLW)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion* (SPA) 4:00pm CW Informal Service (with kids groups) (BD/SPA)	10:30am BCP Morning Prayer (SPA)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (BD/CLW)
March 8 <sup>th</sup> <b>Sunday of Lent</b>	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>	4:00-6:00pm Youth Bible Study (Village Hall)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	10:30am CW All Age Service (BD)	10:30am CW Village Service (SPA)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>
March 15 <sup>th</sup> <b>Sunday of Lent</b>	<i>(Support Cherington)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	<i>(Service moved to next Sunday)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	4:00pm CW Informal Service (with kids and youth groups) (BD/SPA)	<i>(Support Cherington or Wolford)</i>	10:30am Ecumenical Service at Little Wolford Village Hall (BD/SPA)
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Mothering Sunday</b>	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>	<i>(Support Whichford or other)</i>	10:30am CW All Age Service (BD)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (AW/CLW)	<i>(Support Cherington or Whichford)</i>	10:30am CW All Age Service (SPA)	<i>(Support Cherington or Burmington)</i>
March 29 <sup>th</sup> <b>Sunday of Lent</b>					10:30am CW Benefice Communion (AW/BD) 3pm Connect (families event) Long Compton Village Hall (BD)		
April 5 <sup>th</sup> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion* (BD) 4:00pm CW Informal Service (with kids groups) (BD/SPA)	10:30am BCP Morning Prayer (BD)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (SPA)

SPA = Stuart Allen/BD = Ben Dyson/LM = Liz Maycock/AW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clare Wells/BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/\* = No Hymns

# SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

## **Dear Friends,**

Imagine you did a survey on the streets of Shipston asking people what the most important thing in their life was. What answer would come out on top? My guess is that by far and away the most popular answer would be 'friends and family.' Most of us, whatever else is going on, look to these close relationships to provide our life with meaning, happiness and fulfilment. And this isn't just something that's confined to modern western societies. Throughout history and across cultures, friends and family are consistently seen as being one of the most important aspects of what it means to be human. How can we explain this universal experience?

The bible says that we value relationships because we were made by a God with love at the very heart of his being. Humans were made by God to reflect what he is like and so part of what it means to be human is to love others and be loved in return.

We know, of course, that finding and sustaining such relationships with friends and family can be very hard work. Our lives seem to be increasingly busy; many of us work longer hours, giving us less time to invest in our loved ones. In the free time we do have, it's very easy to be distracted by screens and the constant influx of information, rather than engage in the sometimes tiring and messy business of relating deeply with one another.

Starting this March, the SW7 group of churches is launching a new Sunday gathering called 'Connect', which will take place once a month between 3.00 – 4.00 pm. Aimed mainly at families with children from across the Benefice but open to all, 'Connect' is a place for the whole family to connect with other people and with the God who made us and loves us. It's an informal time with plenty of tea, coffee and cake as well as crafts and activities for children. The first meeting will take place at 3.00 pm Sunday 29 March at Long Compton village hall (more details below). Why not take some time out of the busyness of life and join us then?!

### **You're warmly invited to Connect, but what is it?**

A place for the whole family to connect with people and connect with God in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

### **What will it involve?**

Lots of tea, coffee and cake! Crafts and games, as well as a short 'thought for the day.'

### **Where and when will it happen?**

The first 'Connect' will be on the 29 March from 3.00 – 4.00 pm at Long Compton village hall. It will then be on 26 April and then every fourth Sunday of the month at the hall.

### **Who is running Connect?**

'Connect' is being organised by the South Warwickshire 7 group of churches. For more details please contact Ben Dyson on [pioneersw7@gmail.com](mailto:pioneersw7@gmail.com) or 01608685752

**Ben Dyson (Pioneer Minister)**

## Deanery News

At our Synod in January, we were pleased to welcome Julie Bellamy, the Director of Finance, who gave us some practical advice and information on *Parish Share* and its principles. Although we are naturally rooted in our local churches, the share system is one way in which we are connected to our brothers and sisters beyond our parish – and deanery – boundaries, and are able to be part of God’s work in the wider kingdom.

Lent is upon us now, and we turn our thoughts to preparing for everything that Easter holds for us. I pray that in the middle of busy lives, we will all find some space to journey with Christ again on that final walk to Jerusalem and beyond.

Our Lent services, (all at 7.30 pm), are on the theme of mental health, recognising that Christ came to offer us life in all its fullness. Please do come – we have speakers who are experienced in a number of areas and all will be very interesting to hear.

Tuesday 3 March	Depression and the Psalms - Reverend Ben Dyson, Tysoe
Tuesday 10 March	What about sadness? Making sense of our emotional responses to life's path - Stephen Bushell, Tredington
Tuesday 17 March	Dementia – towards a spirituality - Reverend Jean Fletcher, Shipston
Tuesday 24 March	The me God made me to be - Reverend Ali Hoggett, Butlers Marston
Tuesday 31 March	Young suicide - Ged Flynn, CEO Papyrus, Ettington
Tuesday 7 April	Holy Week Eucharist - Venerable Barry Dugmore, Long Compton

**Sarah Edmonds (Area Dean)**

INVITATION - To a Series of Lunch-Time Talks and Discussions for Women



The Old Forge, Stourton House at 12.30 pm  
STORIES FOR OUR TIMES (The Parables of Jesus)



12 Mar

The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4: 1 – 20

Jane Smith

Simple lunch provided - donations please  
RSVP - Sarah Scotter: 686303 (sarah.scotter@hotmail.com) or  
Liz Maycock: 686404 (lizzymaycock@gmail.com)

## SW7 Men's Breakfast



**Faith Under Fire**

**Tim Cross CBE**  
**The Cherington Arms**  
**7th March 2020**  
**7.45a.m**

Includes  
Full English Breakfast  
Book Now £10.00

**Roger Maycock 686404 Nick Jackson 684846**  
**John Brown 684578 Vic Bennie 684867**



## South Warwickshire Seven Benefice



Reverend Stuart Allen

Tel: 01608 684207 - [rectorsw7@gmail.com](mailto:rectorsw7@gmail.com) (off duty Thursday)

Reverend Ben Dyson

Tel: 01608 685752 - [pioneersw7@gmail.com](mailto:pioneersw7@gmail.com) (off duty Friday)

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Lucy Simpson

Tel: 01608 684787 - [officesw7@gmail.com](mailto:officesw7@gmail.com)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2 – 4 pm

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

## Great Rollright - Great Market!

### Friendly Local Market & Café

Start your weekend with a cup of delicious fresh coffee and a tasty bacon roll or traybake.

Browse local seasonal produce,  
handmade crafts and gifts.

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month  
Great Rollright Village Hall  
9:30am - 12:30pm

2020

## Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School News

### Dry January

Class 3 at Acorns have begun their *Hola Mexico* topic. The Mexican mocktail session proved to be a real hit and definitely put the children's Design & Technology (food and nutrition) knowledge and skills to the test. After being split into the groups, pupils were tasked with finding the ingredients they needed for their recipe and challenged to complete their mocktails with as little assistance as possible.



Once taste tested and graded on appearance, smell, creativity and overall taste, the children totalled up all the scores to see which was the favourite mocktail. In third place came the Mexican Style Hot Chocolate; in second place came the Strawberry Margarita and in top position was the Aguas Fresca.

### Enchanted Woodland

The first few weeks of 2020, Acorns and Brailes Year 1 and Year 2 children have been learning about *The Enchanted Woodland*. Class 1 at Acorns have delved into the magical and mysterious woodlands. They started off by revisiting clay skills and creating tree boggarts. Class 1 worked hard to mould the clay into the basic shape of a face, which is trickier than you imagine. After this, they gathered natural materials and a few bits from the art boxes to decorate the faces. They look great; they had some with leaf beards, some with feather hats and others with acorn eyes.

The children have been looking at non-fiction reports about animals that live in woodlands. Class 1 were fantastic at using the iPads and information books to collect and record new facts about these creatures. The room was alive with the echo of 'Wow, did you know...?' and 'I can't believe it!' as the children uncovered new facts. They have now organised their facts and written them into their own woodland creature fact files.

Rabbits class at Brailes have been enjoying the *Enchanted Woodland* topic too and have spent lots of time outdoors observing the beautiful school surroundings and the habitat we share with all sorts of creatures. Fairy houses have been made, clay boggarts have sprung from the trees and woodland crowns are still in the process of being finished!

Science and Design & Technology have played a big part in this topic and the children have enjoyed planting seeds and bulbs, labelling plants, classifying living things, creating new habitats, investigating changes in the world around them and discussing their findings; making predictions about what we might discover next.



## Blue Abyss

*Blue Abyss* is well under way at Acorns and Class 2 have learnt about scuba diving with a talk from Mrs. Collins, learning all about the special equipment that would be needed to go deep sea diving. The children all tried on the various items of equipment and had a discussion about how heavy the weighted belt would need to be to help them delve into the deep sea, making links with our Maths lessons.

The class were lucky enough to have a fantastic trip to the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. Everyone behaved wonderfully and represented the school brilliantly. It was really interesting to see so many of the sea creatures that they had learnt about in class and were able to build on their knowledge with the new facts that they learnt throughout the trip. The best part was definitely the ocean tunnel, watching the sharks and beautiful fish swimming around them.

## Beast Creator

It has been fantastic for Badgers class at Brailes School to be able to observe and learn the life cycle of 27 mealworms from first-hand experience, as part of the Beast Creator topic. At present, the mealworms are still in the larva stage, growing daily by moulting to remove their old exoskeletons. Daily observations over the next few weeks will hopefully show changes from larva into pupa, before finally changing into a darkling beetle.

Now in the 'develop' stage of the topic, the class are fully immersed using knowledge of invertebrates to create 3D sculptures of invertebrates out of willow. Practical estimating, symmetry, measuring maths skills combined with designing and joining materials with precision and plenty of imagination, resourcefulness, collaboration and patience have been shown.

The class are really proud of their sculptures so far, with the willow structures now created that will soon have papier-mâché added to complete our larger-than-life 3D beasts. Throughout their work, the children have been reflecting, evaluating and modifying their designs in response to how the making process is going, considering different levels of force present in different thickness of willow and how structures can be strengthened.



# FARMING NOTES

Editor: Lynn Mathias  
Email: [farming@swlink.org.uk](mailto:farming@swlink.org.uk)

## Another Wet Month

I would first like to say a big thank you to Charlie Mawle for saving us trouble and enabling everyone to get out of the village during the recent storm 'Ciara'. Driving into the village early on the morning after Ciara had passed through, he found a very large branch blocking the road at Nethercote, making a swift about turn he retraced his steps to get his kit, came back and removed the obstacle before the school buses went through and anybody else needed to get out of the village to go to work. By the time he rung us just after nine o'clock the road was clear. The bough had come from high up on a mature oak inside the field and had somehow managed to drop onto the road without even damaging the fence, probably an indication of the force of the wind.

Walking around the farm, we have had several other large boughs come down, many from what would appear to be healthy strong trees, some clearing up will be required.



Very little farming is currently possible due to the waterlogged state of the fields, we would normally be thinking about fertilising and drilling but not at the moment. This pause has allowed us to sort all the spray cans, fertiliser bags and other plastic ready to take to the recycling centre so the yards are looking tidier, worthwhile but not really what we wanted to be doing in the run up to a very busy time of year.

Walking through the yard in the dark just before storm Dennis, I was amazed to find a newt on the concrete, well away from any pond or ditch. To be fair nowhere is far from water currently but it was a surprising place to find one! Looking it up, I think it was a smooth or common newt found throughout the UK, although at this time of year it should be hibernating so this maybe because of climate warming. Another pleasant wildlife viewing was an otter which I managed to catch on a camera trap, a good indication that the brooks are relatively unpolluted.

**Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford**

Recently, we have talked about plants whose names are rather uncomplimentary. So, to put the record straight, let's find some plants whose names are if not descriptive of their beauty, give us some indication of their decorative and natural features. My favourite of all is and always will be enchanter's nightshade. This is a plant belonging to the willow herb family but there is absolutely no resemblance to these plants. Nor – and it gets more confusing – is it a nightshade! It grows principally in wooded areas and you will see it when you walk through our woods at Whichford. There are other nightshades but these do not grow in this region. What else may we find? How about that goldilocks buttercup, surely a plant which should have appeared sometime in fairy stories? Of course, with both urban and rural populations being so close to the church, inevitably religious names would creep into those of plants. First, we have star of Bethlehem, Jacob's ladder, Saint Olaf's candlestick and Saint John's wort. This last so named because an annual pagan feast coincided with the feast of Saint John. Lady's smock, lady's mantle and lady's slipper are all corruptions of 'Our Lady's'. What others can we find? I rather like bumping bett and common fiddleneck. Whilst pineapple weed, oregon grape and eggs and bacon positively make the mouth water. I am sure in future we will discuss other plant names, but we must remember these are all English names. Talk to other nationalities about these plants and they will look at you blankly. The solution to this was perceived in the 18th century by the botanist Carl Linnaeus who 'translated' the names of flowers to be described in two Latin words: the first the generic name of the plant and the second the specific name. Thus, any nationality can understand. When you mention any plants, they all understand because this system is universally recognised.

By now we will be looking out for the return of migrant birds and we watch in wonder as they do so. For, although we are gradually learning more about how they do this, we still are not able to get quite yet the whole picture. We read of an Osprey flying 4,000 miles to North Africa. 'I thought nothing of it' said the Osprey, dismissively airily waving one wing. We are filled with confusion as to just how it managed it. We know that birds use the sun, moon and the stars, that they learn by yearly experience from young how to interpret such things as wind speeds and develop navigational knowledge. But one problem for us remains unanswered; how they sense the magnetic fields which they use for their navigation. One theory being examined is, that somehow, they have some form of senses in their eyes and their beaks which they are able to use. Of course, they follow a route which is going to give them access to places where they can rest and feed. To attempt the whole journey without rest and sustenance to build up their body fat would prove fatal. Sadly, the numbers of migrants returning to our shore is declining and we don't know why. One reason may be that they are being persecuted in their journey over the Mediterranean and there may be some harmful features unknown to us where they are residing in their foreign homes during the winter.

I sincerely hope that I am not about to spoil somebody's breakfast with my next subject, but here goes. Slugs, when we go into it, are part of the natural make-up of our rural and garden territories, although we do not number them amongst our favourite creatures. Let's look more closely at this rather unattractive object. There are, believe it

or not, about 40 species in this country. They range in size from 1 cm to 30 cm. Like that other rather despised creature, the earthworm, they recycle organic material back into the soil. They will eat decaying plants and animal matter (and other slugs!), on the other hand, they prove to be food for birds and beetles. As with worms, they can burrow up to a metre into the soil. One reason for doing this is that their skin is extremely leaky and in certain conditions moisture will leak from them obviously harming the slug. So, to avoid this physical damage it will disappear into the deeper parts of the soil. So next time you see a slug, remember it may be helping your garden, not harming it.

The nuthatch is a bird that I have not seen for a long time. But a friend living nearby recently had one land on her birdfeeder and take a decorous peck or two before disappearing not, as far as I know, to be seen again. The nuthatch is perhaps a difficult bird to describe, larger than a sparrow and more streamlined in appearance. It has a prominent black beak, eye stripe and buff underparts. It is no songbird! A thin peeping sound is the best it can do. But it has one unique feature and that is that it can run down a tree as well as up. Obviously in search of insects. No other bird can do this. But is it searching for food or – dare I say this – just showing off?



**Tony Partridge**

## **Highlight on Hedgehogs – March**

In the spring, as the weather starts to warm up and their fat reserves start to run low, hedgehogs start to wake from hibernation. Rumour has it they even do so with a deep snore or two! What's more, there is a clever physiological mechanism behind this awakening process because it is the change in brown fat levels that triggers the muscles into action and raises the animal's temperature almost back to normal.

Keep a careful eye out for hedgehogs starting to appear in your garden this month and see if you can put down some meaty cat biscuits for them, as well as a saucer of water. The hog, as it emerges from hibernation will be extremely thirsty, and may have lost up to a third of its bodyweight over the winter so it must eat as soon as it wakes just in case the weather turns cold again. They don't know if they will need to temporarily return to a state of hibernation. This is a possibility as we have had snow in Cherington and the surrounding villages in March before. This year, with all the heavy rainfall that we had in February's storms, the hogs will have had to contend with the risks associated with severe flooding and being drowned in their nests.

Once a hedgehog has survived its first hibernation, its chances of survival are greatly improved for future winters and this can only be good news when the odds are stacked against them.

**Louise Turner**

# GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club

Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

Hmmm. March is generally when I get joyful and all 'Fotherington-Thomas-ish' about gardening again. The bulbs are up, blossom is appearing, the days are getting longer, the sun and the soil are warming up. But the ground right now is so wet, SO WET, so muddy, that I can't imagine walking on the grass without a huge squelch. Certainly we don't want to be stepping on the borders, for fear of compacting the soil and ruining its structure. The storms took another five panes out of our rubbishy greenhouse roof; it now barely functions as a greenhouse at all. So it's hard to know where to get started, given we haven't really been able to do February's jobs yet.

The one thing I do know is that the slugs and snails are on the march, and massively enjoying the green shoots of my fritillaria imperialis bulbs, which are just starting to show. It may well be that the slugs have eaten enough of the shoots so that we won't get the big orange show-off blooms this year. Much as I hate doing this, I have put down some slug pellets, but the sort that claim they are safe for garden birds. Whatever your preferred slug/snail solution, now is the time to start using it. Slugs and snails love a green shoot.

Because it's so wet, and it hasn't been very cold, weeds are starting to germinate at an alarming rate. Catch them while they're young, and you'll save yourself trouble later. You should consider giving your borders a good thick mulch about now, to keep moisture in the soil, add organic matter, and suppress those weeds. Use a good compost (peat-free if possible), or well-rotted farmyard or horse manure. You should also be mulching your fruit trees and bushes (but make sure you don't mound the manure up against the trunk). Give your rhubarb a good mulch too.

As spring is approaching, if you've left your dead perennial growth on the plants through the winter for insects to hide or nest in, you should now be cutting back that dead material to allow the new shoots space to grow into and air for their general health. Make sure you put your plant supports in before major growth starts - it's a hell of a job to do later on, trying to force the stems into the supports.

In terms of other tidying up jobs, you should prune the shrubs that you grow for their ornamental winter bark, shrubs like cornus (dogwood) and salix (willow). They'll grow again with no trouble, so don't be scared of pruning them hard. Deadhead your daffodils and give them a liquid feed to ensure good flowering next year.

If you installed a water butt last year - good decision! I imagine it's now full of water for your watering needs. We installed a plastic one, but the storms blew it over - we'd emptied it in case of a prolonged freeze, so it was easily blowable. It is a good idea to have one though; just install it via a downpipe and you need never fear a drought or hosepipe ban again.

If your vegetable beds are okay to start planting in, given the wet, put your shallots and onions in. You could start off certain seeds in a greenhouse or cold frame, but I think it's generally better to wait until April, for more certain germination. But your potatoes should be being chitted now, ready to plant out.

This isn't nearly such a joyful column as I would normally write about March, but the weather is so gloomy now in late February, it's hard to summon up the joy. Perhaps by April, we'll all be happier! Here's a picture of what the fritillaria imperialis should look like if the slugs haven't eaten it to death.

**Miranda Arnold**



***Wolford Woollies* by Jenny Henderson**

# VILLAGE NEWS

BARCHESTON WITH WILLINGTON

Editor: Please email – [barcheston@swlink.org.uk](mailto:barcheston@swlink.org.uk)

## Barcheston with Willington – Annual General Parish Meeting

An advance notice just to remind you that as agreed, the spring Annual General Meeting in the village hall Burmington this year will be Thursday 16 April at 7.45 pm.

In order for the meeting to proceed, we need to elect a chairman, vice chairman, treasurer and secretary. As I said at the last AGM in April 2019, I will not be volunteering for the job of secretary, so that position will definitely be vacant.

This meeting is your opportunity to find out, bring up, discuss and keep in touch with Parish and District affairs. As well as Parish business, early plans need to be made if you wish to hold our Morning Fete and Bonfire Night this year. Planning will need to include where and when to hold these events and who will help to organise and run them. Remember these events are only possible with your help, support and ideas. Please do come to the meeting. Hope to see you all on 16 April.

**A Batchelor (Secretary)**

# VILLAGE NEWS

BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH

Editor: Karyn Sassella

Email: [barton@swlink.org.uk](mailto:barton@swlink.org.uk)

## Beneficial Book Club

We enjoyed talking about *After So Much Kindness* by Gaynor Arnold. At first it seemed a simple case of making a novel from the story of Alice Liddell (here called Daisy) and Charles Dodgson/Lewis Carrol (here called John Jamieson) and the resulting tales of Alice in Wonderland. Here we came across what might have lurked behind the fabulous images of innocence. There is real darkness as the author examines Daisy's family and the reasons she might be so troubled in her later life. Well written, this intriguing novel offers much and provoked a great deal of discussion. Always the sign of a good choice.

Next time we will meet at Barton House at 5.30 pm on Sunday 8 March to talk about *Putney* by Sofika Zinovieff.

**Gillian Cathie**



The LINK can offer your local business.....

Advertising across SW7 Benefice directly into the community.

Please contact Simon Lewis-Beeching [adverts@swlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@swlink.org.uk)

### CAMEO Celebrates 14th Birthday

The CAMEO Lunch Club meeting in Burmington village hall on 11 February was the setting for three near-miracles! The first was the Club's survival over the past 14 years, missing only a single meeting in all that time.

The second was the convincing demonstration by the Club's resident nuclear physicist, Dr. Brian Hudson, following in the steps of Aristotle and Pythagoras, using a football and a model ship to prove that the earth really is round. Then, using a stick and a bit of weighted string in the manner of the Greek geographer Eratosthenes in 240 BC, proved that the earth is roughly 25,000 miles in circumferences.

The third and possibly greatest CAMEO near-miracle, was the production of the Club's first-class meal that day by a near 90-year-old member. CAMEO always does things in style. Come and join us. Next meeting: Tuesday 10 March

All are welcome. Don't forget the Club meets on the second Tuesday of every month in Burmington village hall at 12 noon for 12.30 pm. Come and join us. We are renowned for our welcome, our food (our puddings in particular) and our chatter.

Most villages in the Benefice are represented in the membership. A charge of £4 is made towards expenses. Please bring your family, friends and children. Transport can be provided. All dietary needs can be met. Please book with Brenda Fitch on Tel: 664313



**Dr. Hudson demonstrates...**

#### Talk by Michael Macdonald

#### What I do in the desert: Conversations with Ancient Nomads



Burmington Village Hall, Saturday 28 March (5.00 pm for lecture)  
6.30 pm for a Lebanese meal

Donations to the village hall  
Tickets £10, bookings essential with Sonia 01608 661459



Children's Liver  
Disease Foundation  
fighting childhood  
liver disease

Please support our  
**Coffee Morning**  
for



Raising funds for the  
**Children's Liver Disease Foundation**  
On Friday 6 March from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm  
At Kenrene, Burmington

Any contributions of cakes (the yellower the better), raffle prizes and donations gratefully received.

Contact Irene Clarke (661418) or Justine Clarke (661892)

Full English Breakfast is being served at  
**BURMINGTON VILLAGE HALL**



First Saturday of the Month  
Saturday 7 March - 10.00 am to 12.00 pm  
Gluten free and vegetarian diets catered for  
Call Irene (661418) for details

## Burmington Village

Table Top and Garage Sale

**Saturday 2 May**

10.00 am until 1.00 pm

Come and walk around the village and see what goodies you can find.

Breakfast baps and hot/cold drinks available at the village hall.



Tables/stalls £8 – all in aid of village hall funds  
Contact Irene Clarke (01608) 661418 to book a space  
[www.burmingtonvillagehall.btck.co.uk](http://www.burmingtonvillagehall.btck.co.uk)

## Happy Birthday Dennis!

The CAMEO Lunch at Burmington is always a happy event, but the January one was special as it was a splendid celebration of Dennis Cummings' 90th birthday.

Brenda and David Fitch went to extraordinary lengths to decorate the hall, hand making wonderful paper chains from the pages of Argos catalogues! An ingenious and painstaking task, but which produced an amazing effect. Brenda made a superbly iced birthday cake and decorated the tables very thoughtfully in Dennis's yachting colours.



Dennis's daughter Joanna came as a surprise and generously provide fizz for everyone to toast the birthday boy. Thirty-three people came to lunch to celebrate with Dennis, who was extremely gratified and quite overwhelmed by the occasion.

In February, Cameo had its 14th anniversary and it is an enormous testimony to Dennis's energy and enthusiasm that the lunch club thrives and continues to bring in new people who enjoy the fellowship of the occasion and the good food!

Burmington is very fortunate to have a nonagenarian who has the enthusiasm and drive to support village and church as well as run and cook for CAMEO. Normally indefatigable, he is currently having a knee replacement operation but of course, can't wait to get back to his beloved sailing. Let us hope that when/if we are his age, we will have his energy and zest for life. Happy Birthday Dennis!

**Sonia Baker**

# VILLAGE NEWS

## CHERINGTON WITH STOURTON

Editor: Alan Holmes

Email: [cherington@swlink.org.uk](mailto:cherington@swlink.org.uk)

Tel: 686682

### Village Lottery

Winners in the draw for the January Lottery were:

1st	John Pymm	£80
2nd	Philippa Carr	£45
3rd	Vanessa Streets	£30

Winners in the draw for the February Lottery were:

1st	Peter Kenealy	£80
2nd	Kerrith Carr	£45
3rd	David Paton	£30

Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your continued support. For more information on joining please contact Steve Allkins or, better still, drop in on our third Saturday coffee mornings (10.30 am – 12.00 noon).

**Steve Allkins**

### Lilies for Easter

Easter Day - Sunday 12 April

If anyone would like to contribute towards the purchase of lilies for our Easter Service, which will be held on Sunday 12 April, please add your name and telephone number to the list - this will be on the shelf immediately on the left as you enter the church. Other Spring flowers will also be purchased. However, the lilies can be a lovely way to remember someone special in your life. Many thanks.

**Sarah Scotter**

### CSS Village Tennis

As spring arrives (we hope), here is a date for your diary. This year's village tennis will be on Saturday 6 June. All standards welcome.

For more information contact:

Sally Clubley, 685190 or [sally.clubley@braidholm.com](mailto:sally.clubley@braidholm.com)

### Save the date - CSS Flower Show

Work is already underway on this year's show and we hope you have all marked the date Saturday 1 August in your diaries.

We always welcome your suggestions for new stalls/attractions to improve your show and these can be emailed to:- [annsstevens16@gmail.com](mailto:annsstevens16@gmail.com) If you can offer an hour of your time on the day to help on a stall, or can help with the set up on the evening of Thursday 30 July or Friday 31 July from 6 – 8 pm, or the clear up on the Sunday morning, then please let Sally or Ann know. Many thanks.

**Ann Stevens**

## Amazing Musical Extravaganza

The Hall in Cherington was the venue for the third annual Musical Extravaganza. Twelve musical acts came from far and wide to entertain the masses. To be accurate, some of the performers were from Brailes which is not that far. It was a full house though.

Performances from *JozoBozos* playing Tina Turner and Adele classics and later *Porterhouse Blues*, were mixed with sets from our talented teenagers Eloise, India, Izzy, Rosie and Kathryn, in a variety of guises, then *Makin' Whoopee* on sax, *Abba* on kazoo, *Should Know Better* leading the audience for some sing along classics and earlier an ironic version of I'm Not In Love. We finished with *The Mojitos* and *Crocodile Rock*..... phew!

Thanks to all the artistes and helpers. We will have to do it all again next year.

Jim Walton

## Brailes Mechanical Society

For our February meeting, we welcomed David Willatts who gave a talk on Wildlife of The Galapagos Islands. He and his wife Alison visited the Islands, touring on a small boat and exploring. The Galapagos Islands are 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador. There are 13 major islands, 6 smaller ones and many islets and rocks. Formed of lava piles and dotted with Volcanoes, some of which are still active.

They were discovered in 1535 by the by the Bishop of Panama, Tomas de Berlanga, whose ship drifted off course . The islands became famous after being visited by Charles Darwin in 1835. His observations on the unusual wildlife contributed to his Theory of Evolution. The Islands of San Cristobel, Santa Maria, Isabela and Santa Cruz are all inhabited. The animal life is unique. The famed Giant Tortoises and Iguanas are just some of the many reptiles to be seen. Sea birds include the blue-footed booby and the frigate bird. Land birds include Galapagos finches and mockingbirds.

Our next meeting is Monday 2 March - *World War II Airfields in the Stratford Area* with Peter Howarth.

Theresa Wakeham

## Brailes Picturehouse

Saturday 21 March - *Judy*

Thirty years after starring in *Wizard of Oz*, beloved actress and singer Judy Garland arrives in London to perform sold out shows at the 'Talk of the Town' nightclub. Whilst there, she reminisces with friends and fans and begins a whirlwind romance with musician Mickey Deans, her soon-to-be fifth husband

Stars: Renee Zellweger, Finn Wiltrock, Jessie Buckley, Rufus Sewell

Future Screenings:

25 April - *The Good Liar* 23rd May - *Little Women*

Deirdre Carney

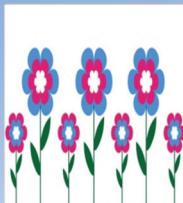
## CSSSC

Our next meeting will be the Seniors Fish and Chip lunch in the Cherington Arms on Tuesday 17 March – 12.30 for 1.00 pm.

There will be no meeting in April, but Tuesday 19 May will be our Club AGM, with drinks & nibbles in The Hall. Details to follow. We hope to see you all there.

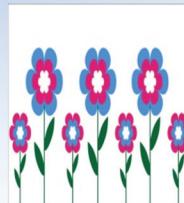
**The Committee**

### Cherington, Stourton and Sutton Flower Show



PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW

CSS Flower Show



**Saturday 1 August 2020**



**Public Consultation**  
**Thursday 12 March at The Hall, Stourton**

Warwickshire Rural Housing Association and Warwickshire Rural Community Council are holding a consultation on Thursday 12 March regarding the proposed development of eight homes within Stourton for rent and shared ownership for local people.

The event will be held at The Hall (Pinfold Lane, Stourton) from 3.00 pm to 7.00 pm. There will be an opportunity to see draft plans for the site, ask questions and comment on any aspect of the proposal. It is intended to be a 'drop-in' event so people can come along at any time.

The eight new homes are proposed to meet the housing needs of Cherington & Stourton joint parish and occupancy of the homes will be restricted to local people by way of a S106 Planning Agreement.

If you have questions regarding the event please contact WRCC by telephone (01789 842182) or email ([housing@wrccrural.org.uk](mailto:housing@wrccrural.org.uk)).

### Long Compton Village Hall

February has been a busy month at the hall with our regular classes, clubs and events along with private functions and a Valentine's Dinner in the Pop-Up Bistro. Thirty diners were treated to a delicious meal in the hall which had been transformed into a cosy and romantic bistro with ambient music, twinkly lights, licensed bar, maître d' and waitresses. I must admit this was my first attempt at waitressing and I'm not sure I'll get much future work in this area!



At the end of January, we held our *Sing-a-Long-a Sound of Music* evening which saw the hall full of nuns, lonely goatherds, drops of golden sun and costumes made from curtains. Fans of the film will understand! Everyone joined in with singing along to the well-known songs from the film with whistles to blow to summon the children, edelweiss to wave and party poppers for the big kiss - it really was great fun! Next month sees another special event to raise funds for the drive with a film night on Saturday 7 March when we will be showing *Downton Abbey*, with a licensed bar and light refreshments to get you in the mood (see poster for details).

We are also holding a Mad March Fair on Saturday 14 March where we will welcome back some of the stallholders from the Christmas Fair along with some new ones to tempt you with their wares (see poster). This will be instead of the usual Social Saturday, but we will still be offering a hot lunch and drinks.

We have received a lot of positive comments about the hall, events and facilities recently for which the Committee would like to thank you. We are all volunteers and fit this in around our other jobs and commitments. We endeavour to keep the hall in the best condition we can to ensure its use for many years to come. If you would like to join us, please contact a member of the Committee, it's always good to see new faces. Please do continue to support us when and however you can.

**Mo Read on 684130, 07814802814 or [lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk)**



Our next meeting is on Thursday 12 March 7.00 - 8.30 pm  
We will be discussing *The Little Old Lady Who Broke All The Rules*  
by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg

All Welcome

Contact: Carole Clements 01608 684938  
[carole.r.clements@googlemail.com](mailto:carole.r.clements@googlemail.com)



Lord and Lady Grantham cordially invite you to watch  
**Downton Abbey**  
at  
Long Compton Village Hall  
on  
Saturday 7 March at 7.00 pm  
Tickets: £10 to include light refreshments.  
Fancy dress optional! Licensed bar.  
Contact Mo - 684130/07814802814  
lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk

Come along to the Long Compton

## *Mad March Fair*

We offer a variety of stalls including Body Shop, Elaine's Flowers, Hearts and Pearls, Sweet Heart Bakes, MaryAnn's Candles, Memory Lane Vintage Clocks, Handcrafted Cards by Donna, Perfect Personalisation, Mandala Arts, Flamingo Paperie, NYO, sweets, vintage linens, knitted and crocheted goods. Along with refreshments and a raffle.

Long Compton Village Hall Saturday 14 March, 11am – 2pm



### **Compton and District History Society**

The History Society recommences on Wednesday 11 March at 7.30, after its winter break. Come along to the village hall and hear Will Gowers tell tales of knights in shining armour, castles, wicked Lords and high politics. The story of Warwickshire in the time of Richard II. Everyone is welcome.

**Diana Cook 684771**

### **Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club**

Meets at the Village Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 2.00 – 3.30 pm. New members are especially welcome.

**Adrian (684024)**



# CÔR Y FFYNNON CHOIR OF THE WELL

Songs in Welsh and English from Côr y Ffynnon  
a talented Community Choir from Llanddew, Brecon

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**A heart-warming evening of fun, song and entertainment  
in aid of Long Compton Village Hall**

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**SATURDAY 28 MARCH AT 7PM**  
**LONG COMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

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**Tickets £7.50** Available to purchase from Long Compton shop  
Bar available **Information** 01608 684128

## Long Compton and District Garden Club



### Future Programme



All meetings are in the LC Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm

**Wednesday 25 March** – Central Royal Parks. An illustrated talk by Jim Buttress. Jim has been a head judge at the RHS and presides over many shows, including Britain in Bloom. He managed for many years the Central Royal Parks - Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Clarence House, Buckingham Palace and Greenwich Park. He was gardener to the Queen Mother. He is also a presenter on the BBC's *Big Allotment Challenge*.

**22 April** - The Gardens of the Cotswold Wildlife Park with Tim Miles who is Head Gardener of the CWP, was previously at Heligan, and is on the RHS Tender Ornamental Plant Committee

Further information contact Anthony Wells 684337 or Lesley Roberts 684545 or [lesleyroberts46@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyroberts46@gmail.com)

## Comptonians

For our first meeting of 2020 we had a most entertaining speaker on the history of the Music Hall. In the 18th century performers would sing in taverns and coffee houses whilst the audience ate, drank and did business. By the 1830s, taverns had new style saloon bars devoted to musical clubs. Comic songs were the most popular and the audience would join in. Marie Lloyd was one of the biggest Music Hall stars and started aged 14.

Our speaker had a piano accompanist, and we were encouraged to join in the singing. It is amazing how many of the old songs we all knew. A great time was had by all!

On 18 March at 2.00 pm we shall meet in the village hall for a talk on the *History of Pub Names*. New members are most welcome.

**Margaret Welsh 684238**

## Long Compton Bridge Club

The Bridge Club has successfully launched and meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month in the village hall - from 7 - 9.30 pm on the 2nd and 2 - 4.30 pm on the 4th Tuesday.

We play informal rubber bridge at present, and welcome beginners. We have a mid-session break for tea/coffee etc and a chat! In due course we hope to become a bit more adventurous! Please call Chris or Gillie on 684234 if you have any queries.

**Chris Galloway 684234**

## Compton Creatives

We meet monthly on the third Monday, and occasionally at other times for workshops and outings. New members are always welcome.

Contact [caroline.nixon@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline.nixon@btinternet.com) or [jhburras@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jhburras@yahoo.co.uk)

# 2020 *Events Calendar*



**FEBRUARY 8** Concert - **Adderbury Ensemble**  
(Chamber Music, a programme including Dvorak, Mozart & Bridge)



**APRIL 4** **AGM - Supper + Film and Talk 'Your Village: 2020 Past'**  
(Showing BBC Countryfile footage filmed in 2000. This is part of a trio of village events celebrating the new decade)



**APRIL 4** **Photographic Competition Launch**



**MAY 2** Concert - **The Beatroots**  
(A mixed voice a cappella group based in Oxford who perform their own arrangements of whatever takes their fancy, mostly upbeat pop music)



**JUNE 7-21** **Village Treasure Hunt**  
(Winner notified by email soon after!)



**JULY 12** **Lychgate Open Day and**  
**AUGUST 9** **Cream Teas in the Church**

**SEPTEMBER 13** 2.00-5.00pm



**AUGUST 7** **Photographic Exhibition Launch**

**OCTOBER 10** Concert - **My Darling Clementine**  
(Country Duo - brilliant. Look them up!)



**NOVEMBER 27-29** **Christmas Tree Festival**

e: [friendslcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendslcchurch@gmail.com)  
w: [friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com](http://friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com)  
f: [@FriendsofLongComptonChurch](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLongComptonChurch)



The Friends of Long Compton Church  
is a registered charity number 1141040

**Long Compton Chapel**  
**Reflections and Afternoon Tea**  
**Sunday 15 March - 3.30pm**

Please bring along any memories, photos or other memorabilia which we hope to incorporate into our 200th Anniversary Exhibition in May and throughout the summer.

Details from Sally 07870 545431 or Elizabeth 07791 621778

## **Long Compton Parish Council**

### **Combined Charities**

A Combined Charities meeting took place in January. A note on the origin of the relevant funds had been circulated for interest. The Trustees reviewed the finances and from the Comptonians report on how grant had been utilised in 2019, they concluded that the Comptonians was the most suitable beneficiary meeting the Charities remit. Thus, a grant of £600 was allocated with a small balance being retained for reserve purposes.

### **Wildlife Survey**

The 2019 Wildlife Survey revealed how important the presence of wildlife is to the village. After comments relating to verges, it has decided to trial two areas for wildflowers on Bury Way. Stratford District Council and Cotswold Conservation Board are offering support. The Council is aware that small changes like this can help contribute towards improving the environment for the benefit of the climate. Making this change will affect verge management in the future – with less mowing and actions to reduce soil fertility to suppress grasses to allow flowers to grow. Encouraging flowers will help bees and other pollinating insects. Villagers are also encouraged to delay mowing off dandelions, etc. as they are valuable sources of early nectar for pollinators.

### **What Makes a Villager**

This is a collaborative project that arose from the involvement of Acorns School pupils in the 2019 Annual Parish Assembly featuring the sale of the village in 1919 and their study on social change. This proved to be very popular, and the Parish Clerk was invited into school to share her memories of village life. She was impressed with the children's enthusiasm and interest in the changes she had witnessed.

As Parish Clerk, she was aware of the changing mix of village residents and certain elements of division between 'old and new' villagers. Half of the class she was interviewed by didn't live in the village and therefore had a certain disconnect with the village environment. Discussions with Acorns Head, Hannah Young, the subject of *What Makes a Villager* arose and it was agreed to explore the theme as it linked into various aspects of the school's curriculum and would involve the Acorns School Council.

As children are naturally inquisitive and have a way of asking direct questions, it was decided to engage in role reversal, with children of all ages setting questions and interviewing a wide cross-section of village residents.

Long Compton has always had an active interest in 'local history' and a comprehensive paper archive, to which this new project of an 'oral record' will make an important contribution, but most importantly an easily accessible and enduring record available via social media. As became evident, there would be considerable cost

implications in recording interviews with relevant illustrative footage, so a grant application was submitted to The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The application was successful and Long Compton Parish Council was awarded a grant of £9,500. All parties are delighted with the award that will allow justice to be done to the project.

The project will be formally launched at the Annual Parish Assembly on Wednesday 20 May in the village hall when the children will be invited to practise their interview techniques on Parish Councillors – a group with very diverse residency in the village. We are therefore very much looking forward to their responses on *What Makes a Villager*.

### **Diseases from Dog Waste**

It is surprising that some dog owners who are very good about cleaning up after their dogs in built-up areas are unaware that it's at least as important to do similar when they are on country footpaths or in fields. Neosporosis can cause abortions in cattle and is thought to be responsible for the highest proportion of cattle abortions reported in the UK. Neospora eggs are produced by infected dogs and excreted in their faeces. Cattle will become infected if they eat grass, or drink water contaminated with the eggs.

Sarcocystosis is also caused by parasites, which can use dogs as intermediate hosts, and similarly the eggs are produced and excreted in faeces. In terms of both these diseases, faeces from infected dogs can contaminate pasture and animal feed, water or bedding. There is currently no licensed vaccine or drugs available for these diseases.

**Elizabeth Gilkes, Parish Clerk**

### **Long Compton & District Walkers**

The walk in February fell in the week between Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis and in spite of being fearful that we would encounter some awful weather, in fact we were very fortunate. The morning was bright and sunny and although fairly breezy at times, we enjoyed a walk of about five miles around the 'Deddington Loop'.

This was a route we had walked some years ago, but that did not matter as there is always something new to see, and many of the group did not know the area. Setting off from Deddington, we were soon in open countryside heading towards the disused Deddington Mill. There was a fair amount of water pouring over the mill race but nothing to cause any alarm. Our coffee stop was taken in the shelter of a wall and hedge, before making our way along the wonderfully named Snakehill Lane to Hempton and then completing the circuit back to our starting point.

Thank you to our leaders who volunteered to fill the gap in the rota and for arranging lunch at the very hospitable local pub. Our next walk will be on Tuesday 10 March, meeting as usual in the car park at the Red Lion at 9.30 am.

**Jan Treadaway 684553**

### **Long Compton Neighbourhood Watch**

Our local Co-Ordinator is Jordan Boswell, who would very much welcome reports of suspicious behaviour. Do let him know about anything that seems to you to be out of the ordinary. Your information might just be the little piece of the jigsaw that helps solve a problem. All calls and e-mails are completely confidential – your name will not be made public.



Contact Jordan on 07795 008998, or at [jordanlboswell@hotmail.com](mailto:jordanlboswell@hotmail.com)

## The 100 Club

The first draw of the year was held at the Social Saturday in the village hall on 8 February. The winners were:

1st Prize - 47 Stuart Allen      3rd Prize - 110 Josie Bayliss  
2nd Prize - 20 Trevor Hobday    4th Prize - 152 Alison Haine

The next draw will be held at 12.00 at the Social Saturday/Mad March Fair in the village hall on Saturday 14 March. Come to the hall to look at the stalls, have a cup of coffee and watch the draw – better still, stay for a delicious bowl of soup.

**Chris Galloway 684234**

## Long Compton Chapel - A Congregational Church

2020 is an important year for the chapel as it celebrates its 200-year anniversary.

To initiate the celebrations, the chapel is asking for reflections and memories to be shared, ideally at a gathering on Sunday 15 March when they can be recorded, or by sending to [longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com](mailto:longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com) Any document or photo that you may have to share relevant to the chapel will be treasured. We hope to display all memorabilia and historical information in an exhibition to celebrate our bicentennial anniversary.

The Easter Service (12 April at 3.00 pm) will include a welcome for new members to the chapel community and if you might be interested in knowing more about this, do get in touch. Essentially, all are welcome to attend services, but it is the members who collaboratively make decisions on behalf of the chapel.

Historical research is taking place and members have already spent an interesting few hours transcribing the complex original deed documents giving names of the original parties to its formation.

On a practical level it is hoped that the school works will finish in March and once the site hut has been removed, the contractors will be installing grass matting to the carpark area. The chapel are actively engaged in discussions with the school regarding combined use of carpark facilities.

Other dates to note are:

4 March	Scrabble 7.00 pm
7 March	Whist 7.30 pm
15 March	Chapel Reflections Tea
18 March	Scrabble 7.00 pm
4 April	Whist 7.00 pm
12 April	Easter Service 3.00 pm
31 May	Bicentennial Anniversary Service 11.00 am
21 June	Shipston Proms Event
Sun 19 July	Memorial Garden Blessing
Sun 29 August	Village flower and produce show
19 July	Memorial Garden Dedication
27 September	Harvest Festival
3 October	Harvest Supper

**Sally Franklin - 01608 684739 / 07870 545431**  
**Elizabeth Gilkes - 01608 684336 / 07791 621778**

# Friends of Long Compton Church

## **Why does the church need a Friends Group?**

The role of the FLCC is to raise funds to repair and maintain the church building and grounds and to promote a wider use of the building by the community beyond that of worship. The Friends also seeks to inform visitors of the history and heritage of the church.

## **How does the Friends go about raising funds?**

We raise funds by running events at the church such as talks, concerts, exhibitions and community activities/competitions.

## **Who benefits from these activities?**

Our target audience is the residents of Long Compton and surrounding villages. Our events provide a great opportunity for locals to socialise in a relaxed environment.

## **What repair and maintenance projects have the Friends helped with since its creation in 2011?**

These have varied in size, cost and frequency but include; repairs to the lead roof; repairs to the drystone boundary walls; rewiring, fire and security systems; replacement of the heating boilers; and grass cutting.

e: [friendslcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendslcchurch@gmail.com)  
w: [friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com](http://friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com)  
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## Quarter Peal Success for Long Compton Bell Ringers



Six of the regular band of Long Compton church bellringers banished the January blues by successfully ringing a quarter peal on Saturday 25 January. The Quarter Peal was to mark the new year and the new decade. (Left to right: Michael Cummings, Trevor Hobday, Caroline Makepeace, Len Morley, Sarah Elliott, Martyn Young).

What is a quarter peal and why is it such a big deal? Trevor Hobday the tower captain explains: 'A quarter peal is 1260 changes of bells rung continuously for just under an hour. We rang a method called Bob Doubles and not only do we have to remember which bell needs to be rung in which position, but we also change the sequence every few times and this is called a *bob*. The bells need to be struck perfectly and if anyone makes a mistake this can result in a cascade effect where all the bells gradually sound out of time and the whole sequence collapses.'

This is the first time in over ten years that Long Compton ringers have completed a quarter peal and their achievement will be recorded at the Four Shires Guild. The ringers were:

Treble - Caroline Makepeace  
2 - Sarah Elliott  
3 - Michael Cummings  
4 - Len Morley  
5 - Trevor Hobday  
Tenor - Martyn Young

Bell ringing is great fun and a good opportunity to meet new people. If you fancy giving it a try, come and join us to see if you like it! Please contact Trevor Hobday on 864818 or come to one of our practices every other week at Long Compton church.

### The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to John Lawrence who was the winner of the February Reading Room draw.

**Jenny Scrivener**

### Nature Encounters



This crazy collared dove looked very beautiful in the dappled light as she braved the elements on Valentine's Day to begin nesting again. I just hope the nest was up to the job after Storm Dennis hit this weekend. Luckily the base was glued together with the droppings from last autumn's successful fledgling.

**Patrick Fox**

### Monthly Craft Meetings

We meet on the first Monday of the month at 10.00 -11.30 am at The Old Rectory in Whichford by kind permission by Caroline O'Kane. Do join us for tea or coffee and chat and bring along any handcraft work you are currently doing. Some of us are still doing kneelers started many months ago! You may prefer to bring your own project.

Do also pop into St. Michael's church in Whichford and see the new kneelers. We have 20 new beautiful kneelers made by Di Russell. They make a lovely addition and really brighten things up. We are now working out our next creative venture.

If you would like to know more, please give us a ring.

Sophie Corlett 684369, Mandy James 684479

## *Save Our Hedgehogs*

### *A Talk by Kyra and Sophie*

*Two remarkable 13-year-old girls are coming to tell us how they have already saved over 500 hedgehogs in the Stratford area. Their work has been recently recognised by David Attenborough. The girls have become ambassadors for the RSPCA. Do come along and find out more!*



*St. Michael's Church, Whichford*

*Thursday 9 April - 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm*

*Entrance Fee: Adults £5.00 Children £1.00*  
*Refreshments, Raffle, Games*

*All Proceeds to Hedgehog Friendly Town*

*Tickets: Mandy James (jamesgranard@aol.com, 01608 684479*

*Hilary Blakemore (HilaryBlakemore@aol.com, 01608 684*

## The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The February winners were as follows:

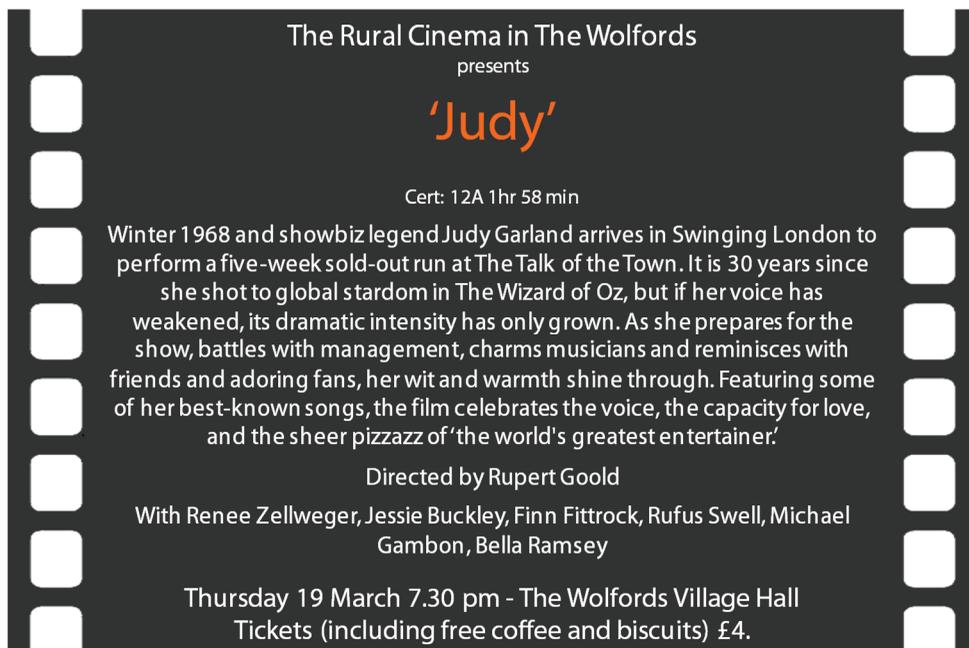
1st prize – Paul Riley

2nd prize – Roz Warriner

3rd prize – Hayden and Helena Jones

Many congratulations to the above. Please let me know if you would like to have more shares as the club is still short of 100 shares. All proceeds go to help with the upkeep of the village hall.

**James van Helden**



The Rural Cinema in The Wolfords  
presents

# 'Judy'

Cert: 12A 1hr 58 min

Winter 1968 and showbiz legend Judy Garland arrives in Swinging London to perform a five-week sold-out run at The Talk of the Town. It is 30 years since she shot to global stardom in The Wizard of Oz, but if her voice has weakened, its dramatic intensity has only grown. As she prepares for the show, battles with management, charms musicians and reminisces with friends and adoring fans, her wit and warmth shine through. Featuring some of her best-known songs, the film celebrates the voice, the capacity for love, and the sheer pizzazz of 'the world's greatest entertainer.'

Directed by Rupert Goold

With Renee Zellweger, Jessie Buckley, Finn Fittock, Rufus Swell, Michael Gambon, Bella Ramsey

Thursday 19 March 7.30 pm - The Wolfords Village Hall  
Tickets (including free coffee and biscuits) £4.

## The Wolfords WI

In February we had a very interesting speaker. Di Vernon had been a midwife for many years, but she said the death of Victoria Wood was an inspiration for her to do something creative and change direction. She decided she would like to work with glass and so, in 2014, enrolled on a one-day course on glassware. Two years ago, she took early retirement from midwifery.

Di demonstrated how to cut glass before two members had a go, after cutting the glass it is necessary to grind the glass to soften the cut edges and then use a fancy sellotape, in reality a copper foil, to wrap around the glass before soldering the pieces together. Examples of her work, such as coasters made of fused glass, were on show and also for sale. She is now embarking on a blacksmithing course because of her interest in making leaded windows, showing us an example of one she had done. A fascinating and interesting evening.

Visitors are always welcome. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in The Wolfords village hall at 7.30 pm. For further details, please contact Sue Elliott on 01608 674295

## Quiz and Fish and Chips Supper



Saturday 18 April at 7.00 pm

Wolfords Village Hall

£12.50 per person



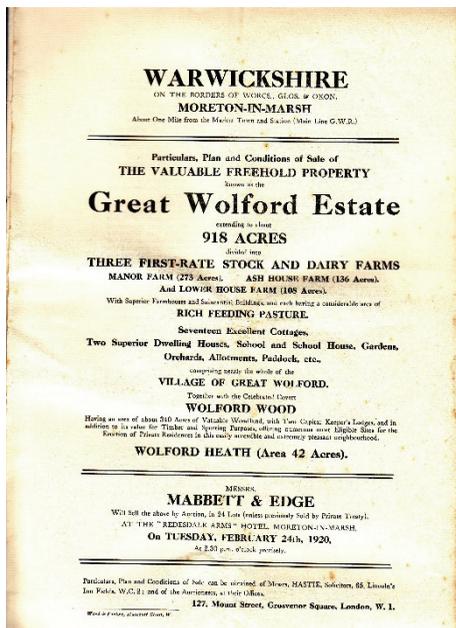
A really good night out with a first-class fish & chip supper and a lively Quiz. Come in a ready-made team or join up with others on the night.

Bring your own drinks and we'll provide glasses.

In aid of St. Michael & All Angels Church, The Wolfords

Book Now:

Janet Piller (674 396), John Wrench (674 389), Ann McKenna (674 009)



Villagers in Great Wolford maybe interested to know that it was 100 years ago in February that the Great Wolford Estate, which consisted of 918 acres in three farms, seventeen cottages, two superior dwelling houses, a school and a school house, gardens, etc. was sold by the Batsford Estate



# VE DAY

75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 - 10 MAY 2020

## VE DAY Celebrations in Great Wolford - Friday 8 May

Food and bar from 2.30 pm  
The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2  
Display of WW2 Military Vehicles  
Bells Ringing Out for Peace

*Hold the date and join in the celebrations!*

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# Chairman's Corner

## Always Look on the Bright Side...?

From time to time, I've been accused of being negative or putting a jinx on things. That's a little bit harsh. I prefer to say that I have a realistic approach, and I like to be prepared, just in case. 'Prepare for the worst, but hope for the best', to misquote Disraeli. It probably goes with the territory for someone whose jobs have involved risk assessment and finding faults in computer software – essentially, looking for areas that could go wrong, anticipating them and determining the best way to minimise or fix them.

People of a sunnier disposition may be eternal optimists, can't see what all the fuss is about, and say that everything will turn out fine. We naturally gravitate towards optimists – after all, who doesn't want to hear good news and to feel happy? Nobody wants doomsters and gloomsters.

Optimism can be a double-edged sword though, depending on how it's applied. Optimism drives us forward, because we have the belief and confidence that we might be able to achieve an ambition, win a competition, pass an exam, or enjoy a forthcoming holiday. The downside is that if we don't achieve our goal, then we think that we have failed, or that it has all gone wrong. On the other hand, when the odds are against us, optimism can be the impetus that we need to succeed. Looking for the positives in a bad situation demonstrates resilience and strength of character - essential traits when trying to solve a problem or turning a setback to your advantage.

The concept of happiness, and its pursuit, is a complex subject. Happiness is difficult to define and differs from person to person – to some, it is measured by their connection with friends and family, to others it may be ownership of the latest gadgets and accessories, popularity on social media, or the level of career success. Some might prefer to find happiness and fulfilment through charitable work or via spiritual means.

The illusionist Derren Brown recently described an interesting thought experiment by the philosopher William Irvine, a modern stoic. Imagine waking up one day to find that you were the only person left on the planet. Perspectives would change; for example, there would be no desire to live in a huge house, to wear designer clothes, or to acquire material items – primarily because there wouldn't be anyone around to impress or compete with. Rather than the usual tendency to want things that we don't have, there would be a shift to wanting what we already have. Another aspect affecting happiness is the worry and frustration of not being in control. According to Irvine, we are only in control of our thoughts and our actions - nothing else. It does not matter what people think of us, how well they are doing compared to ourselves, or even whether they do what we ask – this is all beyond our control. Theoretically, adopting this principle could lead to an improved level of contentment.

Ultimately, the simplest and best advice comes from the late great Bob Marley (and Bobby McFerrin): 'Don't worry, be happy.'

Simon Lewis-Beeching, [chairman@swlink.org.uk](mailto:chairman@swlink.org.uk)

March is of course daffodils. The first of the month is the day for St. David, and for this page, some Welsh poetry.

I've selected George Herbert, a Welsh-born poet, orator, and priest of the Church of England. Herbert was born in Montgomery in 1593 and is recognised as one of the foremost British devotional lyricists. He was born into an artistic and wealthy family and largely raised in England. He received a good education that led to his attending Trinity College, Cambridge in 1609. He became the University's Public Orator, a prestigious position, and briefly served in the Parliament of England in 1624-5.



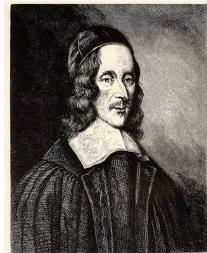
His poem *The Altar* is what's known as a 'pattern poem', in that the shape of the words is significant. The shorter and longer lines are arranged on the page in the shape of an altar. The illustration beside the poem itself shows the shape of the Altar and often these poems were published sideways on the page.

## *The Altar*

A broken ALTAR, Lord, thy servant rears,  
Made of a heart and cemented with tears;  
Whose parts are as thy hand did frame;  
No workman's tool hath touch'd the same.  
A HEART alone  
Is such a stone,  
As nothing but  
Thy pow'r doth cut.  
Wherefore each part  
Of my hard heart  
Meets in this frame  
To praise thy name.  
That if I chance to hold my peace,  
These stones to praise thee may not cease.  
Oh, let thy blessed SACRIFICE be mine,  
And sanctify this ALTAR to be thine.

George Herbert 1593 - 1633

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Please keep your poetry suggestions coming; writing them for us would be even better! Please be sure to submit your suggestions in good time bearing in mind that more recent poems will often be protected by copyright and if this is the case, the publisher's permission will need to be obtained.

Keith Murphy, [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)