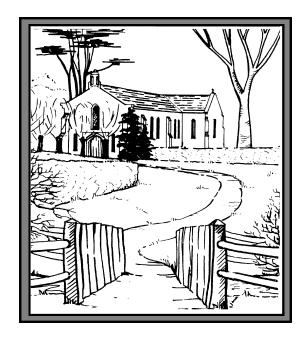
# The Bridge



Worton and Marston Parish Magazine

February 2021

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# THE BRIDGE

Editor: Giles Collins editorofthebridge@gmail.com

Due to the coronavirus measures, the magazine will not be printed and distributed for the foreseeable future, it will instead be published straight to two websites:

# www.worton.org.uk and www.christchurchworton.org.uk

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Some advantages however are that the magazine will now be in colour,

no clarity will be lost through the printing process, and, instead of the 15<sup>th</sup>, items can now be included up until 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.

# Recognition in New Year's Honours List

Congratulations to **Mercedes Henning** from Edington, formerly a resident of Worton, Head teacher of Holy Trinity CofE Primary Academy, Great Cheverell. She has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list, for services to education in Wiltshire.

Two of her main focuses have been promoting cultural awareness and integrating the school with the local community. She says her MBE reflects the work of school staff, parents and the Great Cheverell community. Mercedes moved from South Africa to Wiltshire where she took up the role of class teacher at Holy Trinity School in 2001.

# **Postponement**

The distributors of The Bridge would normally be collecting the £3.00 annual subscription when they distribute the March edition. Due to the fact that no distribution will now take place until Coronavirus measures have been relaxed, the collection has been postponed until further notice. Many apologies.

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#### SERVICE CALENDAR

ALL SERVICES SUBJECT TO REVISION, DEPENDING ON COVID REGULATIONS

Services open to the general public at Christ Church and Marston Chapel are suspended until further notice.

Wellsprings Benefice Services will be live streamed from Christ Church at 10.00am each Sunday in February. The online services will be available via the usual zoom link or as a recording after the service on the Wellsprings website:

https://www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk

There were no weddings, baptisms or funerals at Christ Church in December.

Visit the church website: www.christchurchworton.org.uk

#### **Christ Church Team**

Rector: Rev'd Ali Bridewell 01380 739064 07847 952868 alison.bridewell@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Jean Lane 01380 722069 Heather Walker 01380 725785

# **FIVE LANES WI**

As with all other organisations, we have been forced to continue contact by email and telephone. There was a short period of time towards the end of the summer when we thought we might be able to ease back in to some sort of contact, but then Lockdown 2 happened. Now of course, Lockdown 3 and increased spread has dashed all those hopes. The good news is that the vaccine seems to be gaining pace, and gives us hope for gathering together in a few months' time. Please do contact any committee member for a chat or if we can help in any way.

Jean Lane 722069



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# **Pastoral Letter**

It is almost 10 months since the first covid lockdown and the situation seems to be getting worse rather than better. We hear stories of ambulances queuing with patients destined for hospital A&E departments; routine operations being cancelled; care for noncovid conditions being scaled back and, in some areas ceasing, at least temporarily.

When will it end? Will the vaccine really stop the pandemic? How long before life can return to 'normal'? How much do I need to do to keep myself and my family safe?

There will be so many questions and worries that we have.

It's easy to be fearful when things aren't going well or when we are faced with challenges and conflict in our life. One of the psalms that I find most comforting is Psalm 46 which speaks of God's defence of his City and people:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

In the midst of their struggle, God tells His people to wake up and recognize who's on their side. He says (verse 10):

"Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

So in effect God is saying, "Stop striving, stop fighting, and stop trying to do things on your own. Stop stressing about the battle ahead and trust me. I am the Lord. I am your refuge and your strength. You have nothing to fear or worry about when I am with you."

In the midst of conflict and life turmoil, sometimes we just need to open our eyes, step back, stop what we're doing, and acknowledge who God is and what He can do. Doing so provides comfort in the chaos and peace in the midst of struggle.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

The acknowledgement of who God is and that he is in control helps us to take our worries to him in prayer. This is a prayer for hospital staff and medical researchers:

(continued from previous page)

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick,

and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.

Strengthen them with your Spirit that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

You can find other Covid related prayers on the Church of England website: <a href="https://bit.ly/38jmCpz">https://bit.ly/38jmCpz</a> which you can also assess with this QR code.

Stay safe and God bless you.

# Liz Starling

Licensed Lay Minister - Wellsprings Benefice





# FEBRUARY BOOK SWAP



Another month of lockdown – but days are lengthening, vaccines are coming, so there must be light at end of tunnel. Meanwhile we can keep reading, and imagine the places we read about and can't visit at the moment.

01380 723136 or judy.shercliff@gmail.com



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# From Christ Church:

We hope all those who saw the Carol trailer which toured the Benefice villages of Potterne, Worton and Marston, Seend, Bulkington and Poulshot just before Christmas enjoyed it. This took the place of the Carol services in the churches. Revd. Ali, Stu, and Revd. Adrian worked tremendously hard in preparing the trailer and visiting the five villages on consecutive evenings. We know that they enjoyed doing it, and seeing so many people.

The Ministry team is very aware there are people who are feeling lonely and isolated. If you would like to have a chat with Revd. Ali or a member of the team, if you know of anyone who would benefit from this, or if you would like to include anyone in the prayer list please contact Sarah, the Benefice Administrator on <a href="mailto:sarahleck-ie.wba@gmail.com">sarahleck-ie.wba@gmail.com</a> or call the Rectory on 01380-739064.

Revd. Ali and Revd. Adrian are walking around the Benefice villages in turn, with their dogs, usually on a Tuesday morning, stopping to chat to those they meet on the way. If you see them, please stop and say hello.

For everyone's safety there will be only one Sunday service a week at 10am for the Benefice until 28<sup>th</sup> February. This will be zoomed from Christ Church, with readings and prayers being led remotely by each church in turn. This will be reviewed for future services.

Please use the usual zoom link:

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6778119535

Please see separate poster in The Bridge with more information.

We pray that our communities keep safe, and for all those suffering in any part of the world.

Heather & Jean, Churchwardens

### LOOKING FOR A BABYSITTER?

I am a qualified first aid baby sitter situated in the Worton/Marston area.

The information please contact met Leila Sala

For more information please contact me: Leila Salaman via: email: Leila@salaman.com

Mobile - 07414 203066 Telephone - 01380 720120

Joy and Nick Stokes are very appreciative of all the kind offers of help and the messages of support received since Joy was taken into hospital.

They would like to thank the village and said "what a great community we live in".

### A MESSAGE FOR ALL NEWCOMERS TO WORTON AND MARSTON DURING 2020

The Family of Churches have usually organised and held a welcome party at the end of January for people who have moved to our two villages during the previous twelve months. This has been taking place for over forty years, and is an opportunity for newcomers to meet with longer term residents and representatives of village organisations.

For obvious reasons, this sadly cannot be held this January, but we hope to organise one later in the year when large groups of people are able to gather once again.

If later in the year proves impossible, we will aim to hold a joint welcome in January 2022 for the newcomers of 2020 and 2021.

Newcomers of 2020 should have received a personal note through the door, but if you have been missed out, please contact the numbers below so that we can keep our record up-to-date for when we are able to deliver invitations.

Jean Lane 722069 Heather Walker 725785

#### FAMILY OF CHURCHES IN WORTON AND MARSTON

This small group made up from members of Christ Church, the Methodist/URC Chapel and the Catholic Church, organise throughout the year (in normal times):

January Newcomers' Welcome Party

Easter Good Friday walk and soup lunch Summer Open-air service on Marston Green

December Beer and carols at the Rose and Crown

December Carols by candlelight at Marston Chapel



# **Lockdown Update:**

Changes to Services in January and February 2021





From Sunday 10th January to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February, we will be limiting ourselves to one online weekly service which will be zoomed at 10:00am from Christ Church at Worton & Marston.

**Continued services:** We will continue with morning prayer via Zoom at 9:00am on Wednesday and Friday mornings. We will also continue with evening prayer on Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm.

**Private Prayer:** The churches in Seend, Bulkington, Poulshot and Potterne will be open for private prayer between 9:00am and dusk each Sunday. Christ Church, Worton & Marston will not be open for private prayer.

**Stopped services:** All other in person services and meetings will be cancelled until after the end of February 2021. This includes our Sunday 8:00am services and Little Springers, our service for younger families.

**Study course to commence:** We will be starting a study course, based on prayer, on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. During the prayer course the usual Thursday evening prayers will not take place.

All of the online services and gatherings will be available via the usual zoom link: <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6778119535">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6778119535</a> or as a recording after the service on the Wellsprings website <a href="https://www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk">https://www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk</a>

Please regularly check the Wellsprings website or Facebook page for updates during this time of change.

Rev Ali and the Ministry Team

**QR** code link to the online zoom services



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# **Obituary**

#### Jean Keates

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Jean Keates on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December at Dauntsey House. With her husband Jim she moved to Worton in September 1987 to begin their retirement. She quickly settled into Worton life being involved with the Church, the WI, the Bridge and village choral productions. She was also a governor of Five Lanes School. In addition to her village activities, she used to enjoy riding and was a volunteer with the RDA. After the death of Jim in 2015 she moved to Dauntsey House and died after a short illness.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

David Keates, son of Jean and Jim

A poem read out by one of Jean's granddaughters at her funeral:

# Remember

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you planned:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

Christina Rossetti - 1830-1894

# **Obituary**

# Jane Matthews



It is with great sadness that I write to record that on the 11th of December Jane passed away following a typically brave battle with cancer.

Jane and her husband Richard moved to Ware Farm in 1988. During her time in the village Jane was a regular church goer attending both St Mary's Potterne and Christ Church Worton.

A keen gardener she was also a member of the Worton Gardening Club. Jane was a ready, willing and able helper at many of the village functions providing a practical 'can do' attitude along with seemingly boundless energy.

(continued from previous page)

She was a friendly, welcoming face to any newcomer and a hospitable host who always had time for those who called in at Ware Farm.

A keen rider and walker Jane campaigned for the improvement and upkeep of many of our footpaths and bridleways.

An accomplished horsewoman Jane was passionate about the therapeutic benefits derived from both riding and from horse contact.

Working with the Riding for the Disabled Association Jane supported some of our early gold winning Olympic riders.

Appointed County Chairwoman for Wiltshire RDA Jane was an innovative force striving to modernise and improve the Association. The driving force behind the fund raising, Jane and her team raised a huge sum towards the cost of building the indoor riding school at Lackham college. This lead to the formation of the Lackham and Chippenham Riding for the Disabled Group, a feat that was marked by HRH Princess Anne opening the indoor school.

With Jane at the helm Lackham and Chippenham became a highly successful group catering for a wide range of ages and disabilities.

Not content with that achievement Jane went on to help with the formation of the Lackham Carriage Driving Group which later moved to Marlborough and was renamed Kennet Valley Carriage Driving Group.

Jane's achievements within the RDA were acknowledged in 2010 when HRH Princess Anne presented her with the President's Award.

Jane touched so many lives. The people and causes that she took to her heart benefited from her enthusiasm and encouragement. She was of that wonderful 'yes you can' generation.

She leaves a huge hole in the lives of those who knew her and although she moved from the village some 8 years ago she will be sadly missed by many villagers.

The family have asked that any donations made in her memory are to be made to Wiltshire Community Foundation: www.wiltshirecf.org.uk

Cathy Kavanagh

(continued from previous page)

# A poem read at Jane's funeral

#### Remember Me

You can shed tears that she is gone
or you can smile because she has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left.
You heart can be empty because you can't see her
or you can be full of the love that you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember her and only that she is gone
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
or you can do what she'd want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

#### **David Harkins**

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www.wortonmarstonvillagehall.btck.co.uk/

# **Invitation to the Wiltshire Climate Summit**

# Online on 19th February from 11am - 4pm

Wiltshire residents are urged to share their views on climate change ahead of the COP 26 conference in Glasgow when world leaders will review efforts to reduce carbon emissions and tackle global warming.

Danny Kruger MP will be holding a virtual conference - the Wiltshire Climate Summit - on 19<sup>th</sup> February from 11am - 4pm. The conference will include a range of local and national speakers including the former President of COP26, and former Devizes MP, Claire Perry-O'Neill, and the Prime Minister's business envoy to COP26, Andrew Griffiths MP.

Mr Kruger believes that we in Wiltshire have our part to play in reducing climate change and, he hopes, in influencing the decision-makers in Glasgow.

He says, "I very much hope we will have a stimulating conference with some practical proposals that I can use in Parliament in the run -up to Glasgow."

Attendance is open to all.

You can register to attend at: <a href="https://forms.gle/ia5WEKTREPFpmZou8">https://forms.gle/ia5WEKTREPFpmZou8</a>

# The Food Box

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If you would like to go on the email list, please email me at:

barnes208@btinternet.com

Gerald

# Wanted: UK bison rangers

(abridged version of a BBC article)

Two people are being sought to manage a small herd of wild European bison being introduced into Blean Woods, near Canterbury, to help restore the woodland for wildlife. It is hoped that the bison, the closest living relative to the ancient steppe bison that once roamed Britain, will positively disrupt pine plantations within the ancient woodland for the benefit of other species.

Bison fell trees by rubbing up against them and eating the bark, creating areas of space and light in woods and providing dead wood which helps thousands of invertebrate species. They also create patches of bare earth by dust bathing, which can provide habitat for insects and lizards.

Bison had been driven to extinction in Europe by 1927 and were only saved by the existence of the zoo population. In 1954 the first animals were returned to live freely in a forest in Poland. The herd has now grown to more than 1,000 bison and the species has been reintroduced to other European countries as part of restoration and rewilding projects.

The UK herd of four European bison will be introduced into a 200-hectare (500-acre) fenced enclosure in the woods. Two people are needed to help keep the bison in as wild a state as possible so that they can follow their natural behaviour patterns and consequently have the greatest positive impact on the environment.

The project organisers said that no significant experience with bison was required for the ranger posts but candidates would need ecological knowledge, understanding of animal behaviour, and a passion to tell others about the creatures. The bison are set to arrive in the spring of 2022.



# Letters to the Editor

#### Dear Mr Collins,

There have been several letters published in The Bridge in recent years on the subject of the distress caused to pets and other animals by fireworks.

At about midnight on New Year's Eve several aerial explosives detonated extremely loudly above Gaisford Chase. Our house shook with the blast from these pyrotechnics that seemed to be more akin to military or marine maroons rather than the much less alarming fireworks sold for celebratory events such as 5<sup>th</sup> November and New Year's Eve. My suspicions that the aerial explosions were from pyrotechnics of a type not normally sold to the general public were enhanced when my neighbour and I found parts of the rockets/maroons in our gardens.

So loud were the detonations of these explosives that I dread to think what effect they must have had on animals that are terrified of loud detonations. If the person who set off them off normally lives in the village I wonder if they will be decent enough to own up and apologise through the pages of the parish magazine for this antisocial act that was so cruel to many animals and was lacking in any useful purpose.

JOHN CRAIG 12a Gaisford Chase, Worton

#### Dear Sir

Everybody in Worton knows there is a problem with dog poo left by inconsiderate and selfish people; some will not pick it up, others bag it and drop it by the dog poo signs. There is also a problem with horse muck in Church Lane and Footpath 10. The riders know their horses are dropping the muck when riding and should go back to clear it up. This is the route to church for many who are wearing their good clothes and they don't want to go home stinking of horses. In these times of lockdown the paths are used much more than usual so it is even more important.

Roger Wilshire

# Let's make Worton and Marston have a fun February!

# A Butterfly and Bug trail



Place a picture, painting, homemade model, butterfly or bug decoration in your window or front garden where it can be seen.

All residents are welcome to take part in this bit of lockdown cheer.

Place your creations in windows and gardens from February 1<sup>st</sup>, so when people take their daily outdoor exercise you can bring a smile to their face.





Spread the news in Worton and Marston.

Please keep to all Government rules and guidance.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Help make a drab February more colourful.

# **Ladies Group**

This letter, written on behalf of Sheila by her family, unfortunately came to me too late for the January magazine, but I thought that members/friends past and present might like to catch up on how Sheila (Hale) is getting on at the Westbury Nursing Home where she has been a resident for several years.

Sheila was president of the villages' Ladies Group for many years and always did her best to keep us in order! "Oh no she didn't", "Oh yes she did". Quite an achievement in the days when we used to make-up and write our own Village Hall shows and pantomimes. Sheila made a wonderful Fairy and mimicked a marvellous Madonna.

Primrose Wright

# "Dear Ladies Group

What a year it has been. I hope you and your family are well. It has been a worrying time for us all. I am still at the Nursing Home and we are all OK here. Obviously, with things the way they are, my family has not been able to visit. I have seen Alison and Jacqueline through a window but with them having to use face masks and not touch, it makes communication difficult.

The family is growing even bigger. Sharron has three grandsons and another on the way. Nigel now has a grandaughter. Paula will become a grandmother next June and Jacqueline finally had a grandson after previously only having grandaughters. So by next June I will have 13 great grandchildren. It will be lovely to be able to see the new family additions at some stage.

I was able to see the twins before the family moved up to Catterick in November. The nursing home allowed them to have a special visit.

There really is not much more news at the moment but stay safe and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love Sheila"

#### Worton Parish Council

Well, so far 2021 has a very strange feel to it. It's hard to be sure as "normal" human contact has got even more difficult, but I get the impression that our village is managing to maintain its resilient air. For me, things don't seem the same as they were first time round. The urgency doesn't seem to be there which led to the hasty formation of our Worton Good Neighbours support group. With this in mind, I haven't reactivated it - for the time being at least -as I feel we have all found coping strategies that work for us without the need for formal organisation. Worton and Marston Link are still able to offer similar services to those that the Good Neighbours provided in the early stages of the pandemic and are coping with current needs -as far as I am aware. Of course if the situation deteriorates, and I am aware of increasing infections in our area, I will rethink. What I would say is that I really hope that the less formal "good neighbourliness" which has been so important can continue through even more difficult times within the changing rules and seasonal challenges. Let's all stick together and there is surely real hope for the future.

As far as the "virtual" parish council is concerned, we continue to work online - with all of us being much more at home with the technology than we would have imagined.

By the time you read this, the Cedar Tree in Cedar Close may finally have gone. You may recall that we did put in an objection to the application to remove it as we had hoped to find a less severe way of dealing with the threat to nearby property. In the end this was not successful, but we did feel that we had done our best to save an important village landmark - in short, we had to try. I am very grateful to the residents who supported us in this.

I have included a diagram and explanation from the report on the tree which makes the basis on which the decision was made clear. There is no doubt that the lifespan of the tree was limited so I suppose we were only trying to delay the inevitable. There may still be an opportunity to claim a piece of history in the form of wood from the tree. Please let Liz Starling know if you are interested.

(continued from previous page)

In other matters....

The issue of dog fouling / bagging / removal continues to arise. Opinions differ on this, but it seems that the great majority "bag and remove" - however the trend of using the filled bags as some sort of strange epiphany decoration -hanging them from trees etc -is not particularly helpful. We are still exploring ways of providing more bins -especially along Back Lane, but in the meantime please continue to be considerate. In related issues, I am aware of concern about an increase in litter being left along footpaths and, more worryingly, of a barbed wire snare being deployed along the edge of the Back Lane path. Please note that this is illegal and should be reported to the police if you come across one.

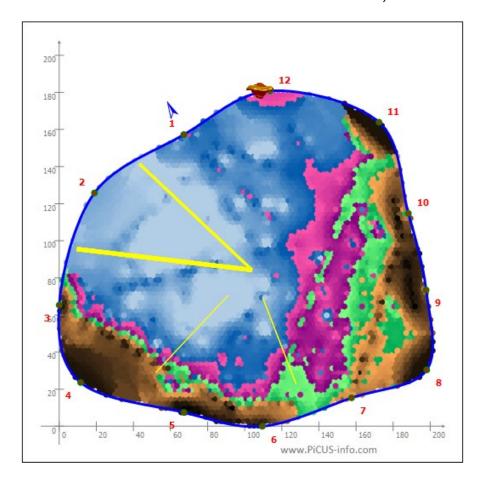
On a more positive note, we are exploring ways of celebrating our local history in the form of an illustrated guided walk, combined with signage to mark interesting historical points in the village. This would serve as a useful introduction to the village which would hopefully give us something to work together on and contribute to what I'm sure will be a much more positive year - all digits tightly crossed!

Keep safe and look after each other!

Barry



# Cross section of the Cedar tree at Cedar Close, Worton



The PICUS information is:

Brown=Good wood

Green = Early decay (or included bark)

Pink= Advanced decay

Blue= Cavity

# A Message from Richard Gamble Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons & Erlestoke Division

February is not only the shortest month of the year but it is often the coldest. Nevertheless, there are a number of traditional events associated with the period.

For some reason, the first event to come to mind is Pancake Day which, this year, is on 16 February. I don't pretend to be a good cook but I have always enjoyed the preparation and cooking of pancakes – almost as much as eating them. Traditionally, I would sprinkle them with sugar and lemon juice but my wife introduced me to the joys of maple syrup and my children enjoy a range of savoury fillings, so it seems that there is ample scope for a balanced meal.

The history, of course, is that pancakes comprised the last feast of palatable food before the privations of Lent, which put a spiritual angle on the inevitability of depravation and hunger at the tail end of winter. We are blessed that famine is unlikely in Wiltshire in 2021 but Lent is still regarded as a time to give up some decadent indulgence. I may have to stay away from caviar and champagne. It is appropriate that the first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, which is a day of repentance.

The main elements of our calendar date from the Julian reforms of 43 BC when Februarius became the second month of the year, but the name goes back as far as Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome, in 713 BC. The Latin term *februum* means *purification*, so the concept of virtuous fasting and inner cleansing at this time of year has a long history.

The other February event that comes to mind is Valentine's Day on 14<sup>th</sup> February. The feast of St Valentine dates from AD 496 but the main item of interest is that, in 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion in which couples expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines").

I hope you get your flowers, chocolates and cards on the 14<sup>th</sup> and your pancakes on the 16<sup>th</sup>. After that, if it is still cold and if we are still in lockdown, we might all have no option but to snuggle up until Easter.

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to <u>richard.gamble@wiltshire.gov.uk</u> or by phone on 07762 018209

# Worton and Marston Gardening Club

What a miserable start to 2021. Totally depressing news bulletins, and cold, damp and misty weather. I can accept the cold. It is January after all, but the grey, damp and misty weather we have endured for the past couple of weeks is really depressing. Perhaps a good fall of snow would have at least given us visual enjoyment and possibly a bit of excitement. I seem to remember one really cold frosty morning, followed by a brilliant sunny day, which I took full advantage of, by going for a long walk with Scooby, our Ridgeback cross Labrador dog and then working in the garden. Talking about the garden, we are missing our own parsnips, but are able to enjoy an excellent crop of leeks.

I have prepared our vegetable beds for next season and we do have some broad beans coming on, hopefully for early picking next summer. Little by little I am moving my large heap of horse manure to surround our many rose plants, all of which gave a wonderful display of flowers last year, one of our garden high points.

It is only early January, so perhaps the rest of Winter will continue to provide the kind of weather our gardens need and crave for, i.e. some cold, frosty mornings followed by brilliantly sunny days, mixed with enough rain to fill our reservoirs, but not the soaking we endured last year.

During my travels down into West and Mid Wales I have enjoyed the beautiful scenes of snow topped hills, without the problems of driving along the snowy, slippery roads that so often accompany long cold spells of weather. They haven't had quite as many overcast, misty days as we have. We are missing the sunshine we all need.

Let's hope for better days to come, now that a vaccine is on the way. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can meet up again.

In the meantime, keep sending your photos of gardens, walks, dogs, chickens or anything else, it's good to keep in touch!

Stay Safe!

Dave

(continued from previous page)





Early signs of Spring

Worton and Marston Gardening Club is a friendly, supportive group of enthusiastic gardeners with varying degrees of knowledge and expertise, from very knowledgeable to complete beginners.

Sadly, we have not been able to meet up in the real world for what feels like a very long time, but thanks to technology we have managed to keep in touch in the virtual world. We have been able to share amazing photographs, stories of successes (and challenges), hints and tips, seed/plant sharing and even a quiz to get our brains working in the depth of winter.

The gardening year never ends but Spring is one of the most exciting seasons and now is a great time to join our mailing list, just let us know and we will include you.

We are all looking forward to being able to meet up but until then let's keep sharing.

Happy Gardening

Sally svwood90@hotmail.com
Rosemary rosemaryrosenfeld@yahoo.co.uk



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# **Gardening Club Quiz**

- 1. What links Bacchus and John Steinbeck?
- 2. What links Basil Brush and digitalis?
- 3. Lancashire Lad is a variety of which fruit?
- 4. Which part of a tree is used to make cork?
- 5. Brown Turkey is a variety of which fruit?
- 6. Where would you find Makka Pakka and Upsy Daisy?
- 7. A banana plant is a herb....true or false?
- 8. Who was the gardener driven to distraction by Peter Rabbit?
- 9. Which fictional spy used the pseudonym *Anagallis arvensis?*
- 10. Which John Le Carre novel explores corruption in the pharmaceutical industry?
- 11. What was the first vegetable grown in space?
- 12. What colour are lingonberries?
- 13. Which fruit has its own museum in Belgium?
- 14. The asparagus fern is not a true fern....what is it?
- 15. Which plant features in Frank Sinatra's "High Hopes"?
- 16. What is a "potato-bogle"?
- 17. How deep is a spit?
- 18. What is the botanical name of the Beauty Berry shrub?
- 19. Which apple shares its name with an Asian mountain?
- 20. Approx. how many seeds on the average strawberry?

# Answers in the March edition of The Bridge



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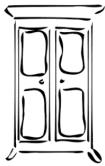




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# Are you Crafty?

<u>What</u> Making a small felt heart. We can provide felt and embellishments if you need anything.

When Friday 12th February @ 2pm

<u>Where</u> On-line Zoom meeting or we can provide help/instructions if you would prefer.

Contact: Rosemary 01380 725859 or Sarah 01380 720244 To book a place!







# Village Hall News

#### **Children's Pictures**

Trustees would like to thank Tegan, Nadia and Jessica for providing beautifully coloured stars to decorate the Village Hall windows over Christmas. Lots of villagers commented on how lovely the windows looked and how they cheered them up as they walked by. So well done girls, and thank you.

Following on from this, Trustees thought it would be nice to continue to use the windows as a mini art gallery to show pictures drawn by children of the two villages. And as all villagers are being asked to display butterflies or bugs as part of Fun February (see elsewhere in the newsletter) we are calling on all children to have a go at colouring a picture of either a butterfly or a bug. Make it as bright and cheerful as possible so that it will continue to make us smile as we walk by. Once your pictures are done you can take them to the plastic box outside the Village Hall and a Trustee will collect them from there and display them in the village hall windows.

#### Query

I have received a letter from a Peter Boddon who was an evacuee to Worton during the war. He is looking for a photograph of the cannon that stood outside the Village Hall where the war memorial now stands. If anyone can help with this please contact Veronica on 726845.

# Village Hall AGM

We are aware that we did not hold an AGM last year as we had to cancel the one scheduled due to lockdown requirements. Trustees have, however, written an annual report for 2019/20 that would have been tabled at the AGM. If anyone would like a copy of this please contact me on 726845. This year we do plan to hold one, possibly in the Hall or on Zoom, depending on how the vaccination programme in the village progresses. It will be at the end of April or beginning of May. All villagers are invited and all regular user groups will be asked to send a representative. Time to start thinking if you would like to volunteer as a Trustee. If so or if you would like some more information please get in touch with Veronica on 726845.

# Village Hall Maintenance

During the lockdown Trustees have been busy preparing the Hall to

(continued from previous page)

look good once we can reopen. The loos have had a refreshing coat of paint (thanks Jeff) and we have shortlisted three pairs of curtains to choose from. Once we have chosen which curtains to go with, we hope to repaint the main hall walls. In addition we have started to explore the possibility of extending the kitchen.

#### 200 Club

During lockdown we have once again suspended drawing the winner of the 200 Club but as soon as it is safe to we will draw retrospectively. The winner for December 2020 was James Phipps. Congratulations!!

Veronica

# **Worton & Marston Link**

We all know from being bombarded by articles on the television and other media about keeping ourselves safe by maintaining distance and the like. The Link scheme is able to help in all sorts of ways try telephoning **0741 391 2828** and discussing your needs. Even if we cannot help, Worton and Marston contains helpful people and we could be able to act as coordinator. Helping each other is one of the reasons why this is a good place to live.

Planning ahead, it is possible local surgeries will receive the vaccine at the same time. Several local organisations have offered help with vaccination journeys these include TH White's, Wadworths, Nationwide, Gaiger Brothers, Devizes Rugby Club, Potterne Cricket Club and Devizes Hockey Club. These people will help if the need for drivers to vaccination centres is too great for our regular drivers. All clients will be informed before hand if this need arises, any problems may then be averted. This may also result in new recruits who we always welcome, even though for health and safety reasons we have to go through paperwork which includes DBS (police) check. If you would like to help local people maintain their health please ring **0741 391 2828.** 

Alun Newman

#### ECO-CORNER

# Plastics pollution travels in our waterways and oceans

In our Eco article last month we referred to the serious impact that plastics are having for the planet - be it environmental pollution from slow decomposition in landfills which can leach out into our food, water and bodies or airborne pollution such as carbon emissions from the manufacture of plastics that can contribute to global warming.

Plastic waste entering the seas is increasing each year. The majority is a persistent pervasive source, toxic to marine life, and humans. Plankton, fish, and ultimately the human race, through the food chain, ingest these highly toxic carcinogens and chemicals. Consuming the fish that contain these toxins can cause an increase in cancer, immune disorders, and birth defects.

Now, research conducted as part of the National Geographic Society's Sea to Source: Ganges Expedition has tracked the movement of plastic litter items in order to better understand the journey of plastic pollution in aquatic systems. It has shown that plastic waste in rivers and oceans can travel thousands of miles in just a few months. Lead author Dr Emily Duncan, of the Centre for Ecology and Conservation on Exeter's Penryn Campus in Cornwall, said the result "demonstrates that this is a truly global issue, as a piece of plastic dropped in a river or ocean could soon wash up on the other side of the world."

Researchers from the University of Exeter and ZSL (the Zoological Society of London) used a low cost, open source technology to track the movement of 25 500ml bottles with size, shape and buoyancy intended to mimic the movement of any plastic bottle. Several were dropped in the River Ganges at various locations and three were released directly into the Bay of Bengal.

Electronics embedded inside the plastic bottles allowed both cellular and satellite transmitters to be used for tracking purposes. For movement through urban waterways, available mobile phone networks were employed. Once the bottles reached the open ocean satellite connectivity took over. Whereas previous oceanographic modelling and current drifter data had been used to predict the movement and accumulation of plastic pollution in the marine environ-

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ment, the processes used in the Ganges study had the ability to significantly increase understanding of the location of accumulation areas and the timing of large inputs of plastic pollution into the aquatic system.

It was found that generally bottles in the river moved in stages, now and again getting trapped on their way downstream. Bottles at sea travelled far greater distances, along coastal currents at first but then dispersed more broadly. The furthest distance travelled by any of the bottles was 1,768 miles (2845 km) in 94 days – or in other words the straight-line length of Land's End to John O'Groats three times. The findings of the study were published in December in the journal *PLOS ONE*: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0242459

Hoping to see you virtually at The Wiltshire Climate Summit (details elsewhere in this magazine).

Anne Wilson <u>mrsannewilson@gmail.com</u> and Sandra Gamble <u>acanadiangamble@gmail.com</u>



# Worton & Cheverell FC (Youth) 'The Badgers'

http://www.wortonandcheverellfc.com



Well just as we got going before Christmas Lockdown 3.0 has completely ceased all playing and training events.

The club will be ready to resume as and when regulations permit.

Our Club Secretary will be fundraising for a Secondary Cancer charity during the year and will run (virtually or physical) 10k every month in memory of a friend who passed away in November. A link will be on our Facebook page for people to read and support her if they wish.

Stay Safe.

# Contacts for 2020/2021 Season:

Badger Cubs - Dave Kiddle - 07843 678781
U7 - Pete Huntley - 07974 756131
U9/10 - Mark Goddard - 01380 813160
U13 - Mark Goddard - 01380 813160
U14 - Dave Kiddle - 07843 678781
U15 - Aiden Allmark 07341 819154

Follow us on Facebook – Worton and Cheverell Youth Football Club (No other pages are approved by the club)

# Youth Action Wiltshire

In our final focus piece on Youth Action Wiltshire, this month we concentrate on Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre (OEC) near Marlborough. The wonderful staff team at Oxenwood OEC are committed to providing first class educational visits designed to meet individual schools/colleges and youth groups learning objectives, needs and desired outcomes. The team strive to provide an environment which helps young people to develop their core skills, from building their self-esteem right through to effective communication and recognising their individual personal strengths. The activities are centred around teamwork and effective communication, while building resilience and giving young people the opportunity to set their own measurable goals and celebrate their achievements. Oxenwood offers fun, exciting, challenging activities ranging from outdoor adventure such as climbing, rifle shooting, archery, fencing, water sports, mountain biking and bushcraft through to bespoke historical and themed days which include knight school, cookery, arts and crafts and sports day. No matter what the activity is, or the focus, the team guarantee a great, fun, engaging time, with young people leaving the centre keen to return. Activities can be delivered during the day, evening or at weekends with residential opportunities available post COVID.

The centre has seen a huge reduction in customers since the pandemic but has continued to provide positive activities for young people accessing other Youth Action Wiltshire programmes including Splash, Wiltshire Young Carers Service and Project Inspire as well as providing bespoke sessions for county wide youth clubs and targeted projects such as refugee, NEET and youth club training sessions.

For more information on Oxenwood OEC or to make a booking please visit: <a href="https://www.oxenwoodoec.com/">https://www.oxenwoodoec.com/</a> or call 01264 731274 We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you to all readers of The Bridge for reading our monthly focus pieces; we hope you've enjoyed learning about us.

If you would like to donate to **Youth Action Wiltshire**, please visit <a href="https://www.justgiving.com/yaw">https://www.justgiving.com/yaw</a>.

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If you would like to volunteer or run your own fundraising event in aid of Youth Action Wiltshire or any of the specific youth projects, please email: <a href="mailto:dawn@youthactionwiltshire.org">dawn@youthactionwiltshire.org</a>.

**Youth Action Wiltshire** is the youth arm of Community First registered charity 288117









### **Furlong Close, Rowde**

I write as Chair of The Families and Friends of Furlong Close to explain the situation of the 34 learning disabled residents currently under threat of losing their homes, and of the many day care service users who have already lost their occupation and friendships as a result of the closure of that service.

The Families and Friends have come together to fight the closure and we are seeking public support in our campaign to get Hft and Wiltshire Council to think again.

As you may know from local media coverage the decision to shut down Furlong Close was announced without warning to residents, staff and families in mid-October by the charity Hft which took over the close of five bungalows and associated flatlets from Self Unlimited in 2013. The shock announcement came on the heels of the news that day care services on site would also be closed for good.

Many of the residents, who have severe learning disabilities, many coupled with epilepsy, sight and hearing impediment and severe physical disability, have lived at Furlong Close for more than two decades, some since it opened 28 years ago. They and their families had the expectation that it would be their life-long home and the news that they are now to be forced to abandon their homes and the safety and security of the Close and the village of Rowde is a terrifying prospect.

For some, now in their 50s and 60s, such a traumatic change will seriously damage their mental and physical health. In some cases such a move could shorten lives. The announcement has already left many residents confused, frightened and depressed about what is going to happen to them.

The decision to close has been justified by Hft and Wiltshire Council on the basis that Furlong Close is a "campus-style" site which is not a model of care now favoured by the Care Quality Commission for new developments. This is a completely inadequate justification for proceeding, without consultation, to break up an existing, happy community of highly vulnerable people and force them to leave the homes where they have been comfortably settled for many years.

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Nor does it accord with CQC policy which expressly states that it has no wish "to disrupt the lives of people who are currently residing in a service that is not small-scale, provided that the care provided is person-centred."

No one who knows Furlong Close would suggest that it is in any general sense of the word a "campus", nor that its residents are isolated from their local community. They worship, shop, volunteer, eat out, visit the pubs and cafes and work part-time in local businesses.

And yet Hft, with the support of Wiltshire Council and the passive agreement of many of the elected councillors are still intending that Furlong Close be closed down.

The Families and Friends are asking Hft and Wiltshire Council to withdraw the decision and to think again in order to allow all those residents who so choose to continue to live safely and securely within the supportive local community.

If you support our campaign please challenge your local division councillor and those who are candidates in the coming May elections, to declare publicly where they stand on this cruel and inhumane policy which is being pursued in their name.

Antonia Field, Chair Families and Friends of Furlong Close.





Help for domestic abuse victims in Wiltshire is just a phone call away and available 24/7.

Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service (SWA) is now providing support to victims of domestic violence across the whole of Wiltshire on behalf of Wiltshire County Council.

Whether you're male, female, young or old, you could need their help. Our lives are being affected by Covid restrictions and for many it's creating a dangerous and frightening situation. Home should be a place of safety and security and a relationship should be based on love and mutual respect but sadly for 2.3 million people a year this is not the case and victims face physical and psychological abuse, coercive control, rape and for two people a week in the UK, they will lose their lives at the hands of their partner or former partner.

Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service (SWA) cover Wiltshire through the day, evenings, night times, weekends and bank holidays. SWA support all victims regardless of age and gender and run a free, non-judgmental 24hr helpline that's answered day and night by a trained advisor, not a machine. They offer help and support and work with you and at your pace.

SWA whose patron is Dame Esther Rantzen, have a purpose-built refuge facility in Swindon comprising 22 self-contained flats and they offer extensive community support. Their advisors are trained in all areas of abuse across all age groups. If you are worried about your situation, you can call them in confidence on 01793 610610.



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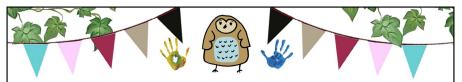
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Worton Toddlers



As we are once again in a national lockdown we cannot say when we can have a planned reopening, but we are still here waiting, and as soon as it is safe we will put a post on Facebook, on the village notice boards and here in the Bridge. We are looking forward to seeing you again, and maybe some new faces too, so stay safe and stay well. Hilary, Tina and Ellie xx



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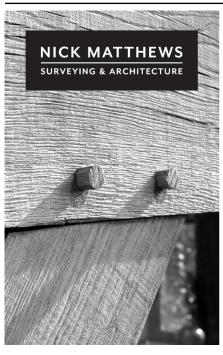
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## Extracts from The Bridge (February 1991), kindly provided by Tony Walker)

### FEBRUARY

February is the shortest month, with only 28 days
It's also known as "Filldyke" because of all the rains
But we've been so glad to see some, to fill our reservoirs
Depleted since last Summer, with all its joys and woes
We like the sun, it warms us, and helps to make things grow
But we also need the water, without which, well, we know
No baths or showers to keep us clean
No fruit or flowers would there be seen
So we must take what the Good Lord sends
For upon Him it all depends.

I. Hale

### LADIES GROUP PANTO

ANOTHER PANTO PLEA. We need some emulsion paint for the scenery. Have you any oddments that you could spare? We particularly need dark, strong colours, although any colour would be appreciated. Please take to Mrs. L. Witcher, Cambria House, Worton, if you find any.

Primrose Wright.

### THANK YOU

On behalf of the Over-60's of Worton and Marston, I would like to thank the Brownies for their gifts of bulbs, cards and calendars, delivered over the Christmas period. It was a very kind and thoughtful gesture and I'm sure will keep in mind part of their Promise to think of others besides themselves.

One of the Over-60's.

### VILLAGE DIARY

### **Regular Meetings**

In the Village Hall
(all currently suspended or on Zoom)

- Gardening Club
   3rd Monday 8.00pm (not Aug/Dec)
- Pilates classes
  Thursdays 7pm-8pm & 8pm-9pm
- Ladies Group Last Wednesday (not Aug/Dec)
- Women's Institute
   2nd Tuesday 7.45pm
- Worton Toddler Group Wednesday 10.00 am - Noon
- 1st Worton & Marston Brownies Alternate Tuesdays (term time only)
- Worton Parish Council Meeting
   1st Monday (not Aug) or as shown on notice boards

In the Chapel at Marston (currently suspended or on Zoom)

 Marston Parish Council Meeting Last Tuesday (every odd month)

### Various Venues Announced Monthly

 Book Swap 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10.00 - Noon

### **Mobile Library**

Location: The School, 1.10 - 1.50pm

Next Date: 1st February

Call Wiltshire Library Services on **01225 713727** for information

### **Forthcoming Events**

???

### **Kerbside Collections**

Black box and Plastic and card recycling:

Tuesdays 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Household waste:** Wednesdays 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

**Garden waste:** Fridays 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>



### Worton and Marston Link

If you need help with transport for hospital appointments visiting the doctor and dentist or other important journeys.

Call W&M Link on 07413 912828

Deadline for items for the next Bridge is 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Giles Collins, Editor at Westview House, 109 High Street, Worton Telephone: 01380 728664

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