

DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021



The
HILL & VALLEY

— PARISH MAGAZINE —

Newsletter of the Parishes of Chedworth and District

The Benefice of Chedworth and District

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The production of the Hill and Valley Magazine is made possible through a combination of the articles from our contributors, our advertisers, our printers, finance team and a group of coordinators creating the magazine 10 times each year.

In order to assist the magazine coordinators we ask that articles are submitted online (not by email). For more information please go online to

the Magazine Contributors area of www.hillandvalley.co.uk.

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The magazine coordinators for December 2020/January 2021 were Sue & Iain Robertson (01285 720683) and for February 2021 will be Julie Young (01285 720398).

Please submit all articles and adverts before midday on the 15th of the month using the online system.

Cover and contents page photos by Ivan Tommasini

The HILL & VALLEY

PARISH MAGAZINE

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Sue & Iain Robertson
Coordinators for this edition

Stephen's Letter

Give Glory!

"The shepherds returned (from Bethlehem) glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told" Luke 2v20

The shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem back then had probably had a tougher year than even we have had! The weariness of constant vigilance to look after the sheep, fighting off wolves and bandits. The tough living conditions of the 1st century AD, with no modern comforts or medicine. And, to cap it all, cold, hard night weather in the fields!

Those shepherds didn't have much in life - but they knew hope when they saw it! In his greatness, God had reached out to the human race in the baby Jesus and offered peace to humanity - peace with each other, and with God - because of God's love for us in sending a Saviour.

And these shepherds - the poorest and most marginalized of their society - were among the first to realise that hope. Of course, the glorious message of the angels helped! And, although the shepherds didn't have much and couldn't do much, they could praise God for his glory and go and see Jesus with their own eyes. And that's what they did.

And so can we! It's been a hard year, and there's still some way to go. Whatever our circumstances in life, there's a lot we

can't do this Christmas. No big parties or social gatherings. No big family Christmas dinners. No carol services, due to the current ban on singing.

But we can still celebrate that God has come into the world as Jesus Christ, that we can know God's love because of Jesus, and that Jesus will return and make things good in the end. In the light of this, the best thing we can do this Christmas is to thank God that we've got through the COVID crisis so far and pray to him that 2021 might be a rather better year than 2020!

At the time of writing, I have no idea whether we will be able to have any face to face services this Christmas - but we are putting our best foot forward and have a program of in-person services, a contingency plan for online services, doorstep carol singing and our Christmas Together community meal event. Have no fear - Christmas is not cancelled in Chedworth & District!

With very best wishes for a restful Christmas and a hope-filled 2021.

Stephen



Church Briefing

Provisional Services for December 2020/January 2021

Please note that, if services can take place in church during December & January, the following services are scheduled. If services cannot take place due to government restrictions, then look out for notices of Zoom/online alternatives by email and on NextDoor/FaceBook. Please note there may be changes at short notice.

Sunday 6th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion	10.30 am - Chedworth
Evening Prayer	6pm - Coln St Dennis

Sunday 13th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion	10.30 am - Chedworth
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Sunday 20th December - 4th Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion	9 am - Yanworth
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No Family Service

Doorstep Carols	6pm - Everywhere
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Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

Crib Service	3pm - Chedworth (booking required)
Crib Service	5pm - Yanworth

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

Holy Communion (BCP)	9 am - Chedworth (booking required)
Holy Communion	10.30 am - Coln Rogers
Family Service	10.30 am - Chedworth (booking required)

Sunday 27th December - 1st Sunday of Christmas

Holy Communion	10.30 am - Chedworth
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January 2021

Sunday 3rd January - Epiphany/Plough Sunday

Epiphany/Plough Sunday Family Communion	10.30 am - Chedworth
Evening Prayer	6 pm - Coln Rogers

Sunday 10th January - 1st Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion	9.30 am - Chedworth
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Church Briefing

Sunday 17th January - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion 9 am - Stowell

Family Service 10.30 am - Chedworth

Sunday 24th January - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion 10.30 am - Chedworth

Sunday 31st January - Candlemas/Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Candlemas Family Communion 10.30 am - Chedworth

Sunday 7th February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion 10.30 am - Chedworth

Evening Prayer 6 pm - Coln St Dennis

Please note that face coverings should be worn at services!

Christmas Services

Due to ongoing government COVID restrictions, our Christmas service pattern will be different to usual this year - assuming that the lockdown at the time of writing is not extended. We'd love to see you at any of our Christmas services but, owing to social distancing requirements, **you will need to book in advance for Chedworth services.**

If you would like to attend either the **3pm Crib Service on Christmas Eve** or the **10.30 am Christmas Morning Family Service**, please let Stephen know by email (stephengoundreysmith@gmail.com). If you would like to attend the **9 am Holy Communion (BCP) on Christmas Day**, please let Robert Young know by email (robert@zings.co.uk). We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

The 9 am Holy Communion service on Christmas Day would normally take place at Stowell, but it has been moved to Chedworth for this year to ensure maximum social distancing for the numbers likely to be attending. Nevertheless, this service is for the whole Benefice. I would like to thank personally the congregation at Yanworth and Stowell for their understanding in this matter.

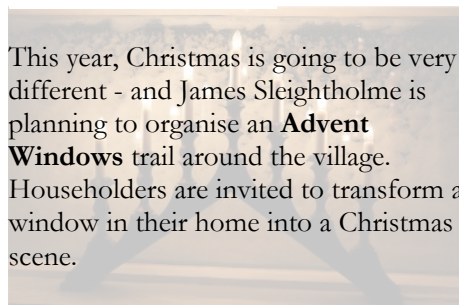
Sadly, formal Carol Services will not be able to take place in church this year due to restrictions on singing, but look out for further details of our Doorstep Carols on Sunday 20th December. Also, we regret that we will not be conducting a Midnight Holy Communion this Christmas Eve. This was a hard decision to make, but the risks of conducting this service this year are significant.

If we are unable to proceed with in-person services this Christmas, there will be instead a **Multimedia Virtual Family Crib Service** on **Christmas Eve** at **3 pm**, and a **Zoom Christmas Celebration** on **Christmas Day** at **10.30 am**. Please do get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.

Christmas Together - 19th December

Spread a little cheer and join in with our communal Christmas meal in Chedworth & District on Saturday 19th December. With food from the Long Table chefs and goodies from local organisations and residents, this promises to be a great event, and one we need at a difficult time. See separate notice on pages 10 & 11.

Advent Windows



This year, Christmas is going to be very different - and James Sleightholme is planning to organise an **Advent Windows** trail around the village. Householders are invited to transform a window in their home into a Christmas scene.

At an allotted time and date, the householder reveals their window. By December 24th, there will hopefully be a trail through the village - one house per day. There have already been quite a few expressions of interest from Chedworth residents, and if you would like to know

more, please contact James at james_sleightholme@yahoo.co.uk.

Small Groups Update

Despite the COVID restrictions this autumn, we have had a successful programme of small group meetings. As well as holding the remaining **Passion Week of Jesus** meetings, held over from Lent, in November we met on Zoom - our first Zoom small group in this Benefice - for our group entitled **Beginning to End**, looking at three key Christian beliefs - creation, incarnation (God coming into the world as Jesus) and the last things. Some of the content was conceptually dazzling, but members of the group were inspired for their own faith and lives by this exploration. Plans for Lent will be published early next year.

Confirmation Service

On Sunday 25th October, a **Confirmation Service** was held at St Andrew's Church, Chedworth, by the Rt Rev'd Robert Springett, where five young people affirmed the baptismal vows made on their behalf and made their own commitment of faith. Our young people are having a tough time right now but, with their talents and energy, they give us hope for the future. Please pray that Abi, Hannah, Katherine, Ciara and Orla would have a fulfilling relationship with God as their lives unfold.

Church Briefing



The winning formation....our (socially distanced) confirmation candidates, Abigail Milsted, Ciara Duggan, Orla Duggan, Katherine Marsden and Hannah Fulford, with Bishop Robert outside St Andrew's Church after the Confirmation Service.

Prayer Requests

This is a turbulent time. If you have any prayer requests, or would value a confidential discussion of any concerns that you have, please get in touch with me at 01285 720392 or stephengoundreysmith@gmail.com.

Chedworth Community Land Charity

The Chedworth Community Land Charity is a charity whose objective is to provide assistance to people in Chedworth parish facing particular urgent health or welfare needs or financial hardship. The Trustees consist of the Rector and two Parish Council nominees. The Chedworth Community Land Charity has helped various parishioners over the last few years and is able to respond rapidly to any urgent

financial needs at this difficult time during the COVID 19 crisis. To find out more or to apply, please contact Rev'd Stephen Goundrey-Smith (01285 720392) or Bryan Bowley (01285 720369). All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Plough Sunday Service - 3rd January

Do join us for **Plough Sunday Holy Communion** at **Chedworth** on **Sunday 3rd January at 10.30 am** (also the Epiphany). Plough Sunday is traditionally the first of the Christian festivals for the agricultural year and, on Plough Sunday, the plough, the churn and the livestock are blessed. All are warmly welcome to this special service.

Christmas Greetings

The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCCs of the Hill & Valley Benefice would like thank everyone for their ongoing support at a difficult time. We wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas, and we hope and pray that 2021 would bring hope, health and fulfilment.



St. Andrew's C of E Primary School



Learning to live as part of the wider community.

Our value this term is perseverance, which is proving to be very relevant. We are so proud of our children, who are showing great perseverance at school, not only in their learning but also in adapting to the new routines.

While we are in this second lockdown, it is easy to feel quite isolated from the community around us with not being able to invite people in, or have volunteer readers. Despite this, in the first half of our term we were able to welcome a member of the community who generously gave his time and talents to support our school. Sam Jones, son of Sally Smith, spent 2 days with us helping us to create a welcome video to promote our wonderful school. I am so grateful to him for donating his numerous skills, especially at a time when pupil numbers are so vital to our financial sustainability. Please do take a minute to have a look at the video (on our website) and let friends and family know we are here.

We would also like to thank James Sleightholme, who has so kindly

organised the 'Advent Windows' project in the community. We are thankful to be taking part and are so grateful for James' community spirit and creativity at this time.



Learning to live out our Christian values

On the 11th of November, the whole school met on the playground (socially distanced and in their bubbles) for the first time. A member of Year 6 read out 'Flanders Field' after listening to the last post and completing a 2-minute silence. To finish, Rev. Stephen led a blessing and the whole school sang a beautiful remembrance song.



Mrs N Smith (Head Teacher)

From all the staff, pupils and governors at St Andrew's C of E, we wish you a very merry Christmas and happiness and health for the new year.



StAndrewsCofE1



Christmas 'Together'

CHEDWORTH AND DISTRICT DOES CHRISTMAS 'TOGETHER'

Saturday 19th December 2020

Get involved and enjoy a special delivery Christmas Box which includes a delicious frozen meal (made by Long Table) and lots of special Christmas treats from our community groups.

Boxes will be free of charge as a gift from the Hill and Valley Churches, but please get in touch if you would like to make a donation.

For more details please phone Sally 720285 or email sally.smith237@yahoo.co.uk

We would love to see the photos of your festivities.
Let's keep in touch and enjoy Christmas together.

YES I WOULD LOVE TO JOIN IN!

NUMBER OF MEALS -
DIETARY REQUIREMENTS -
CONTACT NUMBER -
ADDRESS -

Return to : The Vicarage, Chedworth

Christmas 'Together' Q and A's

- Who can receive a Christmas 'Together' Box?

Anyone living in Chedworth, Coln St Dennis, Coln Rogers, Fosse Bridge, Calcot, Yanworth or Stowell or families attending Chedworth School.

- Is this for people in financial difficulty?

No, anyone can receive the box.

- Is this connected to the free school meal initiatives?

No

- Is it free of charge?

Yes

- Is it using money from church funds?

No, the project is funded by church members and other donors.

- Will there be religious material in the box?

No

- Do we actually meet up, in person or on zoom?

No, unless you arrange that yourself.

- What's the catch?

There isn't one! Enjoy the feeling of joining in and feeling like we are together as a community.

Sally Smith

Chedworth Allotment Charity

IN TIMES OF NEED

there is help available through the CHEDWORTH ALLOTMENT CHARITY

The trustees would be glad to hear if you, or any Chedworth resident you know of, is in serious need of some help in these difficult times. All applications will be considered in confidence bearing in mind the charity's rules and objectives.

Please contact any of the trustees:-

Nigel Finch	nigelfinch1@btconnect.com	01242890215
Myra Burridge	myra.burridge@hotmail.co.uk	01285 720665
David Broad	david.broad@mail.com	01285 720313
Helen Taylor	26hemplands@gmail.com	01285 720702
Sue Callard	suecallard324@btinternet.com	01285 720468

Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
01-Dec		Start of Advent Window Trail round Chedworth	Chedworth
02-Dec	19:30	Tennis Club AGM	Zoom
09-Dec	19:15	WI - Making a Christmas decoration & Christmas carol quiz	Zoom
14-Dec	19:30	Parish Council Meeting	Zoom
19-Dec		Christmas Together meal	
26-Dec	10:30-12:30	Chedworth Silver Band playing carols	Upper Chedworth & outside Seven Tuns

2021

11-Jan	19:30	Parish Council Meeting	Zoom
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See www.hillandvalley.co.uk for more dates of events



Ironwood at Westonbirt - photo by Mark Aveline

Recycling Dates

Domestic Waste & Recycling

**Chedworth Area,
Fossebridge,
Yanworth**

**Coln St Dennis,
Coln Rogers**

December 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Turn your event into an occasion at

Chedworth Village Hall

Visit our website for full details including making
booking enquiries

chedworthvillagehall.co.uk



Your Gardening Tips for Dec/Jan

There are plenty of holly berries on the trees and therefore some say we will



have a hard winter. So, fill up the wood store and prepare for the worst, by

protecting vulnerable plants where possible. There is plenty to be doing over the next two months.....lockdown or no!

- Prune open-grown apples and pears, and acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding
- Bare rooted deciduous trees and shrubs can be planted and transplanted in December and January, and it is the time to take hardwood cuttings. Ensure newly planted trees are well staked.
- Remove weeds from around the base of young fruit trees. Check that stakes are secure, and a thick dry mulch will protect the roots from frost.
- Sow alpine plants as they need cold to break their dormancy, but protect from excessive wet.
- Plant new raspberry canes making sure that the soil is well drained and fertile.
- Prune wisteria by cutting back side shoots to two or three buds.
- Plant roses, in areas not previously inhabited by roses.
- Take a tip from Monty Don and sow over wintering lettuce and parsley. The seeds will need to be started off inside or over a heated tray but should grow on in the greenhouse or south facing cold frame.
- Group and insulate vulnerable patio pots from frost with bubble-wrap or similar protective material.
- This a good time to work bulky organic matter into heavy soil ready for the spring, but remove plant debris to avoid disease over-wintering amongst it..
- Cover unused areas with thick mulch or membrane to suppress weed sand keep the soil warm ready for the spring.
- Root crops are sweetest after a frost, but will need to be lifted and stored in sand before the ground gets too hard. Harvest good sized leeks, but the smallest can be left to grow until the spring.
- Lift and divide established clumps of rhubarb. Start forcing rhubarb in January.
- Check autumn sown sweet peas for slug and mouse damage and take defensive action! Sow more sweet peas in January, if required.
- Check stored bulbs for sign of rot and remove affected bulbs.
- Brush off snow from conifers, climbers, light limbed shrubs and brassicas to avoid losing branches.

Shake snow from any netting you have over plants.

- Avoid walking on lawns on frosty mornings, and spike areas of waterlogging.
- Insulate outdoor taps and drain water butts if a heavy frost is forecast to avoid damaging the taps.
- Clean the greenhouse inside and out, and if it is being used for growing plants, insulate against frost with bubble wrap or similar. It is a good thing to ventilate the greenhouse occasionally during

warmer days to reduce fungal infection.

- Keep an eye out for overwintering pests such as whitefly and red spider mite and treat accordingly.
- This is a good time to plan what you want to grow next year, and buy your seeds.
- This is the time of year to enjoy colourful dogwoods in your garden or elsewhere.

*Simon Colbeck, Chairman
Chedworth & District Hort Soc*

Christmas Cards



Sold in aid of
Friends of St Andrew's Church (FoStA)

£5 per pack of 10

Contact Sue Callard 01285 720468
suecallard324@btinternet.com

(Thank you to Sue Walsh for her Madonna design)





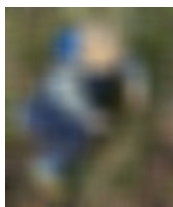
Chedworth Pre-School

...where fun and learning go hand in hand

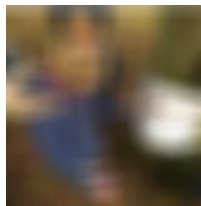
With looking for ways of fundraising this year, we were reminded of our easyfundraising account! This is a very easy way for anyone to support Chedworth Pre-School whilst you are shopping online - it does not add any extra cost to your shop, the retailer donates money when you have completed your order with them, but you have to use the easyfundraising.org.uk to access the shop! We would heavily appreciate you considering to use this whilst completing your Christmas shopping!

Being a small Pre-School ensures that we know each and every child very well, allowing us to nurture each individual within a safe and secure environment and during these strange times which we currently find ourselves in, each child's social and emotional well-being is at the forefront of everything that we do here at Chedworth Pre-School.

Thank you so much to everyone for respecting our request to not use



the play area whilst we are in sessions - we will of course reopen the play area to the public once restrictions ease, but for the time being we must keep our children safe!



We are looking forward to our Christmas party - we have everything crossed that Father Christmas is on schedule to drop off a few gifts for the children.....!! - we also have our Advent Books (a different Christmas / winter story wrapped and numbered to open and read during Circle Time throughout Advent!).

We have spaces available from January, with our new extended opening hours please do get in touch if you would like more information!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a very healthy New Year!

Sarah Smith



For more information please take a look at our website

www.chedworthpreschool.co.uk

Contact Sarah on 07840 370220 or email chedworthpreschool@gmail.com to arrange a visit!

Charity Golf Day at Monmouth



The Charity Golf Day at Monmouth on 11th September raised a record £2,620 which has been given to St Andrew's Church this year. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Pete Heaps



Chedworth Parish Council

Notes from our November meeting

Finally back to full strength

Almost a year after a vacancy arose on the council with the resignation of Susie Moore we finally have a new councillor. At our November meeting we welcomed Bella Amory to the council. Bella lives at the Laines and I am sure will be a valuable addition. We are grateful to her for coming forward - particularly at the moment when we are meeting via video conferencing which makes things trickier.

We are trying to keep things as normal as possible and there is always an opportunity at the beginning of the meetings for anyone to raise any matters or comment on items on the agenda.

Councillors

Ros Jess (Chairman)	01285 720248
David Broad (Vice-Chairman)	01285 720313
Bella Amory	07808 724972
George Broad	01285 720313
Tony Kingsley	01285 720743
Alan McLellan	01285 720642
Ian Morgan	01285 720885

To contact the Council, email the clerk, Elizabeth Broad (chedworthpc@hotmail.co.uk), or call her on 01285 720313, or get in touch with any of the councillors directly.

For more information check out our website chedworthpc.org.uk

A reminder that in order to join the meeting you need to email me (ros.jess1@btinternet.com) to get the log-in details which will be available in the week before the meeting which is on 14th December.

Socially distanced litter pick a great success

A big thank you to everyone who joined in with the litter pick in October. Alan McLellan, who co-ordinated the pickers, has reported that thanks to the many volunteers the vast majority of the village was covered and feedback was generally good in that not too much litter was found.

The annual litter pick obviously prevents a big build up and the increase in people walking during lockdown, who have been picking up litter on their regular walks, has also helped. Many thanks to everyone who is helping to keep our village tidy.

Spreading some joy for next year

Fingers crossed our verges will not only be litter free but also far more attractive next year thanks to the village verge group which has been spreading wildflower seeds (see photos).

We are still negotiating with county highways about taking over full responsibility for the verges but progress has been delayed by a change of



On 16 October 2020 some of the verges around Chedworth were seeded with wildflowers by the Village Verge Group and volunteers led by Harvey Sherwood.

Harvey Sherwood



Harvey with some of the volunteers after they had finished.



personnel at Gloucestershire County Highways. Our local highways manager has moved on and we are waiting for the new man to get his feet under the table before landing all our highways issues on his desk!

Don't get caught out by winter weather

Just a reminder that the Winter Emergency Summary, including a list of all the area wardens, is on our website. The plan includes useful advice for

coping in the bad weather and has lots of emergency contact numbers.

Do take care when driving on icy roads and don't forget that county highways no longer grit through the village so don't get caught out.

Looking ahead to the new budget

If your organisation is considering asking the parish council for financial

Chedworth Parish Council

help then you need to get your applications in to us soon.

The parish council puts together its budget for the coming financial year in January, so we need any requests in good time to allow us to consider whether we should include money for your project.

If you will be looking for financial help please email the clerk with as many details as possible, preferably before our December meeting so that we have time to come back to you if we have any queries.

Read this - it could save a life

For any newcomers to the village it's worth pointing out that we have three defibrillators in the village, one in the entrance to the village hall, one in the porch at the Seven Tuns and one in the eXbox, the old phone box at the bottom of Hemplands Hill. These are maintained by the parish council.

You will only be told about the defibrillators by the ambulance service if you are very close to one of them. If you are within the required radius they will tell you where the defibrillator is and the code to get to the defibrillator but to make things as easy as possible the code is now written on each box.

If you need to report any problems with any of the defibrillators, please contact the clerk.

Finally - an important reminder - the Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS), intended as a way of getting a volunteer to collect the defib, is no longer in operation. What sounded like a good idea when it was proposed by the Community Heartbeat Trust just didn't work in practice so if you still have the sticker with the VETS contact details please throw it away.

News from our county and district councillors

- The county council has had second thoughts about closing the Fosse Cross tip thanks to pressure from Paul Hodgkinson and is looking again at the best way to carry out the repair work without causing too much upheaval.
- Cotswold District Council is inviting everyone to comment on next year's budget. You have until 8th December to have your say. Check out the information on their website
www.cotswold.gov.uk/budget

And Finally...

The parish councillors and clerk would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and hope that in 2021 life begins to return to something a little more normal.

Ros Jess



Cotswold Friends - Here to Help

Date: 2nd November 2020

With the second national lockdown upon us Cotswold Friends would like to reassure our clients, volunteers and anyone else that might need support, that we are here to help.

We will be providing Telephone Befriending to our Carer Support, Befriending and Community Activities clients. The Community Transport Service will continue to be fully operational for medical appointments, essential shopping and pharmacy and dispensary deliveries.

We will also continue distributing our Community Activities Newsletter to households with activities including craft, nature, cookery, art, gardening, jigsaw and book lending libraries and

exercise. The Newsletter is widely distributed with household letterbox deliveries and by email to private residences and care homes/supported housing schemes.

Please do get in touch if we can help you or anyone you know, or if you could volunteer to help during this difficult time. You can call us on Tel: 01608 651415 or email info@cotswoldfriends.org.

Stay safe and keep well.

From all at Cotswold Friends.



COLN VALLEY VILLAGE HALL

Ideal venue for small events/parties

Gigaclear Ultrafast internet connection

If you would like to hire the hall please see our website for availability and prices.

www.coln-valley-village-hall.co.uk

Chedworth Silver Band

Due to COVID-19 Chedworth Silver Band has not been able to perform since Boxing Day 2019 nor to have a proper rehearsal since mid March.

For details, phone 01285 720313 or see our website

www.chedworthsilverband.co.uk

David Broad

However we will do our very best to get at least a few players out playing carols around Upper Chedworth on Boxing Day morning with a final carol at or near the Seven Tuns shortly after noon, a tradition going back well over 100 years. One year we played there even though the Tuns was closed for refurbishment.

Even before March the Band's availability for engagements was being hampered by a shortage of Cornet players so if there are any Cornet players out there we will be delighted to hear from you.



Thank you to the Hill and Valley Team

Thank you to the Hill and Valley Team for their sterling work in producing and distributing the magazine, especially in this difficult COVID dominated year. The Hill and Valley is an important part of the communications for our community and local businesses and is distributed to 550 households in the Benefice.

The Rector and Wardens

Elderberries (formerly Cheery Club)

The group started back in 1957 as, like most groups at this time, there was a greater need for social meetings. It was originally called The Cheery Club with quite a few members over its 57 years. There were 30 members in 2006 (14 years ago). From then the numbers dropped.

I joined in 2011 just to help. I joined the committee and became secretary in 2013. In 2014 when Mary Peace and Ann Porter stepped down, no one would come forward to join the committee and to take on the responsible jobs. As no one else came forward I said I would step in to keep the club running but without a committee. The name was changed, it was going to be run in a different format and the club became 'Elderberries'.

I could not manage to run the club on my own. Luckily Carol Shaftoe volunteered to help and Fred Shaftoe offered to be treasurer. Between us we

have run the newly named Elderberries for the last six years.

Very sadly with COVID-19 the few members (6) who are left are mostly over 80 and are vulnerable and did not wish to meet up. So unfortunately, Elderberries is having to close.

A big thank you to all those who over the years have helped with transport, teas and many other contributions to keep Elderberries running over the past six years. Special thanks go to Fred and Carol Shaftoe for the support and help over the last 6 years, and to Helen Oldham for joining and helping out over the last couple of years.

We are hoping to place a bench in the playing field as a memory to 'Cheery Club' now known as 'The Elderberries'.

Thanks again for everyone's support .

Helen Taylor



Memories of our Elderberries Christmas lunch at the Corinium Hotel in December 2019

Hill & Valley Lawn Tennis Club



clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC

Note from the Chair

At the time of writing, despite the LTA's best efforts to keep tennis going during this second lockdown, we have sadly had to close our courts again and cease all tennis activity. We are, however, hopeful that by the time you read this we shall be looking forward to getting back on court and keeping fit and active throughout the winter. Everything is set up for us to pick up where we left off as soon as we can. We'll turn on the floodlights and continue with our popular Monday Men's Night, Thursday Ladies Night, coaching programme and scheduled league matches. The Ladies Over 60's Team have a match scheduled for the 3rd December so we definitely won't be wasting any time to get back on court despite not being able to practise beforehand. At least it will be the same for the opposition!

The mixed doubles ladder run by Yvonne Winward had to finish early due

to lockdown but she will be running another soon. Many congratulations to the winners Leila Lodwick and Hisae Hollingsworth, runners up Claire Watson and Chrissie Kenning and to Rob and Caroline Baker for managing to play the most matches.

As 2020 comes to a close I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all our members, to thank the committee for all their hard work and support in these difficult times. Thanks to them, despite COVID restrictions, we have managed not just to keep the club going but to increase our membership as we continue to promote the advantages and benefits of playing this wonderful game.

Here's hoping 2021 will be a much happier and healthier year for us all.

Rosemary Scott-Smith
Chair

Junior October Half Term Camps



Our club coach James Morris ran four Junior Camps over the October half term. Despite the damp weather the camps were well attended by children age 4 - 13. The children



enjoyed lots of activities designed to develop hand eye coordination and tennis technique whilst

having lots of fun. It was a joy to see the children of mixed ages all working together and supporting each other in their teamwork and making new friends along the way. Some of the children enjoyed the morning sessions so much they attended the afternoon as well, that's six hours of tennis in one day!

For our Friday camps we were delighted to welcome Coach Tom Wyman, an LTA level 3 coach who brought a wealth of expertise and experience to

the club. Our coaches James and Joe found the day hugely motivational and the children found his new games such as Dirty Bedrooms, Stinky Dungeons, Sharks and Fishes and Catch Your Way Back In great fun!!!

We look forward to welcoming Tom back during the Christmas holidays for the Christmas Junior camps and some adult sessions.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to see the Christmas Camps booking information.

Chrissie Kenning
Coaching Coordinator

<https://www.facebook.com/TennisCheddworth>

<https://www.instagram.com/hillandvalleytennisclub>



Cotswold Crafts - Thatching

Thatching is the oldest form of roofing in existence. Most Cotswold dwellings, barns and churches were originally thatched, as straw was readily available and a cost effective roof covering. A survey in Stanway, carried out in the C18 showed that most dwellings there were thatched. Over time, thatch declined in popularity as slates came to predominate. However, thatch can still be found in the Cotswolds, especially in settlements in the north of the area such as Chipping Campden, Winchcombe and Stanway. The origins of thatch can still be seen in some traditional dwellings, for example in Ebrington there are several cottages with large buttresses that had to be constructed when the thatch was removed and the walls began to sag under the weight of the heavy slate roof.

Thatching is an ancient craft and the method has changed little over the centuries. Before the advent of combine harvesters, much of the thatchers work was in thatching corn ricks. This was an important seasonal task to secure the corn over the winter before it was thrashed and involved considerable man power. There was the ever present risk of fire, which before the days of effective water pumps and insurance could be a disaster for the farmer. There is that dramatic scene, well captured in the film version of Thomas Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd" when a straw rick in the farmyard catches fire at night and all the villagers turn out to try to

contain the fire with buckets of water and hooks to pull out the burning straw and stop it spreading to the other ricks and the farmhouse.



Building a corn rick at Waterloo Farm Naunton in the 1930's - my Grandfather is in the bottom right. Photograph courtesy of David Hanks.

In 1893 my Great Grandfather, was summoned before Stow Magistrates for having placed a steam engine (a threshing drum) within 25 yards of the highway at Naunton. The case was dismissed as it was the first of its kind that had come before the Bench for a long time. I understand that the logic of the 25 yard buffer was to prevent horses being scared by steam engines.

A 2013 report established that there were 60,000 thatched roofs in the United Kingdom. In the last few decades, there has been an increase in the popularity of thatching, reflecting the demand for traditional properties

with a "country" look and the construction of garden structures such as gazebos with a thatched roof. The advocates of thatching cite its advantages as providing an individual look. It is an ecologically renewable source and is an excellent insulator.

Types of materials available for thatching are:-

- **Long Straw** - The traditional material in the Cotswolds. It gives a cosy look and is more suitable for older or historic properties. Good quality straw thatch can last for about 20/25 years when applied by a skilled thatcher. Most modern varieties of wheat are short strawed and cut by combines. The best wheat straw for thatching is long and cut by binders to secure the right quality and length. Occasionally when a very old cottage is re-thatched, the remnants of the original thatch has been dated to medieval times and found to contain seeds of old wheat varieties.
- **Norfolk Reed** - This is the most popular type used, especially in East Anglia and has a long lifespan. Some reed is now imported from Hungary.
- **Combed Wheat Straw (Devon Reed)** - This probably the oldest type of thatching material that is used. Its preparation takes longer than that of Norfolk Reed and also has a shorter lifespan, making it less popular.

The life span of thatch depends on several factors including:-

- The type and quality of the material.
- The skill of the thatcher.
- The pitch of the roof.
- The location of the property and climatic conditions.
- The proximity of trees and also damage by vermin and birds.

For Listed thatched buildings in the Cotswolds, the local planning authority will require the same type of material for re-thatching. In the 19th century, the materials and workmanship were very much the same for the cottage and the ricks. The thatching process begins by setting up the eaves, attaching yealms (prepared drawn layers of straw) horizontally to the ridge and apex with spars, which are lengths of twisted hazel with pointed ends to make them more secure. The first layer of the thatching process is called the brow course. Further yealms are then added to finish the row course, until the ridge is reached. Each yealm is laid in the same direction and overlaps the layer below so that there is a continuous depth of straw over the entire roof.

The next segment, the weathering thatch, represents the main body of the thatch, referred to as the "skirts". Vertical strips, called "stakes" are applied next which run from eaves to apex. These are laid in layers until the weathering thatch measures approximately fourteen inches thick.

Cotswold Crafts - Thatching

When the straw is applied to the roof it is attached to the rafters using steel thatching crooks and horizontal hazel or steel sways.

The thatch is then combed with a rake to get rid of any short or loose straw and to make sure that all the straw is lying vertically. Liggers, which are long lengths of split hazel or willow tapered at each end, are then attached to the eaves and apex to help fix the thatch in place. The ridge is then added to keep the work in place. This part of the thatch has a great deal of character and the thatcher will hand craft it in. Ridges are either flush, meaning that they are flat to the rest of the thatch and at the same level or block meaning that they stand away from the rest of the thatch. Many thatchers stick by one pattern, acting as a signature. Some thatchers will add finials to the ridge, such as a pheasants, ducks, foxes etc. On straw roofs, a netting material is placed to keep birds off, this also acts as a fixing.

For re-thatching, the original thatch will usually be removed only down to the brow course and then another weathering thatch layer will be laid over the top of this.

The thatcher's tools are a wooden mallet for driving in the spars; needles of various sizes for holding the yealms in position and for sowing the tarred string in the thatch; a bow, or reed holder, which can be hooked on the roof to hold a bundle of straw while thatching; a "yack", or yoke, that is, a forked implement of wood to carry the yealms to the roof; a spar hook for splitting and pointing hazel rods; an eaves hook, a short-handled knife; a side-rake and hand shears. Knee pads and ladders and nowadays also scaffolding are part of the thatcher's equipment. Thatching is very skilled and hard work, especially when the weather is inclement. Hot sun reflecting off the thatch makes for harsh working conditions.

Dan Quartermain, a master thatcher is based at Little Compton near Moreton-in-Marsh and has been thatching in the Cotswold and adjacent areas for 37



Dan Quartermain re-thatching a cottage at Tysoe, Warwickshire in November





Only the southern elevation has been re-thatched and a new ridge fitted, note the lovely pattern of the hazel rods on the ridge.

years. Among his many commissions was the re-thatching of Ann Hathaway's Cottage in Stratford-upon-Avon. He served an apprenticeship with a thatcher at Hook Norton. For the majority of his work he uses long straw from traditional wheat varieties such as Marias Widgeon and Huntsman. The straw is grown in Somerset and is harvested by a binder and threshed during the winter. The straight hazel rods are cut and shaped in Somerset and the twisted hazel pieces imported from Poland.

Dan employs two men, one of whom is an apprentice who obtained a bursary under the Prince's Trust. Dan considers that ridges need replacing every 12 years or so and the main thatch every 20 to 25 years. Thatching is very environmentally friendly and Dan recycles the old thatch as animal bedding which is then returned to the land as farmyard manure.

Dan has seen a trend towards thatch being used as the roof covering for high quality large new houses, garden structures and coverings for private swimming pools! He runs training courses in thatching at the Old Prison Northleach for Cotswold Rural Skills.

It is not only houses and barns that are thatched. Here is a photograph of the



cricket pavilion at Stanway, which was presented to the cricket club in 1925 by Sir James Barrie, the author of Peter Pan. It is a Grade 11 Listed building. I can remember playing cricket against Stanway in the 1960's and being impressed by the unusual design and the thatched roof of the pavilion.

The attraction of a thatched roof is well summed up by Hilaire Belloc in his poem "The South Country":-

"If I ever become a rich man
Or if ever I grow to be old
I will build a house with deep thatch
To shelter me from the cold"

Robert Young

On November 11th a Zoom AGM was held after the monthly meeting with 20 members present on the zoom screen. Reports for the year were given from the President, Secretary and Treasurer. A new President was elected with a new member elected for the Committee.

A quiz followed which pleased everyone and there was lively discussion when the answers were given. The quiz questions are printed below for the readers of Hill and Valley to enjoy. The local questions

are of interest to all who live in Chedworth.

The next meeting will be held on Zoom at 7.00 for 7.15pm on December 9th with a discussion on making Christmas tree decorations, followed by a Christmas quiz.

In our Lifestyle at the moment it will be good to contact one another to wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

Carol Bailey



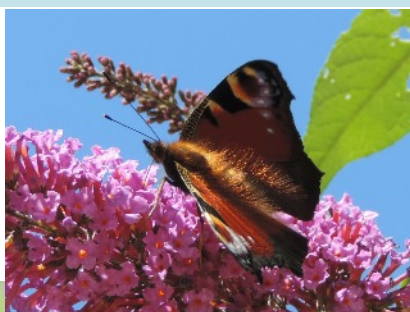
WI Quiz

1. Shirley, Ailsa Craig and Mr Stripey are all types of what?
2. Eccles Cakes come from which UK County? Yorkshire / Lancashire / Lincolnshire / Cheshire?
3. Which year did The Great British Bake Off first appear on TV? 2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012?
4. Which of the following kinds of pasta has its name meaning 'little worms' in Italian? Spaghetti / Fidelini / Vermicelli?
5. Who was Lord Mayor of London four times between 1397 and 1419, and the inspiration for a classic English folk tale/pantomime?
6. Which British archaeologist discovered Tutankhamun's tomb?
7. In which European country was there a civil war between 1946 and 1949?
8. What year was the Magna Carta signed?
9. What was the name of the ship that brought news of the Battle of Trafalgar to Britain?
10. Longest river in Europe?
11. Capital town of Wiltshire?
12. Largest island in the Mediterranean Sea?
13. Which is the only city in the UK to begin with an R?

14. When was Chedworth Roman Villa first discovered?
 15. Where near Chedworth is Hitler's Puddle?
 16. What is said to be the date of Queen Elizabeth's (wife of Henry VII) visit to Chedworth? It is carved into the church porch.
 17. What is the name of Chedworth's old village hall (used to be below the school, opposite Hawkes Lane House) and where did the building come from?
 18. What number is 'knock at the door' in Bingo?
 19. What unusual task did Angela Kelly, the Queen's dresser, confess to performing for Her Majesty in 2019?
 20. In which 1963 classic film did Charles Bronson appear?
 21. What is the chemical symbol for silver?
 22. How many hearts does an Octopus have?
 23. What is this bird?
 24. Name this flower
 25. What type of butterfly is this?
 26. Name this mammal
- (answers on page 32)**



23



25

26



24



Probus Club

"The retired man's oasis of calm!"

Probus was formed in 1966 and there are now over 1,000 clubs up and down the country; the Probus Club of Cirencester began life in 1971.

The Club provides an opportunity for retired and semi-retired men to meet for a couple of hours on Fridays for a chat, a coffee and then to listen to one of the most varied schedules of talks in Cirencester. In addition, we have a number of social events throughout the year. These range from monthly informal pub lunches for members, to the six or seven events each year at which partners and guests are also welcome.

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to hold regular meetings but are now running a Zoom meeting every Friday at 10.00am. There is also a shorter talk given by one of our members on Tuesdays, also by Zoom.

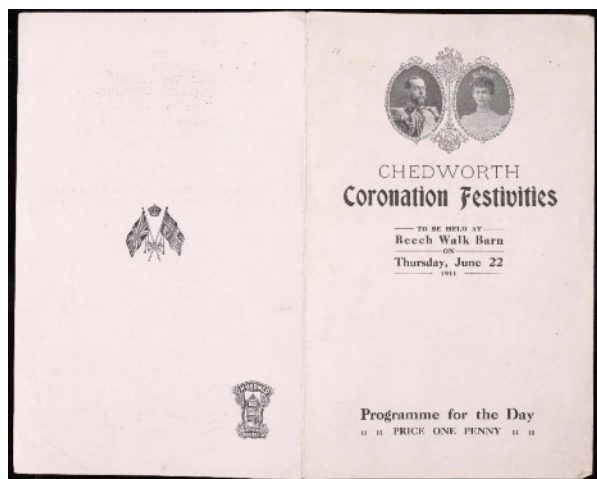
In current circumstances we very much welcome prospective members to "drop in" to these meetings and can provide a link to do so. For further information please do not hesitate to contact Simon Colbeck on 01285 720146, Peter Seymour on 01285 720568 or visit our website www.cirencesterprobus.org

Peter Seymour

WI Quiz Answers:

1. Tomato
2. Lincolnshire
3. 2010
4. Vermicelli
5. Richard (Dick) Whittington
6. Howard Carter
7. Greece
8. 1215
9. HMS. Pickle
10. The Volga
11. Trowbridge
12. icily
13. Ripon
14. 1864
15. Below the old airfield, on the road to Withington before the woods.
16. 1491
17. The Red Triangle Hut, formerly the YMCA on Rendcomb airfield.
18. Number 4
19. Wearing her shoes
20. The Great Escape
21. Ag
22. Three
23. Young Greater Spotted Woodpecker
24. Bee Orchid flower
25. Peacock butterfly on Buddleia flower
26. Weasel (it has a short tail, whereas a stoat has a longer tail with a black tip)

History Corner



I have recently received a copy of the Chedworth Coronation Festival Programme 1911 from the Gloucester Record Office and thought it would be good to share this 110 year old gem.

Mike Tovey



Chedworth . . . Coronation Festivities

Thursday, June 22, 1911

Programme for the Day

TIME.
A.M.

10.30 Band will start from Blakemoor.

11. 0 Assemble at Schoolroom. Selections by Band.
Distribution of Coronation Mugs to School Children.

11.45 Fall in and march to Church.

12. 0 Church Service.

P.M.

1. 0 Band will play selections.

1.30 Dinner and Tea will be served.
(Plates, knives and forks, mugs, &c., should be brought.)

ATHLETIC SPORTS

Will commence at 3 p.m.

EVENTS.	1st	2nd	3rd
3. 0 Flat Race for School Boys over 8	1/-	9d.	6d.
3. 5 Flat Race for School Girls over 8	1/-	9d.	6d.
3.10 Flat Race for Boys and Girls under 8	1/-	9d.	6d.
3.15 Jockey Race for School Boys, including those who left school during the school year	1/-	9d.	6d.

ATHLETIC SPORTS (continued).

TIME. P.M.	EVENTS.	1st	2nd	3rd
3.20	Tug of War for Women, Married v. Single (8 a side) ...	4/-		
3.25	Race for Young Men ...	3/-	2/-	1/-
3.30	Potato Race for Girls under 16...	1/6	1/-	6d.
3.35	Sack Race ...	3/-	2/-	1/-
3.40	Needle Threading Race ...	2/6	1/6	1/-
3.45	Tug of War for Men, Married v. Single (8 a side) ...	4/-		
3.50	Three Legged Race ...	3/-	2/-	1/-
3.55	Flat Race for Veterans over 50...	3/-	2/-	1/-

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

A CRICKET MATCH between Ladies and Gentlemen will commence at 3.30 and be limited to one and a half hours' play.

A BOWLING COMPETITION for a Live Pig will commence immediately after Dinner. There will be an interval from 4 till 6.30 o'clock. Entrance fees, 6 balls for 1/-. The highest scorer out of six balls to be the winner. Judges, Messrs. George Fry and W. Ralph. Entries to be made to the Sports Secretary, Mr. F. Fry, on the ground, and each competitor must be a resident in the parish.

DANCING will commence at 5 o'clock.
10 o'clock, **FIREWORKS.**

God Save the King.
GEO. BROAD, Hon. Sec.



Doorstep Carols on 20 December

Do join us for **Doorstep Carols** in
Chedworth & District at **6pm** on
Sunday 20th December. Look out for
further notices via email, NextDoor and
Chedworth FaceBook about
coordination arrangements - but the
carol words you will need are here.



Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
Gold and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all thee nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!*

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity!

Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Repeat chorus

Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild, He lay His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Repeat chorus

While Shepherds watched their flocks

While shepherds watched their
flocks by night, all seated on the ground
The Angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not" said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind)
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign.

All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace.
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to
men begin and never cease.

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye
To Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels;

*O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!*

God of God
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the
Virgin's womb
Very God,
Begotten, not created;

Repeat chorus

Sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
"Glory to God in the highest!

Repeat chorus

We wish you a merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas and a
happy new year
Good tidings we bring to you and your
kin

We wish you a merry Christmas and a
happy new year!

Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
And bring it right here
Good tidings we bring to you and your
kin

We wish you a merry Christmas and a
happy new year!

We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
So bring it right here
Good tidings we bring to you and your
kin

We wish you a merry Christmas and a
happy new year!

A Christmas Prayer

May the joy of the angels, the faith of
the wise men, the perseverance of the
shepherds, and the peace of the Christ
child, be God's gift to us and to all
people this Christmas, and his blessing
for us in 2021. **Amen**





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- Do you put too much pressure on yourself?
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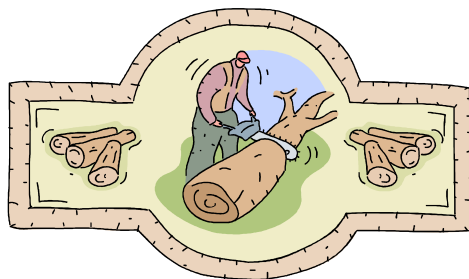
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