

September 2023

The Hill and 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.

Business advertisers please contact Mark Lanyon - 01285 720430 or via the Advertisers form on <https://hillandvalley.co.uk/advertisers/>

The magazine coordinator for September was Julie Young (01285 720398) and for October will also be Julie.

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

Cover and contents page photos by Julie Young

The HILL & VALLEY

PARISH MAGAZINE

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Julie Young Coordinator for this edition	



Helen's Letter

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourer's are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourer's into his harvest.'

– Matthew 9:37–38

The changing colour of the trees and subtle crunch of leaves under foot confirm that the arrival of Autumn is nearly upon us. Many species are getting prepared to turn in, to hibernate, and we ourselves start to get cosy by a warm fire as our daylight hours get shorter.

The harvest is gathered in, and we also prepare for our harvest festivals in churches. Changing rainfall patterns in our world, increased evaporative demand and reduced availability of water for irrigation all threaten agricultural production, particularly in areas where water supplies are already under pressure. Drier soil conditions reduce the growth of crops, pasture, and trees

But Matthew isn't just talking about actual, literal farming. For example, Jesus uses harvest imagery when he sends his disciples into the world to 'bring in the harvest' – to sow the seed of the gospel, nurture disciples, and tend to the growing church. Likewise, our call is to be disciples who make disciples. The whole of our lives should echo his love and be focused on the command to bring in a spiritual

harvest for the Lord.

The Harvest festival can be about both aspects. First, the daily grace we experience as God gives us weather that allows crops to grow, fruits to ripen, and animals to thrive. And second, the God-given skills and calling of people to the church, the part we all play in 'bringing in the harvest'.

We have a God who knows the beauty of this world, because he created it, and he created us. When we turn our focus towards God, and place our trust in Him, then he will provide for our needs, whatever they may be.

We now buy most of our produce in supermarkets, and we may no longer have to ask ourselves if there has been a good harvest, because whatever we need, it is sat on a shelf ready for us to buy.

Today in this country, for the vast majority of us, our thoughts are no longer in our thanks for a bumper harvest, although living where we do, I am sure that the farmers still feel that way, but rather that we re-affirm and re-cultivate the Christian virtue of thankfulness and generosity through the symbolism of the Harvest, and for that we must remember to give thanks. Amen

Helen Oldham

Church Briefing

Benefice Church Services

September 2023

Everyone Welcome

Sunday 3rd September

Holy communion

10-30 am Coln St Denys

Sunday 10th September

Holy Communion

10-30 am Coln Rogers

Sunday 17th September

Holy Communion

10-30 am Chedworth

Sunday 24th September

Mattins

10-30 am Yanworth

From the Registers

Marriages

"Let us Love one another for love comes from God" 1 John 4v7

*Josie May Carnaby & Leo William James
Rocheport*

Baptisms

"You are all children of the light and children of the day" 1 Thessalonians 5v5

*Lexi-Marie Sansum Griffiths & Arlo
Emlyn Sansum Griffiths*

Funerals

"Nothing in creation can separate us from the love of God"

Peter Gregory

Interment

Gill Barton

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
04-Sept	19:30	Chedworth Village Hall Annual General Meeting	Chedworth Village Hall
08-Sept		Chedworth Charity Golf Day	Monmouth
08-Sept	19:30	Back Row Club - Summerland	Chedworth Village Hall
11-Sept	19:30	Parish Council Meeting	Chedworth Village Hall
13-Sept		WI Outing	
16-Sept	09:00	Village Hall Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
21-Sept	18:00	RBL Talk - Ukraine: A country at war with Russia - and itself? - James Sayer	Chedworth Village Hall
09-Oct	19:30	Parish Council Meeting	Chedworth Village Hall
11-Oct	19:30	WI Meeting - One Foot in Paradise	Chedworth Village Hall
13-Oct	19:30	Back Row Club	Chedworth Village Hall
21-Oct	09:00	Village Hall Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
4-Nov		Chedworth Gardening Club Compost Day	Chedworth Village all
10-Nov	9:30	Back Row Club	Chedworth village Hall
13-Nov	19:30	Parish Council Meeting	Chedworth Village Hall
15-Nov	19:30	WI Meeting - AGM & Supper	Chedworth Village Hall
18-Nov	09:00	Village Hall Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
08-Dec	19:30	Back Row Club	Chedworth Village Hall
11-Dec	19:30	Parish Council Meeting	Chedworth Village Hall
13-Dec	19:30	WI Meeting - Bard of Barnwood	Chedworth Village Hall
16-Dec		Village Hall Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall



Recycling Dates

Domestic Waste & Recycling

Including glass, paper, mixed recycling, cardboard, garden waste, non-recyclable waste, food waste



Chedworth Area, Fossebridge, Yanworth

Tuesday	5	Sept
Tuesday	19	Sept
Tuesday	3	Oct
Tuesday	17	Oct
Tuesday	31	Oct

Coln St Dennis, Coln Rogers

Friday	1	Sept
Friday	15	Sept
Friday	29	Sept
Friday	13	Oct
Friday	27	Oct

Turn your event into an occasion at

Chedworth Village Hall

Visit our website for full details including making booking enquiries

chedworthvillagehall.co.uk

St. Andrew's C of E Primary & Preschool



As we begin a new academic year, we hope that the autumnal sunshine is with us for a few weeks so that we can enjoy our amazing outdoor space; before the summer holidays we were very kindly gifted lots of fabulous plants for our garden which we have now planted to create a sensory garden for the children to explore and utilise within their play! We have been very busy throughout the holidays sorting through resources, restocking the favourite materials ready for lots more fun and learning!

This year, we will be holding our 'Stay & Play' sessions on a Tuesday

morning from 9:00 – 11:00am, £2.50 per family. All children under 5 years of age are welcome! Please do note that the children will remain your responsibility throughout this session. Could I also please take this opportunity to remind you to sign in at Reception before coming around to the Pre-School – if you would like further information for this session, please do email or telephone us!

'Stay & Play' will restart on Tuesday 12th September, we look forward to you joining us!

If you are coming to visit Pre-School, dropping off or collecting children please do remember that we follow in line with St. Andrew's 'Park and Stride' policy; we encourage all parents and carers to create healthy habits and where possible walking to school is a great way to start the day – even on those wet mornings, splashing through puddles is a great stress relief!!! Wellies and waterproof clothing are recommended! – limited parking is available for parents who should require support.

We have limited spaces available for children aged from 2 years – we accept all Nursery Education Funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds along with Tax Free Childcare Scheme – please do call 07840

370220 to book an appointment to come and see us for a chat!

Sara Smith (Preschool Manager)
preschoolmanager@st-andrews.gloucs.sch.uk

Chedworth Open Gardens 2023

I would like to thank all of you who came to the Opens Gardens and Show on 24th June. Especially to those who volunteered to help in the car park and the gardens and of course to our garden owners for opening.

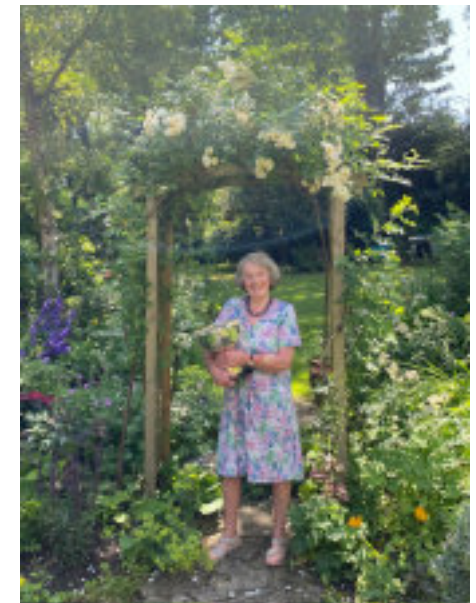
It was a very warm and sunny day and we had almost 500 visitors, who enjoyed visiting the 8 gardens, the show marquee and the delicious Claire Booth Cooks all day lunches and teas.

We also had a private tour of 28 visitors from Germany on the Wednesday after the Open gardens who visited 3 of the gardens. This money all went into the National Garden Scheme pot which exceeded £5k, but after expenses of hire of the hall and coaches we have sent the NGS a donation of £3,650 to go toward their nursing and gardening charities.

As a bit of fun on the day we ask people to vote for their favourite garden, not an easy ask as they were all looking fabulous, but I was very pleased to present the Townsend Trophy for the Peoples Choice best Chedworth garden to Annette Seymour (photographed) & Peter at Windsor Cottage, who were very worthy winners.

We normally hold the Open Gardens every other year, so hope to include some new gardens in 2025.

Sue Bradbury
Chedworth Open Gardens Organiser
bradburydesigns@aol.com
07831 464956



Off to school

Mother to young daughter after first day at school: "Well, dear, what did they teach you today?"

Daughter: "Not much. I've got to go back again tomorrow."

Cat

I know, I know, when people see a cat's litter box, they say, "Oh, have you got a cat?". But someday, just *once* I want to say, "No, it's for visitors."

Chedworth Parish Council

The August Parish Council meeting commenced with a discussion about a village shop which should be documented elsewhere in the H&V

The Council has agreed to support local residents who are campaigning to have the pot holed and badly patched local roads repaired, many of the complaints are about roads in adjoining parishes which residents have to use, by agreeing to send a letter of complaint to Glos County Council as a body and to senior councillors, to reflect local concerns.

Roads in particularly poor condition are the Whiteway most of which is outside the Parish Boundary, which ends near where the Laines Road joins the Whiteway south of the Airfield but the upper part of Tuns Hill has also

Councillors

David Broad (Chairman)	01285 720313
Ian Morgan (Vice Chairman)	07778 168822
George Broad	07895 177961
Andrea Cola	07974 388687
Mike Dentith	07970 900373
Tony Kingsley	01285 720743
Alan McLellan	01285 720642

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

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

been identified as particularly bad as it has been marked for pot hole repairs, but needs resurfacing. Numerous other areas have pot holes and or have been badly patched. The Parish Council also encourages residents to report pot holes on the County Council "Report It" web page.

One issue of particular urgency is a blockage to a culvert in Queen Street where a ball of tree roots has been identified as a cause of water cascading down the roadway instead of being diverted safely away down the stream bed towards Lower Chedworth. The Council has complained about this previously but now feels strongly that the matter must be urgently addressed during what remains of the summer before winter rains make work on the highway drains and culverts impossible.

The Parish Council has had its grass keep field cut and is sourcing wildflower seeds to sow in the former diggers field. The Council looked into creating a wildflower meadow there, but advice is that the field is already species rich so adding seed rather than ploughing and starting again is the best solution. The Council has been following advice from Cotswold National Landscapes to maintaining the biodiversity of this meadow.

Winter is coming. Salt grit is on order, a new grit bin to replace the damaged one on Tuns Hill is on its way, but residents can do their bit by letting us know if their bin is low on grit before the winter frosts and snow arrive, as refilling is a lot more pleasant in

September than in the middle of a Blizzard in December. Flipping the Salt Bin lids shut when they are left open also helps as its easier to shovel grit when its dry. Please contact the Clerk at clerk@chedworthpc.org.uk

or Alan McLellan (720642) if your local grit bin needs refilling.
David Broad



Calling all singers !

Come and join our fun and friendly 4-part choir!

The Hill and Valley Singers



There are no auditions and it's not essential to read music. Just bring your enthusiasm, commitment and enjoyment of singing. You can be sure of a warm welcome!

We meet on **Thursdays 7.30-9.00 pm**, at St Andrew's School, Chedworth, GL54 4AJ
Our new season begins on Thursday 21st September 2023.

Musical Director - Shirley Jee
Accompanist - Rachel Emmerson

For more information contact our Chairman, Neil Irving, 01285 720403

Going to college

Lecturing is transferring information from the notes of the lecturer to the notes of the students without passing through the minds of either.



Hill & Valley Lawn Tennis Club

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC>

CLUB NEWS

The summer tennis season is reaching a somewhat damp finale, but club events continue. Whilst the Glos LTA County summer league matches for our Men's & Ladies Teams have finished, there are still plenty of our internal mixed doubles ladder matches to complete. We also look forward to the Stroud Winter Mixed League starting in October. Do come along to one of our regular club sessions with Men's night on Mondays and Ladies on Thursdays, along with other organised sessions during the week. The newly introduced **Walking Tennis** for those with limited mobility is proving popular and is open to non-members. Planning is underway for our main Club Social evening and **AGM on Friday 24th November**, details to follow. This will be a lively, social event with a good opportunity to meet your fellow club members and to hear about club developments and exchange ideas for the future. We hope to see as many of our members as possible there!

Robert Baker, Chair hillandvalleylta@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD

ALLISON STOCK DAY

A club social event in memory of Allison Stock. Each year has a different theme. This year we will be having a fun afternoon of tennis with different formats of competitive tennis, players will be in teams and it will conclude with afternoon tea with cakes and sandwiches. All welcome to enter and dressing up optional!

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/Events>

**ALLISON STOCK DAY
MAD HATTERS TENNIS
& TEA PARTY**

Come & Jump down the
Rabbit hole for an afternoon
of Tennis Fun & Games!

Saturday
September 23rd
2-5pm

All Welcome!
BUT don't be late
for this VERY
important date!

Dressing up optional!

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/Events>



WALKING TENNIS

Running every Friday afternoon 2.30-4pm

It is relaxed and fun, you can go at your own pace. Come along to give it a go! Open to non members

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/WalkingTennis>



AFTER SCHOOL JUNIOR COACHING

September 13th - October 25th

7 week block on Wednesdays for ages 4-18yrs

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/Coaching>



HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMPS

October 31st & November 2nd

5% discount for siblings & 15% discount for members.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/Coaching/Camps>

Juniors 4-13yrs on Tuesday & Thursday

9.30am-12.30noon or 1pm-4pm or 9.30am-4pm

Book either a half day £22 (9.30-12.30 or 1-4)
or a full day £39 (9.30-4 Bring a packed lunch)

Teens 13-18yrs on Tuesday 4-6pm



UNWANTED RACKETS

We are still collecting for the children's charity "Give It Your Max". If you have any tennis rackets that you no longer want, even if they are in need of repair or restringing, please get in touch to drop them off or we can collect. Contact Caroline 07733 322176.



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23rd September Allison Stock Day

24th November Social Evening & AGM

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/Events>

Facebook.com/TennisChedworth

Instagram.com/hillandvalleytennisclub

Twitter.com/HillValleyTenn





Instead of an August outing we were offered the chance of picnicking in Carol and Geof Bailey's delightful maturing woodland.



Amazingly during this damp holiday season, we had the most perfect weather and armed with chairs, rugs and most importantly picnics we strolled gently to their beautiful woodland glade. Where we were able to conduct our routine business outside!

As you can see, we even allowed partners to attend too!

Having picnicked in August on September 13th we are off on our annual outing to Sezincote. Where we will have a private tour of the house followed by tea and cakes in the Orangery. If anyone would like to join us, do let me know by email at ditzyk9@pm.me

October will see us back in the village hall for a more orthodox meeting with a talk from Bob Rogers entitled 'One Foot in Paradise (the island of Mull)', 7.15pm Wednesday 11th at the village hall.

Emma Isaac



The Chedworth & District Branch of the Royal British Legion

Invites you to

'Ukraine: A country at war with Russia - and itself?'
a talk by
Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) James Sayer

Thursday 21 September 2023

**At Chedworth Village Hall, GL54 4NE
6.00 o'clock**

R.S.V.P

Simon Colbeck (on the attached form)
07444701884 / simoncolbeck@msn.com

Drinks & Canapés
followed by the talk at 7.00 p.m

The Royal British Legion
'Ukraine: A country at war with Russia - and itself?'
a talk by
James Sayer

Please return this form to:

Maj Simon Colbeck
Ashcombe Edge, Chedworth, Cheltenham GL54 4AJ
07444701884 / simoncolbeck@msn.com

Name.....

Address.....

.....Telephone:.....

Email address:.....

I wish to attend and require.....tickets at a minimum donation of £15.00 per person and enclose a cheque/cash for £.....(Payable to: RBL Chedworth & District Branch) or

I have paid £..... on line Bank : Sort Code 30-92-06 Account: 00038677
Ref: 'Sayer - Payee name'

I regret that I am unable to attend but am making a donation for £..... in support of the Royal British Legion and The Ukraine Appeal.

Signature.....Date.....

Tickets will not be sent out but attendance will be recorded on the door.

Registered Charity No 219279

Backrow Club at the Village Hall



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

All in the Month of September

It was:

125 years ago, on 26th Sept 1898 that George Gershwin, American composer, was born. Known for his operas, Broadway musicals and film scores.

100 years ago, on 4th Sept 1923 that Noel Coward's musical revue *London Calling!* was first performed, in London. It was his first publicly produced musical work.

Also 100 years ago, on 7th Sept 1923 that Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organisation, was founded.

Also 100 years ago, on 29th Sept 1923 that the British Mandate for Palestine came into effect. Britain took control of Mandatory Palestine (formerly part of the Turkish Empire) until 1948, when Israel became an independent state.

80 years ago, on 10th Sept 1943 that the Germans occupied Rome, Italy, and took over the protection of the Vatican City.

75 years ago, on 9th Sept 1948 that the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was established, headed by Kim Il Sung.

70 years ago, on 10th Sept 1953 that the discovery of rapid eye movement (REM) sleep was published in the journal *Science*. It had been discovered in 1952 by Eugene Aserinsky and Nathaniel Kleitman at the University of Chicago.

50 years ago, on 2nd Sep 1973 that JRR Tolkien, British fantasy writer, poet, scholar, and educator died. Best known for his novels *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Also 50 years ago, on 29th Sep 1973 that W H Auden, British born American poet, died. Regarded as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century.

25 years ago, on 4th Sep 1998 that Google, the internet search company, was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, both students at Stanford University in California. The company was originally based in a friend's garage at Menlo Park.

15 years ago, on 7th Sep 2008 that the Financial Crisis erupted. The troubled US mortgage-financing giants, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, were put into government conservatorship under the Federal Housing Finance Agency. On 15th Sep 2008 the global investment company Lehman Brothers filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. It was the largest bankruptcy filing in US history.

I wonder what Facebook employees do, to waste time at work?

Scientists have finally discovered exactly how much sleep a human being needs ... just five minutes more.

People say 60 is the new 40. The policeman who just pulled me over didn't agree.

Your Gardening Tips for September



While many parts of the world are suffering intense heat we are left wondering were summer went in in the British Isles. Those of us who went to see Gill and Paul

Badger's garden will have learnt much about gardening organically and her no dig policy. Hopefully we will be brining those methods back ointo our own gardens.

- This is the month when hydrangeas should be at their best if they have not been affected by the dry weather.
- Continue to deadhead plants such as Dahlia, Delphinium, Rosa and Penstemon
- It is time for some gentle tidying up of the borders, leaving seed heads for the birds. Trim back lavender if not already done. Divide herbaceous perennials, and plant new perennials, towards the end of the month.
- This a good time to propagate evergreens such as choisyas, hebes, and heathers as well as herbs such as bay, rosemary and sage.
- If not already done, cut out old fruiting raspberry canes before they go brown and are hard to identify.
- Treat lawns with autumn feed.
- Start to add compost or rotted manure to the garden to reinvigorate the soil over the winter.
- Plant out winter lettuce, autumn onion sets, garlic and spring cabbage. Remove yellow leaves from over wintering brassicas.
- Dig up remaining potatoes to avoid slug damage.
- Garden vegetables that become over-ripe are an easy target for some pests. Remove them as soon as possible to avoid detection.
- Resist the temptation to leave the topmost flowers on tomatoes. Cut them off as no significant tomatoes will be harvested from them from now on. In late September cut off trusses of unripe outdoor tomatoes to ripen indoors.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, crocus and hyacinth and plant Amaryllis in pots for Christmas showing.
- Cabbage White butterflies may no longer threaten your brassicas but continue to protect them from pigeons.
- Check roses for fungal disease such as blackspot and bin the affected leaves
- If you are not going to make soup from the water left from boiling vegetables, pour the liquid (once cooled!) onto your pot plants and they will respond with vigour! If you are clearing away nettles, before composting them, soak in water for a week and use the liquid as a good fertilizer.
- If you manage to go abroad for a holiday, avoid the temptation to bring plants back as the risk of

introducing new diseases and pests is very high.

- Avoid using peat based compost.
- This a good month to go hunting for mushrooms, including horse mushrooms, and shaggy ink caps for a tasty meal!

- Do not forget that the Compost Day is on Saturday 4 November at the Village Hall car park.

Simon Colbeck
Chairman, Chedworth & District
HORTSOC

CHEDWORTH GARDENING CLUB AUTUMN COMPOST DAY AT THE VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2023



75 Litre Mushroom Compost Bags will be available for collection at the Village Hall between 10.00am and 12.00 noon 4 November. The price of each bag is £6.00 for members and £8.00 for non-members.

Please email Josie Hutson at hutson77@btinternet.com with your order and method of payment as soon as possible to ensure delivery. If paying by BACS Reference your order 'Compost' and Your Name, to Sort Code: 30-92-06, Account: 00054788. The Name on the bank account is Chedworth and District HORTSOC. You can pay by cash on the day.

Cheques payable to 'Chedworth & District HORTSOC' (Note not Gardening Club)

Order your bags as soon as possible but the **Last day to put your order in is Saturday 14 October** to enable us to get the right number of bags to the hall for you.

DISTRIBUTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE ANY BAGS WITHOUT NOTIFYING JOSIE HUTSON

FoStA - Tenth Anniversary

Tenth Anniversary of The Friends of St Andrew's Church-FoStA

2023 marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Friends of St Andrew's Church, which has a neat symmetry with the appointment of the Reverend Karen Hunter Kriwald as our new incumbent., whose induction service will be held in the early autumn. FoStA was set up to respond to the need to cover the shortfall of church income over expenditure. Whilst our village church is fortunate to be able to call on the Greenwood Trust and The Churchlands Charity for the funding of some repairs and improvements, there was an increasing need to raise funds for the running costs of the church, repairs and major improvements. FoStA's aim is to help maintain, protect and improve the church of St Andrew and its work in the community by:-

Providing additional income for the church through a variety of fundraising events.

Bringing members of the community together through various social events.

Welcoming new arrivals to the village by providing them with information and helping them feel part of the community.

Encouraging those who visit the church or use it for personal events (christenings, marriages, funerals etc)



to support St Andrew's long- term welfare.

Over the last ten years, FoStA has organised a wide range of social and fundraising events, including garden parties, talks on local history, bridge parties, Bertie Pearce magician and a children's magic show and tea party. The funds raised and the regular donations from FoStA members has enabled grants to be made to the church towards the cost of repairs including windows, stonework, the sundial, the Listed churchyard monuments, the redecoration of the chancel, nave and tower, the installation of the audio- visual system and the major scheme for the installation of electric heating and a mains water supply.

The finances of small rural churches are under considerable pressure, especially after the disruption of Covid. The running costs of St Andrew's Church are £86 a day which equates to £2,600 a month. Generally, the income is £60 per day, equating to £1,800 a month. FoStA, therefore has an important fund -raising role in securing the future of our beautiful church. This year a grant of £4,000 was made to the church for the first quarters instalment of the Quota payable to the Diocese of Gloucester

(the Quota is the charge levied by the Diocese on parishes as a contribution towards the running costs of the Church of England)

FoStA will be organising fund raising social events over the coming months which will be advertised in Hill and Valley and social media and we very much look forward to your **support**. If you would like to become a member or help at FoStA events, please contact Jeannie Hamilton -Treasurer- jeannie@tdhamilton.com or Sue Nashe – Membership Secretary- suenashe@gmail.com

We have invested in a “Square Terminal” machine which can take contactless and credit/debit card payments using a Wi-Fi or mobile phone “hotspot” connection. For those who like a paper record it can also print out a receipt with a small black and white picture of the church.

Alternatively, it can send an email receipt, if preferred, with a small colour picture of the church and instructions on how to join FOSTA.



The facility also enables FOSTA to receive payments on line before future events, using a web link <https://square.link/u/6oCWz2Pb> or a QR code. Please feel free to experiment by pointing your mobile phone camera at the QR code above until the Square Link is recognised and tapped to take you to the donation.

Robert Young

Thank You

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGES, FLOWERS, MEALS AND ALL THE SUPPORT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN THE PAST WEEKS SINCE THE VERY SAD DEATH OF PETER.

WE APPRECIATE IT ALL A GREAT DEAL AND CONTINUE TO DO SO AS WE COME TO TERMS WITH LOOSING OUR BELOVED SON, BROTHER AND PARTNER.

ANDREW, LOUISE , DANIEL AND EMMA.

A Yank in the Cotswolds

Whats in a name....

Firefly
Glow Worm

In America houses are identified by street numbers. You can name your cottage as is the custom in the charming seaside village of Carmel by the Sea , or your grand plantation in in one of the Southern states but if you hope to get your Amazon and mail deliveries in other parts of the USA you best stick to house numbers.

In the English countryside ... quite the other way. The Old Schoolhouse , The Forge, The Sheep Barn The Rectory, The Chapel , Apple Cottage ... all honour past history, function, or characteristic, and give identity to place in village. Truth be told, Amazon still often confuses our rented Rectory Farmhouse with the neighboring Rectory and I have had more than a few items go missing because of confusion.

Our new home on Pancake Hill has been known as Silver Spring but no one can tell me why. The name seems to be of no history or meaning so we filed for a name change that at least has personal resonance, in keeping with the magic and charm of place .

In 2020 our family home, Casa Kulanu (meaning house for all of us)was ravaged by wildfires in the Napa Valley. It was a sign to begin a new chapter and England was ingrained in our DNA.

MrG's ancestors left Britain and sailed to the new world on the Mayflower. My own family made the same crossing three centuries later on the Queen

Mary.

England felt like a natural return and the Cotswolds held many of the rural charms we loved about living in Wine Country north of San Francisco.

The architecture is also familiar and has inspired many of my professional designs including that of our own Casa Kulanu.

When we first saw Silver Spring with its gabled facade, nestled in a hollow at the end of a winding drive it spoke to us of home but its name stamped on the old gate held no magic . After some research we found that it had no real significance to place. There was no spring nor any connection to silver.

A name makes an immediate first impression and inspires a perception that can actually influence the future.

Lola vs Ethel.
Manor vs Cottage
Robert vs Rupert
Palace vs Castle
Gertrude vs Gina
Pancake vs Crepe
Banger vs Hot Dog

Thinking hard about naming is important. A name could determine destiny. We felt it wise not to share choices with others until a decision was fixed. Surely we would have gotten as many different opinions as the number of those we asked.

With Cotswold Council approval, followed by notification to Royal Mail to ensure we get those Amazon deliveries, we have been officially granted our name selection. MrG and I have been conjuring for months. A name unique enough to avoid

confusion with any other house in the village, yet appropriately as charming as the spot and as the name Pancake Hill. A name that speaks of us who live there

SERENDIPITY; KISMET;
appropriate because of how we found our special little paradise.

THE HOLLOW for how it sits in a dip off Pancake Hill.

BRIGADOON for how two Yanks wandering the British Isle, landed in a magical place.

It was a bit more than a cottage and surely not a manor

All reasonable choices.

It was fire that led us to fly to this magical place that twinkles, especially on summer nights when GLOW WORMS buzz through the evening air.

In America we call them FIREFLIES. . We are two countries separated by a common language but surely good friends with much in common.

So FIREFLY it is !

Welcome to FIREFLY, our roost on in the hollow on Pancake Hill.

Recipe of the month

A schnitzel is a schnitzel is a schnitzel by any other name would taste as good

Schnitzel : Katzu: Milanese. - all made the same way but dressed slightly differently.

Topped with a fried egg, sprinkled with sesame seeds , or garnished with diced tomatoes this is a breaded cutlet

I often make mine with pork , bone in, thinly pounded centre cut chop. This recipe calls for chicken breasts and is interchangeable.

Serves 4

1 chicken breast split and butterflied , lightly pounded

2 beaten eggs

1/2c white flour

3/4 cups panko

RELAVATION: I like to blend fresh made bread crumbs into the panko for a crispier results.

Lightly season the pounded meat with a bit of sea salt and pepper (and a light dusting of garlic powder optional)

Dip in flour; egg and finally crumb mixture. Be sure meat is well encrusted

Layer between sheets of kitchen wax paper and refrigerate for 15 minutes to half hour. It helps the coating stick on

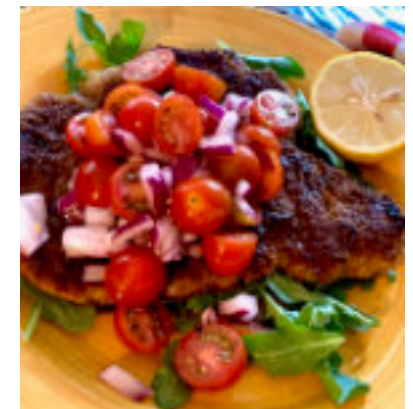
Melt 4-6tbs salted butter with 3 tbs olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat.

Sauté the cutlets about 4 minutes per side until golden

Drain on paper towel and serve with sliced lemon.

This dish is excellent served hot out of the pan or at room temperature. A great option to take along on a picnic

Rela Gleason



Village Shop

My name is Sian and I live at Salters Barn in Pinkwell, just down the road opposite the Village Hall in Chedworth. You may have come across my Beagle, Pepper, who was a frequent escape artist when I first moved to the Village in 2020, thankfully she is now under control!

I run a technology company based in Solihull, but our customers are based all over and so I am often travelling, but I try and work from home as often as I can - who wouldn't in this lovely calm village environment.

One of the plus points for me when searching for a home in the Cotswolds, was the classic story of somewhere with a nice pub, a small shop, and a quality café would be nice, and as few tourists as possible!

The old village shop and café still operated when I moved in, but sadly shut down shortly afterwards. I never really got the chance to experience it, but I have noticed the absence of any facilities acutely since I arrived. It's a 40-minute round trip in the car to get basics and it's a complete pain if you forget something and have people visiting. And with one pub and 400-ish houses in Chedworth, there is space for more facilities, somewhere to get great coffee and cake, and this point has been proven through the success of the pop-up café.

I never meant to buy anywhere with land, it just happened that way and thankfully I have found a wonderful tenant equestrian, who I am thankful

looks set to stay with me for the long term – fingers crossed. But there is quite a bit of land, and I think it is possible to carve out a thin strip of it by the roadside opposite the village hall and I don't believe it would disrupt my equestrian tenant, or materially reduce the capacity he needs for his horses.

And so, an idea was born.... Chedworth needs a shop, there is space and proven demand for a café, but where to put it and how to make it successful?

Before I founded the tech company I run today, I have a background in retail. I helped to design and launch Sainsburys first online shopping experience way back when. I helped design the original Nectar loyalty card programme, which is where my understanding of retail store data and important success factors like footfall and stocking choices comes from, and I ran all the retail technology from warehouses to shops to online, for Clarks the footwear company, globally. It's with this background experience that I have been mulling over the important exam question for the last year.... ***precisely how could a shop and café generate enough revenue to cover its costs, without attracting undue additional vehicle traffic or busloads of tourists? I live here to remember, and it's my kitchen window that the extra traffic could well drive past.***

The solution came to me when fields road was being resurfaced for the

Tour de Britain cycle race. Cyclists! Or better still cyclists, walkers and locals and tradesman passing down the A429 on the way to work. Some rough modelling suggests this could be enough footfall to make the shop and café a viable long-term going concern. There are still a few gaps and challenges to overcome, but I can see a route through them all, so step one is to understand from residents ***how popular this idea would be?***

To bring the whole thing to life, imagine this.... there is parking for a handful of cars, all with electrical vehicle charging powered by solar and batteries (with the building being designed to be almost off-grid in its energy and water efficiency). There is larger parking area for professional

cyclists, with top-end security to protect their bikes while they relax in the café.

You will come into and out of the building through a small shop carrying essential food, frozen and sundry items for residents, into the café area. There is indoor and covered outdoor seating – imagine wooden rustic chairs, with checked blankets for colder days thrown over the chair backs, subtle lighting gives a warm cosy Cotswold feel. There are historical pictures of Chedworth on the walls, alongside famous cyclists. Information about local walking routes and key essential items for cyclists, allowing for repairs and equipment replacements needed for longer rides. There is a secure charging locker bay, so cyclists can



Village Shop

charge their e-bike batteries or professional Garmin GPS equipment.

The venture could provide an opportunity for weekend employment for teenagers who want the work experience; and it would be ideal if residents who have enjoyed baking cakes for the po-up café wanted to continue to do so for this new venture. This could potentially create a small income in a share-of profits from cake sales model.

The whole area would look like a farm building if you were driving past, in keeping with the equestrian land around it. There is road access already to the plot, however access could be moved to wherever the planner suggests is best to minimise traffic and pedestrian disruption.

Whilst I have a strong and somewhat selfish desire to minimise vehicle traffic to the location, its likely on weekends that if I get the marketing for the location right, it will attract walkers who want to park up for the day. This could create an income for the village hall, who could be paid a stipend for overflow parking, and this would in turn drive footfall to the village hall on days when the farmers market is being hosted, further increasing the success of this sister venture.

So all in all, my conclusion is, wouldn't

it be great for the village if we had someone with the retail experience to know how to make a success of a village shop and café, who had the money to invest in setting up the venture and wanted to do so, and some land to put it all on.....strikes me that this combination of factors doesn't often present itself, so it must be fate.

However, and I am crystal clear on this point. I have no *need* to do this, I just think it's the right thing to do. Therefore, if it's not broadly supported by most residents, then it won't go ahead. I have no desire to battle the village for this, I could be doing many other things with my time, so I am in your hands as to whether to progress this idea or not.

There will be lots of steps along the way and opportunities to engage and input. It may not even get past planning! But step one is to garner a response to this article and with this in mind I have enlisted the very welcome support of the capable team who have been working on the community shop idea to help and work with me. And together we will be re-surveying residents once this article has had some time to be read and reflected on by all, so you can tell us what you think.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sian Jones

WALKING TENNIS

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS, 2.30-4PM

Hill & Valley Tennis Club, Chedworth

ALL WELCOME to come along for this gentler game of tennis which is suitable for all ages and abilities. It is perfect if you have a health condition or injury that impacts your mobility or you're recovering from an operation or post childbirth or maybe it's a few years since you last played. Suitable for beginners too!

It will help to get you going again and improve your fitness and wellbeing. It is relaxed and fun, you can go at your own pace. You only need a pair of trainers, we can provide a racket if you don't have one plus the balls.

Come and give it a try or you can just come and watch, it is open to non members and friends and family.

We have tea and cake afterwards!

We look forward to seeing you!



For more info scan the QR code or follow this link

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/WalkingTennis



“Road Rage” in and about Chedworth!

As one of many who have to tackle the dreadful state of the roads in and around Chedworth I have become incensed about the lack of proper repair and maintenance of them by Gloucestershire County Council.

Having taken up the issue directly with key personnel involved I recognise that on an individual basis my concerns are unlikely to result in much action being taken and all I see anyway are a small number of so called “potholes” marked with white paint to indicate which ones are to be infilled with tarmac.

Of course, once these holes are infilled a few weeks of rain soon gets underneath them and they break up again.

An article in The Times (August 12) headed ***“Wait 100 years for potholes to be fixed as cash for roads is cut”***.

According to the article annual expenditure on local road maintenance in the UK fell from £4 billion in 2006 to £2 billion in 2019 and further since.

Meanwhile the combined tax revenue from Car Tax and Fuel Duty has increased!

Latest figures show that in 2021/22, Vehicle Excise Duty generated around £7.1 billion (up from 6.9 billion in the previous financial year and the highest amount ever raised) and Fuel Duty about £25.9 billion (up from £20.9 billion in the previous financial year as a result of increased traffic levels following the coronavirus (COVID).

This makes a combined figure of £33,000,000,000 (£33 billion) of which

insufficient is ring fenced for the maintenance and repair of our roads.

Whilst the Council pleads poverty in terms of the amount it has to look after our roads there appears to be a lack of due diligence about what roads need to be prioritised, such as the Whiteway, for example, or the steep roadway leading into Tuns Hill.

In 2022, it is estimated the Council spent circa £1 million needlessly resurfacing Fields Road for the National Cycle Race which was then cancelled, following the death of the Queen. This was done against repairing the Whiteway which is now a virtual death trap with cars driving on the wrong side of the road to avoid the many dips and holes.

Chedworth is defined as being within an “Area of Outstanding Beauty” and quite apart from the fact that we have to suffer such road conditions our roads must make a lasting impression on tourists who come to visit the world famous Roman Villa or other local sites and attractions.

At the August Parish Council meeting on August 14 the situation was discussed at length and it was agreed that the Council would take up the issue on behalf of the residents and community of Chedworth to hopefully, give a bigger voice to the demand that urgent repairs are conducted in relation to the most serious damage and that this goes further than just “potholing”.

The following photographs indicate the many areas requiring urgent repair!

Colin Peirce



Chedworth Produce Market

The Chedworth Produce Market has become a popular monthly event in the village calendar, attracting customers from the local area and further afield. The monthly market is held every third Saturday of the month in the Village Hall.

Launched in December 2022 the market offers quality local produce from local companies. It is supported by the ever-popular Pop Up Café and therefore provides both a local shopping opportunity as well as a space to meet friends.

The market also features a monthly raffle for a hamper of items kindly donated by the traders, with proceeds going to local charities. So far the market has been able to donate over £1300 of much needed funds to a range of organisations, including Gloucestershire Air Ambulance, Srcubditch Care Farm, Winston's Wish, The Churn Project and National Star College as well as the Village Hall Charitable Trust that maintains the Village Hall as a community asset. Tickets are £2 each.

As the market heads towards its first anniversary at the end of the year keep a look out for some new initiatives and products on offer. For those who haven't experienced the market why not drop in and see it in action. The next market will be Saturday 16th September from 9am - 1pm.



Regular traders include Sourdough Revolution bread, Cacklebean eggs, Kingstone Dairy cheese, comte cheese from Jason Hinds, Woodlands Farm fresh and frozen yoghurt, Pancake Hill cut flowers and plants, Cotswold Garden Market fresh seasonal vegetables, Bushel and Peck cider, apple juice and perry and Elements Craft Beer. Meat products, which are all produced following the 'pasture for life' ethos, are provided by Eastleach Downs Organic Farm with pork products, Sandy Hill Mob with beef and Lower Hampen Farm with lamb. The fresh/frozen meat offering is complemented by charcuterie from Saltpig Curing. Other traders include sweet treats and brownies from Hetty's Kitchen and fresh coffee from Fire and Flow, as well as from time to time, fresh oysters, eco friendly greeting cards, canvas bags and homewares and very locally produced alpaca manure! Most traders are there each month but you can keep an eye out on our Facebook and Instagram pages to see who is attending each market.



Follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram

Chedworth Produce Market

Charles Hutton-Potts

Chedworth Village Hall Annual General Meeting



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Monday 4th September 2023

7.30pm

At the Village Hall

The Chedworth Village Hall Committee encourages all villagers to attend this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The committee is also seeking more Trustees to help in the management of the Hall and also anyone who wants to join our team of Supporters. If you wish to put yourself forward to become elected as a Trustee at the AGM, or register as a Supporter, please contact Charles Hutton-Potts (Chairman of the Committee) at charles.hp64@gmail.com or 07970 673611

The meeting is expected to last no more than one hour.

In common

I was the supply teacher for a class that was learning about groups. In one exercise, pupils were asked to label a group of items according to their common characteristics. Pictured were onion rings, doughnuts, and party biscuits. The correct answer would have been that all the items have holes in the centre.

But one health-conscious boy pointed out: "All of those things contain far too much cholesterol."

Some Observations on Everyday Life

To me, old age is always 15 years older than whatever I am. - Anon

We have relatively few illiterates in the country, but millions of people who can't read the road signs. - Anon

Not only are the sins of the fathers visited upon the children, but nowadays the sins of the children are visited upon the fathers. - Anon

If I understand what the economists are saying, the situation is hopeless - but improving. - Anon

To entertain some people, all you have to do is sit and listen. - Anon

It is surprising how many people unselfishly will neglect their own work, in order to tell you how to run your affairs. - Anon

Folk singer: a person who sings through his nose by ear. - Anon

Compassion: when someone could tell you all about their recent operation, but doesn't. - Anon



"Er... vicar - does the church have a position on the donation of GM vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"

Why car tyres are not good for you

Here is a sobering thought: it is not just your car's exhaust fumes that damage the environment. It is also your car's tyres.

It seems that as rubber tyres wear down, they shed tiny particles that together with other car tyres, form vast clouds of toxic particles along the roads. These pollutants may be invisible, but they are washed into gutters and soil and rivers, and they are getting into everything.

And, unlike exhaust fumes, tyre particles are produced by all types of vehicles - petrol, diesel, electric, hybrid or hydrogen. Some scientists even warn that the heavier, electric cars, will produce even more of this hazardous stuff, because of the extra wear on the tyres.

These microplastics are now present in all ecosystems throughout the world. They have been found in the sea, in the placenta of unborn babies, and even in our lungs. How hazardous are they? It seems that no one has yet quite decided.

Do you like the exterior lights of modern cars?

Have you noticed that the exterior lights on many newer cars are smaller than they used to be? Many motorists are finding this difficult when driving in sunshine, as they still need to see what other cars are signalling to do.

But the arrival of LED light clusters means that car manufacturers have been fitting their indicator lights into much smaller spaces. And while that might look good, stylistically, it doesn't always work well. This is especially true when the car is in bright daylight, or when the car's indicator lights are set near to a brake or taillight.

The current regulations only legislate for colour, lighting intensity and viewing angle. Surprisingly, there are no rules about how big the actual surface area of the indicator light should be.



Bishop's selfie

Wine Column

As I write this, it is August and currently raining. There is a bone chilling cold in the air and we've lit a fire. A fire in AUGUST! Where is this gorgeous Cotswolds summer they speak about? BUT, I suppose the perfect time to start talking about Autumn Red Wines or the transition from Rose and White wine to Red. The perfect grape for that is the most prized grape in the world – Pinot Noir!

What is Pinot Noir?

Pinot Noir is dry, light- to medium-bodied, with bright acidity. There are not a lot of tannins (which dry out your mouth) and alcohol that is normally quite low compared to other red varieties. The best Pinot Noir taste has complex flavors that include cherry, raspberry, mushroom and forest floor, plus vanilla and baking spice (but only when aged in French oak does the vanilla and baking spices appear). It can be made into still or sparkling wine.

Where does Pinot Noir get its name?

Pinot means Pine, referring to its pine cone, tightly shaped bunches and Noir means black.

Where does Pinot Noir grow?

It grows all over the world. We even grow it here at Fossebridge Vineyard! But the most well-known region is in France: Burgundy. Other areas: Alsace in France, Germany, the Champagne region in France, New Zealand, Italy, California's Sonoma Coast and Russian River Valley, Oregon, Carneros Region in CA (which is shared with Napa and Sonoma) and here in England where it is one of the most planted varieties.

Other names for Pinot Noir across the globe:

Pinot Nero, Spätburgunder, Blauburgunder

What to eat with Pinot Noir:

Pinot Noir goes well with most food and is an easy pairing. It's a wine you can buy at a restaurant and it will please the whole table!

Duck and Salmon are classic pairings. And I love mushrooms with Pinot Noir. Grilled, sautéed in butter and red wine or roasted with herbs. Pheasant and Venison are also delicious with this interchangeable grape. But you can easily have a pizza or a burger and it will work. And be quite tasty.

Old World vs New World:

PN from France normally have the most acidity and age the best. I had a 1979 recently from a very well known producer in Burgundy and it was drinking extremely well. It had fruit, acidity and a lingering finish. American Pinot Noir tends to have more fruit and oak influence, and because there is more sun in most wine growing regions in America, more alcohol (ripeness).

3 Facts about Pinot Noir:

- Pinot Noir is older than Cabernet Sauvignon, tracing its roots back to the Roman era. I wonder if this was planted in our area or surrounding the Roman Villa?
- Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris are mutated versions of Pinot Noir
- Pinot Noir grape has over 1,000 registered clones which is why it can be grown anywhere in the

world and in so many different climates

Some well known producers around the world:

Joseph Drouhin - Burgundy, France
Antica Terra - Oregon
Kosta Brown - Sebastopol, CA
Albert Bichot - Burgundy, France
Weingut Fredrich Becker - Germany
Felton Road - New Zealand
Hirsch - Sonoma Coast, California
Lucien Crochet - Loire, France
Foxen - Santa Maria Hills, CA
Patricia Green Cellars, Oregon
Domaine Leflaive - Burgundy, France
Clos de Tart - Burgundy, France
Fossebridge Vineyard, Cotswolds

And then there is the prized Domaine de la Romanée-Conti

If biblical headlines were written by today's modern media...

On Red Sea crossing:

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN
LABOUR STRIKE
Pursuing Environmentalists Killed

On David vs. Goliath:

HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED
CHAMPION
Psychologist Questions Influence of
Rock

On Elijah on Mt. Carmel:

FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT
EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY
400 Killed

On the birth of Christ:

HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS LEFT
HOMELESS
Animal Rights Activists Enraged by
Insensitive Couple

Prices range from £6 to £50,000. But I find the £30 area to be drinkable and lovely on most accounts.

You can find some good value brands from Italy, Germany and Regional Appellation wines from Burgundy.

Our Vineyard Update: We have started trellising and hope to look like a proper vineyard soon. Per usual, the weeds never stop, rain or shine. We are also installing frost protection to ensure we protect the grapes from our famous Cotswolds Spring happenings. Stop in and see us – we'd love to show you around (and have you pull weeds) 🍷 Reach out if you want to tell me about your favorite wines. Or enjoy a glass together on the patio or in front of the fire.

Amber
cotswoldswineadventure@gmail.com

On feeding the 5,000:

ITINERANT PREACHER STEALS
CHILD'S LUNCH
Disciples Mystified Over Behaviour

On healing the 10 lepers:

LOCAL DOCTOR'S PRACTICE
RUINED
"Faith Healer" Causes Bankruptcy

On healing of the Gadarene demoniac:

MADMAN'S FRIEND CAUSES
STAMPEDE
Local Farmer's Investment Lost

On raising Lazarus from the dead:

FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER
RAISES A STINK
Reading of Will Must Now Be
Delayed

Northleach and District u3a

LEARN, LAUGH. LIVE.

Recently I met a man in the Westwoods Centre who said had never joined our u3a because he wasn't clever enough. I felt embarrassed that he had assumed that 'u3a' still stood for 'University of the Third Age', which reminded me of my own misgivings when I first heard of it.

Fortunately, the powers that be finally got the message a few years ago and changed the name to the less-daunting '3rd Age Trust'. Most members prefer to call it 'the u3a' and are quick to quote our motto 'Learn, Laugh, Live'.

We are certainly not arrogant, elitist, exclusive or pretentious and we always aim to be welcoming, egalitarian, inclusive and fun-loving.

There are currently 14 active groups on offer:

if you want CULTURE we have

ART

HISTORY

MUSIC



NOVELS

POETRY



if you like a verbal argument we offer CURRENT AFFAIRS



if you want CLEVER GAMES and PUZZLES we have

BRIDGE



CROSSWORDS



RUMMIKUB



UP-WORDS



or if you want to get PHYSICAL you can do

GARDENING



WALKING



TABLE TENNIS



TAI-CHI



At present we have 125 members and we are always happy to welcome more.

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We guarantee that you won't regret it.

David Flynn.

dhflynn14@gmail.com



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Friday, September 8th 6.30pm
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Tickets at northleachevents.co.uk
and Northleach Post Office



u3a
Northleach & District



No longer working full-time or raising a family? Now's the time to make the most of life. u3a gives you the chance to develop your interests, make new friends and enjoy yourself. We would love you to join one of our groups.

Cryptic Crossword, Drawing For All, Garden Group, Looking at Novels, Poetry, Bridge, Enjoying Music, Art Appreciation, History, Play Reading, Rummikub, Walking Groups, Scrabble, Table Tennis, Tai Chi.

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learn,
laugh
live



u3a.org.uk

Uncle Eustace

On the absurdity of a vicar ever retiring

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Beware of being invited by bishops to drop round for a chat. My first mistake was to answer the phone when he rang; what are answerphones for, but to avoid having to talk to anyone - ever. My second mistake was not to be able to think of a meeting I had to attend - preferably on another planet - on the day he suggested.

I therefore found myself in his study this morning, waiting for the point of the meeting while we negotiated the obligatory five minutes discussing the weather and his summer holiday in France. I made it quite clear that I had been far too busy to swan off to foreign parts - although I suspect the implication of what I said passed him by.

We then got to the point. He was toying with the thought of my retirement and linking us with the adjoining parish of St Agatha's. I patiently explained, using simple words and speaking slowly for his benefit, that at 85 and with 40 years at St James the Least of All behind me, I was just getting into my stride and that the vicar of St Agatha's, a stripling at 63, had nowhere near enough experience to organise the hymn list, let alone two parishes. This, too, seemed to drift somewhere above his head.



He had clearly done his homework. There were already plans for my Queen Anne rectory to be sold and my five acres of garden be turned into a housing estate. This news would be received by our parishioners with as much equanimity as if they were told that Buckingham Palace was to be converted into a sports centre.

The matter, I was told, was confidential - which meant that I only relayed the news to one parishioner at a time. By the end of the day everyone in the village knew, and a counter attack was being planned. Inevitably, the most outraged were those who never attend church. People do so love having a church not to go to. Congregations have soared, gardeners are being brought in to tidy the rectory grounds, and the church council is now well attended. The latter is a mixed blessing, as I always think that the time to get worried is when people start to turn up to meetings.

It may surprise our bishop, but the threat of a merger has been the greatest impetus to mission outreach we've had in years. Retirement indeed! I'm sure Zadok was never asked about his pension plans.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

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Part-time senior executive assistant required for the Upper Coln Restoration group.

This is a part-time job between 10 and 20 hours per week, working from home, reporting to the chairman of the above group.

The successful applicant would be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the campaign to restore the upper Coln River to the pristine state it was in until a few years ago. It requires devising a strategy to bring pressure on Thames Water to advance the cleanup process. Researching and documenting Thames Water's previous spillage record. Liaising with third-party sources and experts in this field. Liaising with Thames Water, DEFRA, and the Environmental Agency to bring pressure on the relevant bodies.

This is a highly important role requiring someone to manage the entire process. The role will last for at least six months and may be extended to up to three years as the project progresses to implementation.

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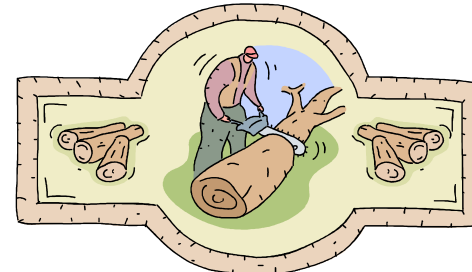
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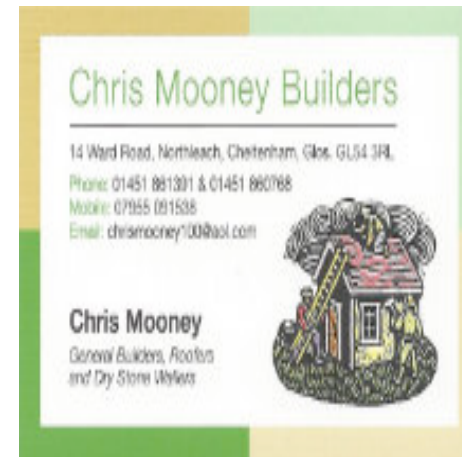
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