

December 2023 / January 2024

# The Hill and Valley

Parish Magazine

**Happy Christmas  
and  
New Year  
to all our readers**

*Newsletter of the Parishes of Chedworth and District*

## The Benefice of Chedworth and District

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### Readers and Contributors

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](http://www.hillandvalley.co.uk).

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The magazine coordinator for this edition was Julie Young (01285 720398) and for February will also be Julie.

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

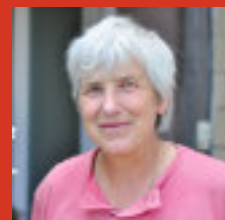
*Cover and contents page photos by Julie Young*

# The HILL & VALLEY

PARISH MAGAZINE

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Julie Young Coordinator for this edition



## Karen's Letter

### Hello Hill and Valley people,

I write this shortly after my induction service at St Andrew's Church, Chedworth, which many of you attended on 1st November. Thank you so much to those of you who contributed towards the refreshments and for those who shared in the enjoyment of them. There was a warmth and feeling of welcome about the event for which we are truly thankful. It was wonderful for us to meet so many of you, and we really look forward to getting to know you all.

Rom and I have barely started to explore these beautiful villages. We have been busy with DIY and home making. I hope you will begin to spot us venturing out and about soon. Please do feel free to come and introduce yourselves to us, we'd love to say hello.

I first saw the waterfall pouring down the road opposite the Seven Tuns pub back in the spring of this year. There were some young lads sliding down the current on boogie boards, which made me smile. The scene reminded me of a passage of scripture from the book of Revelation, chapter 22: *"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God, down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life ... and the*

*leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."*

I wished that one day I would be invited to come here to join in the flow of life in this place and at long last, here I am. With the aim of managing expectations, this is a House for Duty post, which means I will be available on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, as well as participating in some events on Saturdays.

Like this stream coursing down through Chedworth, there is a current, an energy in which we all share to a greater or lesser degree. I am looking forward to meeting you, to reflecting with you on the journey so far, to sharing stories and celebrating life together in all its fulness, sorrows and joys.

*Karen Hunter Krivald*



## Church Briefing

### Hill & Valley Benefice Church Services December/January Everyone Welcome

#### Sunday 3rd December

Holy Communion 10.30am Coln Rogers  
Advent Carol Service 6pm Coln St Denys

#### Sunday 10th December

Holy Communion 10.30am Coln St Denys

#### Wednesday 13th December

School Christingle Service 5pm Chedworth

#### Saturday 16th December

Carol Service 6pm Coln Rogers

#### Sunday 17th December

Carol Service 6pm Chedworth

#### Saturday 23rd December

Crib Service 3pm Chedworth  
Crib Service 5pm Yanworth

#### Sunday 24th December

Midnight Mass 11.30pm Chedworth

#### Monday Christmas Day 25th

Holy Communion 10-30am Coln St Denys  
Family Service 10-30am Chedworth

#### Sunday 31st December

Holy Communion 10-30am Yanworth

#### Sunday 7th January 1st Epiphany

Holy Communion 10-30am Coln St Denys

#### Sunday 14th January 2nd Epiphany

Holy Communion 10-30am Coln Rogers

#### Sunday 21st January 3rd Epiphany

Holy Communion 10-30 am Chedworth

#### Sunday 28th January Candlemass

Holy Communion 10-30am Yanworth

## Church Briefing



The induction and installation service for our new Rector The Reverend Karen Hunter Kriwald, took place on the 3rd of November at St Andrew's Church. It was a very enjoyable service led by The Bishop of Gloucester. Many people from our Benefice took part, they welcomed Karen and her on behalf of the the School, Pre School and the many societies that we have.

During the service we were entertained by a Sea Shanty band which Karen's husband Rom sings and plays in. They sang and played a lovely song called, Keep Hauling.

We wish them many happy years here.





### **CHEDWORTH CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

2nd DECEMBER 2023, 11AM-2PM  
AT CHEDWORTH VILLAGE HALL, GL54 4NE.

RAFFLE, REFRESHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!

LOTS OF LOCAL CRAFTERS WILL BE JOINING US TO SHARE WITH YOU  
SOME BEAUTIFUL HOMEMADE ITEMS TO INCLUDE:

CHARLOTTE STONE ART

MY BELLA ROSE PERSONALISED GIFTS

KAY RICH SWEETS

MADE AT CLUARAN HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES

MEGURUMI CROCHET PLUSHIES

MAKE TIME FOR YOU (BODYSHOP)

ORIGAMI INSPIRED GIFTS

GELATEAUX DESSERTS AND ICE CREAM

THE EDIBLE FLOWER GARDEN

AND MANY MORE STALLHOLDERS!

PLEASE BRING CASH AS SOME STALLHOLDERS MAY NOT TAKE CARD PAYMENTS



PFA Registered Charity No:  
5504020

## Dates for Your Diary

| Date     | Time  | Event                                          | Venue                        |
|----------|-------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 02-Dec   | 11:00 | Pre-School Christmas Fayre                     | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 03-Dec   | 15:00 | Chedworth Silver Band Church Christmas Concert | St Andrew's Church Chedworth |
| 08-Dec   | 19:00 | Back Row Club                                  | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 11-Dec   | 19:30 | Parish Council Meeting                         | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 13-Dec   | 17:00 | School Christingle Service                     | St Andrew's Church Chedworth |
| 13-Dec   | 19:15 | WI Meeting                                     | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 16-Dec   | 9:00  | Village Hall Produce Market                    | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 26-Dec   | 10:30 | Chedworth Silver Band Carols                   | Upper Chedworth              |
| 2024     |       |                                                |                              |
| 10-Jan   | 19:15 | WI Meeting                                     | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 12-Jan   | 19:30 | Back Row Club                                  | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 20-Jan   | 9:00  | Village Produce Market                         | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 14-Feb   | 19:15 | WI Meeting                                     | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 17-Feb   | 9:00  | Village Produce Market                         | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 13-March | 19:15 | WI Meeting                                     | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 16-March | 9:00  | Village Produce Market                         | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 20-April | 9:00  | Village Produce Market                         | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 18-May   | 9:00  | Village Produce Market                         | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 15-June  | 9:00  | Village Produce Market                         | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 20-July  | 9:00  | Village Produce Market                         | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 17-Aug   | 9:00  | Village Produce Market                         | Chedworth Village Hall       |
| 13-Sept  |       | Golf Day                                       |                              |



## Recycling Dates

### Domestic Waste & Recycling

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



### Chedworth Area, Fossebridge, Yanworth

|         |    |     |
|---------|----|-----|
| Tuesday | 12 | Dec |
| Tuesday | 9  | Jan |
| Tuesday | 23 | Jan |
| Tuesday | 6  | Feb |
| Tuesday | 20 | Feb |

### Coln St Dennis, Coln Rogers

|        |    |     |
|--------|----|-----|
| Friday | 8  | Dec |
| Friday | 22 | Dec |
| Friday | 19 | Jan |
| Friday | 2  | Feb |
| Friday | 16 | Feb |

Turn your event into an occasion at

## Chedworth Village Hall

Visit our website for full details including making booking enquiries

[chedworthvillagehall.co.uk](http://chedworthvillagehall.co.uk)



A warm hello once again as I return from my maternity leave!

I have returned in a part-time capacity and am joined by a co-headteacher, Mrs Rachel Bradley-Mc Kay, current headteacher at Andoversford Primary.

We have hit the ground running and are enjoying working together to continue the school improvement that has been happening over the past year. We are looking forward to working with Rev'd Karen Hunter Kriwald, especially during this exciting period of Advent and run up to Christmas and our special Christingle and Nativity service.

*Mrs N Smith*



## PTA Events

Our wonderful PTA have been incredibly busy this term planning the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2nd December. We would love to see as many of you there as possible to raise much needed funds for the school and pre-school.

## Governor Positions

We currently have a position available on our governing body for a foundation governor and clerk to governors. If you think you have the appropriate skills, passion, and commitment to support your local school, please get in touch with [chair@st-andrews.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@st-andrews.gloucs.sch.uk).

## Remembrance

Once again, our pupils have amazed us with their classes acts of Remembrance and donations to the Poppy Appeal.



During the Autumn term, Godolphin

class went back in time and were trained in fire fighting. Mrs Roberts managed to apprehend a German spy and the children had a fantastic time bringing History to life.



## St. Andrew's C of E Primary & Preschool

The recent wet weather has provided lots of fun especially as whilst we were learning all about the Hindu festival of Divali, we were able to create a wonderful mud paint in place of Henna to decorate hands (this was also cardboard hands so that we could share our creations with our families!!!) I am uncertain as to who had the most fun with this activity??!!!! Along with creating beautiful Rangoli patterns.



With Christmas is fast approaching, the excitement is building with the arrival of the festive songs not mentioning the increase of glitter!!!! Every morning we are enjoying reading and sharing our 'Advent story' (this is where a child opens the present that has the corresponding date upon it, too find either a Christmas or winter themed story inside!)

We are also looking forward to our annual Christmas Fayre (Saturday 2nd December!) Along with lots of beautiful and unique gifts to buy we will have a children's area with activities and refreshments too! I must thank the local businesses that have so kindly donated raffle prizes – you really have been incredibly generous! – please do look on our Facebook page for further information!

From everyone at Chedworth Pre-School, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

*Sarah Smith  
PreschoolManager*



## Girlguiding 2nd Chedworth Guides

**Who:** Girls from 10 - 14 years old

**What:** Games, adventures, camping, climbing, campfires, cooking, badges, trips, crafts, first aid and lots of other activities

**When:** Thursdays in term time

**Where:** Chedworth Village Hall

**Why:** Make new friends, learn new skills, grow in confidence and most of all have **fun!**



All girls aged 10- 14 are welcome – come and meet us to find out more!



Please get in touch to find out more or arrange a visit:

Email Alice at [aj.george@btinternet.com](mailto:aj.george@btinternet.com)

or visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

# Chedworth Parish Council

## Speedwatch

Chedworth Speedwatch has recommenced speed checks within the parish following complaints of speeding. The group of six volunteers were trained to use equipment borrowed from the police in mid-November and the Parish Council has agreed in principle to purchase our own Radar "Gun" if the team feels it would be useful. A Radar Gun is a around £200 to purchase, while an illuminated sign, which was another suggestion, is over £2,000.

## Footpath Network

The Parish Council is continuing to encourage the use of our footpath network. KCH 47 in Lower Chedworth was closed for some time for building works but is now open and the Council will be replacing missing way marks and signs, while requests have been sent to landowners in response to complaints that some paths have

become narrowed by overhanging vegetation.

## Tuns Hill/Queen Street Flooding

The Council has been working with Gloucestershire County Council to address issues of excess water running down Tuns Hill/Queen Street. An attempt to install new pipes in the lower section of road caused a lengthy road closure and was then abandoned when a wire was found which was not on Gloucestershire Highways data base and the owner of which could not be identified.

The present focus is on removing the Tufa mound which has formed at the Tuns Hill Waterfall, in the hope that this will encourage water to flow down the culvert under the road.

Many years ago the Stream had a second channel past the Seven Tuns and down through a culvert under the railway and suggestions have been made that this could be reactivated. The Parish Council agreed it has no objection in principle to using Community Infrastructure Levy funds to help alleviate the flooding problem.

## Chedworth Nature Reserve

This is going rather slowly as we try to establish who is responsible for maintenance of the bridges so as not to leave a punitively expensive legacy for future residents, so the transfer of ownership has not yet occurred. The GWT volunteers who looked after the reserve stood down last year in readiness for Chedworth Parish to take it on so there is a need to restart maintenance.

Emma Baron completed a Biodiversity

Audit of the site last year and she suggested a way forward is for interested parties in to sign up as GWT volunteers so that the site can be maintained under GWT insurance until transfer has completed.

Emma has kindly agreed to look into whether this approach will work for GWT, and if so, she will arrange volunteer days/spread the message and get volunteers signed up. This is far from a done deal, but if you have an interest in being involved, please contact Emma 07715 857606 or [emmalouisebarron@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emmalouisebarron@hotmail.co.uk) or the Parish Council at [clerk@chedworthpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@chedworthpc.co.uk).

## Dark Skies

Feeling a touch of melancholy as the long nights draw in? Allow Chedworth's majestic night sky to lift your spirits. Welcome to the December 2023 edition of the Dark Skies Guide, here to promote the Parish Council's Dark Skies and Tranquility Policy.

If you've been mesmerized by a particularly bright star recently, that's Jupiter, the colossal 'king' of planets, dominating our night sky during winter. The messenger, Mercury joins Jupiter in our on the 4th as it reaches its greatest

elongation from the Sun. This is the best time to spot Mercury which is the most elusive of the planets. Turn to the western evening sky for a rare glimpse. Additionally, Saturn will be visible in the evening sky in the constellation Aquarius, setting about four hours after the Sun on December 17, with the Moon nearby.

The Geminid meteor shower, one of the year's best, will peak on the night of December 14 and the early morning hours of December 15. This event occurs just after the New Moon, providing optimal dark sky conditions for viewing this spectacular shower. The meteors will appear to radiate from the constellation Gemini. To find Gemini, look for its two brightest stars, Castor and Pollux. These stars are noticeable and can be found in the eastern sky during the early evenings in December.

We will be back for more in the new year!

*David Broad*



## A dog's life

A couple had gone to their minister for counseling because their marriage was in trouble. The husband began by complaining that he led a dog's life at home. To the minister's surprise, the wife immediately agreed. "After all, he rushes into the house with muddy feet, tracks across my clean floors, barks at nothing, growls at his food and makes himself comfortable on the best furniture. Then he falls asleep and snaps at you if you disturb him."

## Backrow Club at the Village Hall



## Hill & Valley Lawn Tennis Club

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

### CLUB NEWS

The normal club and groups sessions will continue weather permitting all winter, our Mixed Winter and Ladies over 60's League matches are under way. Adult and Junior coaching sessions will resume after half term next year. Our coach David Ayala is available for private coaching.

Our Winter Membership is running until the end of February 2024, you are welcome to come and try out any 3 sessions before joining, please get in touch.

*Robert Baker, Chair* [hillandvalleylta@gmail.com](mailto:hillandvalleylta@gmail.com)

### WHAT'S ON

#### 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

Open to non members, rackets provided will start again next year after half term on Wednesdays for ages 4-18yrs

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



**If you would like to give a Gift Voucher for coaching or membership please get in touch.**

**We wish you a very Happy Christmas!**

[twitter.com/HillValleyTenn1](https://twitter.com/HillValleyTenn1)

[Facebook.com/TennisChedworth](https://Facebook.com/TennisChedworth)

[Instagram.com/hillandvalleytennisclub](https://Instagram.com/hillandvalleytennisclub)



After the ravages of storm Ciaran and Debbie we had a quiet dry evening for our annual meeting and supper. Our retiring President remarked on what a nice, settled year it had been for Chedworth WI. We have been able to return to meetings in person for both committee and monthly meetings, lovely outdoor picnics, outings and fascinating talks. A very successful nearly new sale saw us make a happy return to pre-Covid normality.

Thanks, and gifts were made to our retiring long standing and successful arranger of many wonderful trips out – Venetia, long overdue and postponed due to Covid. Our talks organising talks team of Annette and Jan and our retiring President and long-standing member of committee Sylvia, whose eye for detail and flare for organisation has saved many events from catastrophe.

They have been replaced by both very experienced members Helen and Clare and one brave member who has stepped up to join the committee for the first time Jean. Particular thanks should go to our new President Sheila

Bowley, who is once again taking on that job, I think this will make the third time? All members are very grateful to them for their decisions to help keep Chedworth WI going – we are a fortunate institute.

All the members expressed their appreciation of our retiring officers and our officers who are staying on – most importantly our long-suffering secretary Penny and treasurer Chrissie without whom our WI would not be able to function. We were also delighted to welcome our four new members of WI this year, they bring our numbers up to 38.

After all the business we could move on to the delicious supper which Claire Booth and her wonderful team had cooked for us – such a lovely treat – no cooking and no washing up!! Thank you to Claire once again, and particularly to the committee who take on the job of setting up and organising a most successful evening.

*Emma Isaac*



## Golf Day - Golf Day at Monmouth



As promised, the final amount raised for the Pete Gregory Legacy was a fantastic £2,828 once again, I'd just like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported this great day

*Pete Heaps*

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!**



**The Hill & Valley Singers are coming to the Produce market on Monday 18 December for carols. Come and join in.**

**The more the merrier**

**No Pop Up in January except for the Produce Market on the 20th**

***And thanks to all our wonderful suppliers for their good cheer and delicious produce all this year***

# The USA Military Hospital at Stowell Park

As you drive up Fossebridge Hill towards Northleach, it is difficult to imagine that behind the high stone wall on the left-hand side and in what is now a wood, was a large American Military Hospital during the Second World War. The hospital known as the 160th US General Hospital was one of 15 hospitals located in the area. All were administered from what is now the Stratton House Hotel Cirencester. The hospital took casualties from D Day onwards from Normandy and Europe. The hospital was built on sloping parkland that had been a private golf course. The wounded servicemen arrived by train at Fosse Cross and then by ambulance to Stowell Hospital. Some casualties were flown in to Down Ampney or Chedworth Airfields. Many thousands of American servicemen were treated at the hospital.



One of the surgeons, Major Dwight Harken was at the forefront of pioneering heart surgery- open heart surgery to remove bullets and shrapnel from the heart. He had great success and commented that he was fortunate to be operating on very fit young men away from the battle front. He was assisted in some of the operations by Doctor Bowen Jones, the Northleach GP.

The hospital comprised an extensive

complex of wards, operating theatres, domestic offices, laboratory, theatre, cinema, gym and chapel. Peter Juggins from Chedworth, then 15 years old and his father and another builder carried out the first work on the hospital site by forming a vehicular access in what had been a pedestrian gate in the wall onto the Fosseway. Later Peter worked on the building of the huts for sub-contractors of the main contractor, Percy Bilton, as a boy he was paid 9 old pence per hour!



Chedworth Silver band played at the hospital, it was a favourite venue as the Americans were very generous hosts and their plentiful food contrasted to the sparse fare under wartime rationing. The Chedworth Girl Guides picked wild flowers for the hospital during the spring and summer. John Mustoe from Northleach recalls as a boy the Americans sending ambulances to collect the children for tea, including ice cream and to watch a cartoon film. For most locals, whose experience of the America was probably confined to the cinema and music, an outpost of that country nearby must have been novel.

Earlier this autumn, we were contacted by Richard Owen, the secretary of the Northleach History Society following an inquiry he had received via Historian Peter Lacey from Lyme Regis, from Mary Smith, an American citizen, whose Father had been a patient at

Stowell Park Hospital, as to whether it was possible to visit the site. We subsequently met Mary and Richard at Fossebridge and took the footpath through the green gate past the bridge and up the grass bank to the gate into the wood. All that remains of the hospital buildings are the bases, much overgrown with brambles and the concrete tracks but these remnants do enable an overall impression of the extent of the hospital layout.

Mary Smith's Father, Emil Herman Otto, was a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army 4th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in France. He was shipped from the USA to England in March 1944. From the many letters that he sent to his fiancée (later his wife) in America, Mary was able to follow his war time experiences. He was deployed from England to France on "D-Day +6". He was wounded in the neck and chest on 12th July 1944 during the "battle of the hedgerows" or "bocage" and was evacuated to England for additional surgery and recuperation. He was operated on at Stowell Park Hospital. Due to the extent of his wounds, he did not return to active service. He returned to the United States in February 1945. On the way from Fossebridge on the back road to Northleach, we stopped at Stowell Mill so that Mary could take photographs of the hospital site in the wood on Fosse Hill and of Stowell Park House. Mary also scattered some of her parent's ashes in the River Coln.

At the end of the Second World War there were 250,000 displaced Polish service men and many dependants in this country. Under the Polish Resettlement act 1947, provision was made for providing accommodation for them. From 1948, the site was used as a secondary school for several hundred displaced Polish girls. Although the site was somewhat exposed and the Nissan huts rather sombre, the facilities at the time were excellent for a school. In September 1952 they joined with Westwoods Grammar School at Northleach to form a bilateral secondary school. Enid Sly can remember the Polish girls choir visiting Northleach and the excellent quality of their singing. When the girls had completed their education, the school closed in July 1954. Later the huts were removed and trees planted.



*The Chapel at the Polish School*

Thank you to Jessica Clark of the Gloucestershire Archives for assistance in the research.

*Robert Young*



## Your Gardening Tips for Dec & Jan



After the warmest October on record, it looks as if we are heading for a period of more unsettled weather. It would be wise to prepare your garden and plants for colder weather and there are plenty of things to do in the garden be it pruning, potting up bulbs, moving plants, tidying up or improving or developing spaces, however small.

- **Planting Spring Flowering Bulbs.** Because of the warmer than usual autumn, there is still time to plant some bulbs, especially tulips, for a spring showing. It is always best to plant the bulbs that you have bought this year having taken them

out of their packaging to avoid moisture build up and to check for duds. Make sure that the bulbs are kept cool and protected from mice and squirrels. Plant each bulb in soil at least three times as deep as it is high, and water and feed only when the plant has emerged. A ratio of a capful of seaweed feed to 10 litres of water every couple of weeks will promote healthy growth of flowers without enormous leaves. Reduce watering when the bulb has begun to die down. When planting in pots, because the bulbs will likely not be in them for very long, they can be planted more densely than in the open garden. Provided the compost has good drainage and the pots are raised off the ground, most bulbs will have enough energy to last a season, but water when the compost feels dry, adding a little seaweed. Bulbs like daffodils that remain in a border for years will benefit from a handful of sulphate of potash every six weeks. Do not cut dying foliage off at the

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 availability and prices.  
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end of the season but do remove the seed pods that would otherwise divert energy from the bulb. Cover pots and growing areas with chicken wire if you can keep the squirrels off!

- Prune open-grown apples and pears, and acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding. Careful pruning will produce fewer but bigger fruits.
- 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.
- 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.
- Try sowing over wintering lettuce like Winter Gem and parsley, Mustard Greens 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 is a good time to work bulky organic matter into heavy soil ready for the spring but remove plant debris to avoid disease overwintering on the soil.
- Cover unused areas with thick

mulch or membrane to suppress weeds and 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.
- It is not too late to plant shallots ready for an early 2022 crop unless the weather turns really cold. Cover with fleece in the coldest weather. Boxing Day is apparently the day to plant onion seeds!
- 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.
- 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.
- Brush off worm casts on your lawn.
- Keep an eye out for overwintering pests such as whitefly and red spider mite and treat accordingly.

*Simon Colbeck*  
 Chairman  
 Chedworth Gardening Club

# Chedworth Produce Market



A very big *THANK YOU* .....

to everyone who has supported Chedworth Produce Market since our launch in December 2022 - our fantastic producers, everyone who has visited us over the year and the fabulous Chedworth Pop Up Café team. We are very proud to be *CELEBRATING OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY* at the *December Market which will be held on Saturday 16th December 2023 - from 9am to 1pm at Chedworth Village Hall.*

The ethos behind establishing the market was to provide an opportunity for local, artisan producers to sell their product direct to the public, giving residents from Chedworth and surrounding villages, and further afield, access to a range of quality local produce, all under one roof. The aim that underpins the selection of produce we offer is to provide quality produce with excellent provenance. For example, the eggs are free range and the veg is grown less than 10 miles from the village hall. The beef, lamb and pork products are from animals raised locally, following the pasture for life principle, focusing on regenerative farming systems that champion the highest animal welfare standards and

care for the soil. Our producers come from Aldsworth, Andoversford, Burford, Chedworth, Chipping Norton, Eastleach, Hazelton, Lechlade, Sherborne Estate and Gloucester. Our most local products are cheese, fresh and frozen yogurt and seasonal cut flowers, all produced in Chedworth itself. Chedworth apples provide some of the raw material for the locally produced cider and apple juice, made using only unsprayed apples from Gloucestershire.

Our fantastic group of local producers, sell their locally produced food, drink, flowers and plants every third Saturday of the month from the village hall, providing a truly local shopping experience, that gives customers the opportunity to buy ingredients for a 'farm to table' snack or meal. Our full product range covers bread, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, eggs, fresh seasonal vegetables, fresh and frozen beef, lamb and pork, biltong, honey, flour, chocolate brownies and sweet treats, cider, apple juice, craft lager, charcuterie, oysters (from time to time) and locally grown flowers (in season) and garden plants and seasonal wreaths. The Chedworth Pop Up Café offers a space to stop while you shop and enjoy a drink and home-made cakes and snacks, as well as using milk

from Manor Farm, Chedworth. What isn't there to like!

We also feature a charity raffle each month, with a chance to win a hamper with a selection of goodies from our producers. We have raised over £1700 this year in support of a range of local charities including Gloucestershire Air Ambulance, Scrubditch Care Farm, The Churn Project, Cirencester Food Bank, Home Start Cotswolds, Winston's Wish, National Star College, Emmaus Gloucestershire and The Pied Piper Appeal, as well as the Chedworth Village Hall Charity that is responsible for the upkeep of the village hall as an important community asset. *Thank you* to everyone who has bought a ticket to help support all these worthy causes.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook - @chedworthproducemarket - to see what is on offer each month. Looking ahead we plan to extend the product range to add to the overall offering whilst staying true to the market's founding ethos and vision.

Please come along to see us at the December market and support this local initiative that brings local produce to you. We look forward to welcoming you.

If you would like any further information please contact [chedworthproducemarket@gmail.com](mailto:chedworthproducemarket@gmail.com)

## Dates for 2024

January 20th 2024  
February 17th 2024  
March 16th 2024  
April 20th 2024  
May 18th 2024  
June 15th 2024  
July 20th 2024  
August 17th 2024  
September 21st 2024  
October 19th 2024  
November 16th 2024  
December 21st 2024

*Charles Hutton-Potts*



## Chedworth Silver Band

Chedworth Silver Band will be playing at several engagements over the Christmas period, starting with a Christmas Concert at St Andrew's Church on Sunday 3rd December at 3pm.

Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection.

The concert has been brought forward in time and date, as twice before our Chedworth Concert has been snowed off, and the performance starting at 3pm will end around 4.10pm, so before it gets dark.

This concert is being sponsored by the Unite the Union Branch from Safran Landing Systems Gloucester so the proceeds of the collection will go to the church.

Next, we have a concert at Purton Methodist Church on Thursday 14th December, and then weather permitting, we will visit a number of pubs playing carols and possibly enjoying a small glass of mineral water.

The Christmas period is vital for our fund raising as the summer engagements have still not recovered from Covid and the Lock down.

Boxing Day we will be visiting our supporters in Upper Chedworth from around 10.30am and will finish at the Seven Tuns around 1pm.

Sadly it looks like it may well be closed by then, but we intend to play there anyway as we did circa 2014.

*David Broad - Bandmaster*



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# Wine Column

## Hi Friends,

And just like that we are at the end of another year. What a year 2023 has been with reminders that we can get a cold and it isn't always Covid, Summer can sometimes only happen in June, we can still get frost in late May, life seemed so much busier when we can now go anywhere without regulations and testing and working from home may be in the rearview mirror for some.

We had such a fun year in the Cotswolds with change happening at every angle. What a pleasure it was to write these little wine columns and hope that 2024 can bring us all together to have a glass of wine. Cheers to health and positive energy in 2024.

So what are you drinking in December? Let's start with something to warm us up!

## Mulled Wine Recipe:

- Bottle of red wine (doesn't need to be expensive) but zinfandel, merlot or gamay are great choices
- Orange zest, Cinnamon, Chinese five spice, whole cloves, orange without the peelings, a dash of maple syrup
- Healthy splash of brandy and I like to add a little Cointreau or triple sec

Heat up on the stove and serve with an orange or lemon slice

What to serve on Christmas:

Turkey: White Burgundy, Viognier or Gamay

Ham: Rose, Dry Riesling or Syrah based wines

Salmon: Pinot Noir, Napa Chardonnay

Suggestion: 2019 Ceritas, Cuvee Chloe Pinot Noir £58

Find at Chelsea Vintners London online

## Boxing Day:

Bordeaux with Beef Wellington: We love Chateau Brane Cantenac £75 but because of my Napa Roots, also want to drink Napa Cabernet Sauvignon...of course I love Staglin Family Salus Cabernet Sauvignon (you can now buy at Daylesford for £85) because all of the money goes back to Charity for brain and mental health research.

## New Years Eve:

Cellar Door Local Bubbles: Stop in to say hello to our local friends with wineries.

Local Bubbles near Cirencester: Poulton Hill Bulari Sparkling £36.99

Local Bubbles near Tetbury: Larkhill Vineyard Cotswold Sparkling Rosé 2020 £29.00

French: Pol Roger £45 and you can get

widely. A classic!

## Holiday Dessert Wines:

Port: Warre's Bottle-Aged Late-Bottled Vintage Port £21.99

Kopke Colheita Tawny Port 2005 £37.99

Madeira: Blandys 15 Year Old Bual Madeira "Christmas in a bottle" £26.99

**Our Vineyard Update:** Our trellising

project is almost done. This year was a hard one for most English wineries/ vineyard, including ours. Mold and mildew because of the lack of sunshine in July and August and all the rain. Next year we are hoping for the best as we will take our first crop!

Reach out if you want to tell me about your favorite wines. Or enjoy a glass together in the vineyard or in front of the fire. Happy Holidays.

Amber at [cotswoldswineadventure@gmail.com](mailto:cotswoldswineadventure@gmail.com)



We've got online carol-singers again!



A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our clients, volunteers, funders and supporters

Cotswold Friends would like to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our clients, volunteers, funders and supporters. Our volunteer-led services support older and vulnerable people who may be lonely or isolated. Christmas can be a difficult time, so if we can help you or

someone you know, please do get in touch on Tel: 01608 651415.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the charity in so many ways throughout the year – it is very much appreciated. Best wishes from all at Cotswold Friends.

*Katy Gunn (Marketing Manager)*  
01608 697006  
[katy@cotswoldfriends.org](mailto:katy@cotswoldfriends.org)



## On how to make the most of carol singing

The Rectory  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Carol singing is not what it used to be. My fond memories of a group of choristers, muffled in scarves and overcoats, carrying lanterns, and walking from door to door in the snow, as they sang 'While shepherds watched ...' had to be suddenly revised when I saw your own music group, in T-shirts inscribed with 'Jesus loves You', singing 'Little donkey', in your shopping centre. I suspect any money you raised would just about have paid for the electricity used to power your banks of electronic equipment. Singing in the main square of the Centre next to the fountain may have looked good, but it seemed to mean that the choir men were obliged to make constant trips to the lavatory.

Here at St James the Least of All, carol singing is regarded as a staff perk for the choir; the year when the Boys' Brigade tried to break their monopoly was suppressed with a ruthlessness that would have impressed Genghis Kahn.

Our annual carol-singing route involves months of meticulous planning. We find that a transparent collection box is vital, so that donors can see what earlier patrons have given. This means that those who are bound to put in notes must be visited first – 'pour encourager les autres'. It also needs a detachable base, so that if coppers are given, they can be removed from sight



before the next call.

Those homes that contain several children are visited just after bedtime, so that parents will give generously simply to get the choir to go somewhere else. Veiled threats to stay and sing more carols (unless they give generously) are usually very effective. Getting whoever looks the most innocent and photogenic to ring the bell and ask for money is a far more subtle way of ensuring a donation than planting any number of mafia lookalikes (such as our church treasurer) on the doorstep.

The choir always finishes its evening at the local pub – but again, the timing must be carefully managed. Too early and there will only be the landlord, his wife, and their Labrador to listen; too late and people will be so full of Christmas cheer that any carols will be hi-jacked and become the equivalent of back-of-the bus rugby songs.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

### Stop mist on your windscreen

If you will be out in your car a lot this Christmas, here's an easy way to stop your windscreen from misting up:

Simply clean it with shaving foam. It provides a protective barrier which stops mist forming. Ice hockey players use it to stop their face masks from steaming up while they're on the ice.

It's easy to do. Put a good dollop of shaving foam onto a clean towel, and then wipe it all over the windscreen. Then take a second clean towel, and gently wipe off the shaving foam. This leaves a protective barrier, but it will need to be regularly reapplied, to continue to work.

This tip can be found on the RAC website: [www.rac.co.uk](http://www.rac.co.uk)

### Tips to protect things from freezing

This may look silly, but it works: cover your windscreen wipers with old socks, to stop them sticking to the windscreen on a freezing morning. The RAC warns that if windscreen wipers cannot move, there is a risk the circuit will overheat and blow a fuse.

If you are cycling to work, try wearing a swimming cap under your cycling helmet – Cycling UK recommends it as a good extra layer, to keep warm.



Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves

## FoStA Christmas Cards

### FoStA Christmas Cards

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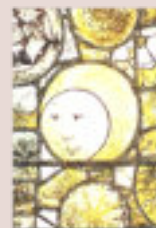
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**2bowlees@gmail.com**



### What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

The time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again – time for our annual gasp at the cost of cards, and sheer disbelief at what the Post Office charges to send them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers, and the selective givers.

Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider

the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying...

However you decide to do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: 'Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.' Proverbs 25:25. They will enjoy hearing from you!

# The Everlasting Turkey



On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me

I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard  
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,  
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old  
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,  
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.  
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.



On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince  
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,  
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,  
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,  
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,  
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,  
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.

# Smile Lines

## Christmas in my heart

Christmas is in my heart twelve months a year and, thanks to credit cards, it's also on my Visa card statement twelve months a year.

## Turkey

He ate so much over the holidays that he decided to quit cold turkey.

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers? The outside.

## Sums up Christmas

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: 'Peace on Earth'; 'Goodwill to Men'; and 'Batteries not included'.

## Red

What's red and white, red and white, and red and white? Father Christmas rolling down a hill.

## Stronger

Statistics prove we're all getting stronger. Fifty years ago, you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. Twenty-five years ago, it took two people to carry £30 worth of Christmas groceries - now a five-year-old can do it.

## Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in

the manger.

- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

## Santa

What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.

## Snowman

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

## Wise

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"  
"What part?" asked his mother.  
"I'm one of the three wise guys!"

## The Christmas stars

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.

## Runs over

A father gave his daughter a young puppy for Christmas. An hour later, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. "Look Dad," she said, "My pup runneth over!"

# Smile Lines

## What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl went to visit Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and the question of what she would like for Christmas.

The little girl gasped and stared up at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

## What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

## Church rules

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

## Mother in a storm

One cold winter night, during a violent storm, a mother was tucking her small, frightened little boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he said with a tremor in his voice: "Mummy, will you stay with me tonight?"

Mummy smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said, "I have to sleep with Daddy." A long silence – and then came his shaky reply: "The big coward!"

## Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange."

The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

## Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

## Father Christmas

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy." Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. "Easy," he said, "They are all nocturnal."

## Getting ready for Christmas...

In this season of endless parties, socialising and constant hospitality, please remember:

~ No woman ever yet shot her husband while he was washing the dishes.

~ Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

~ He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

~ Everyone has a photographic memory. But sadly, some don't have film.

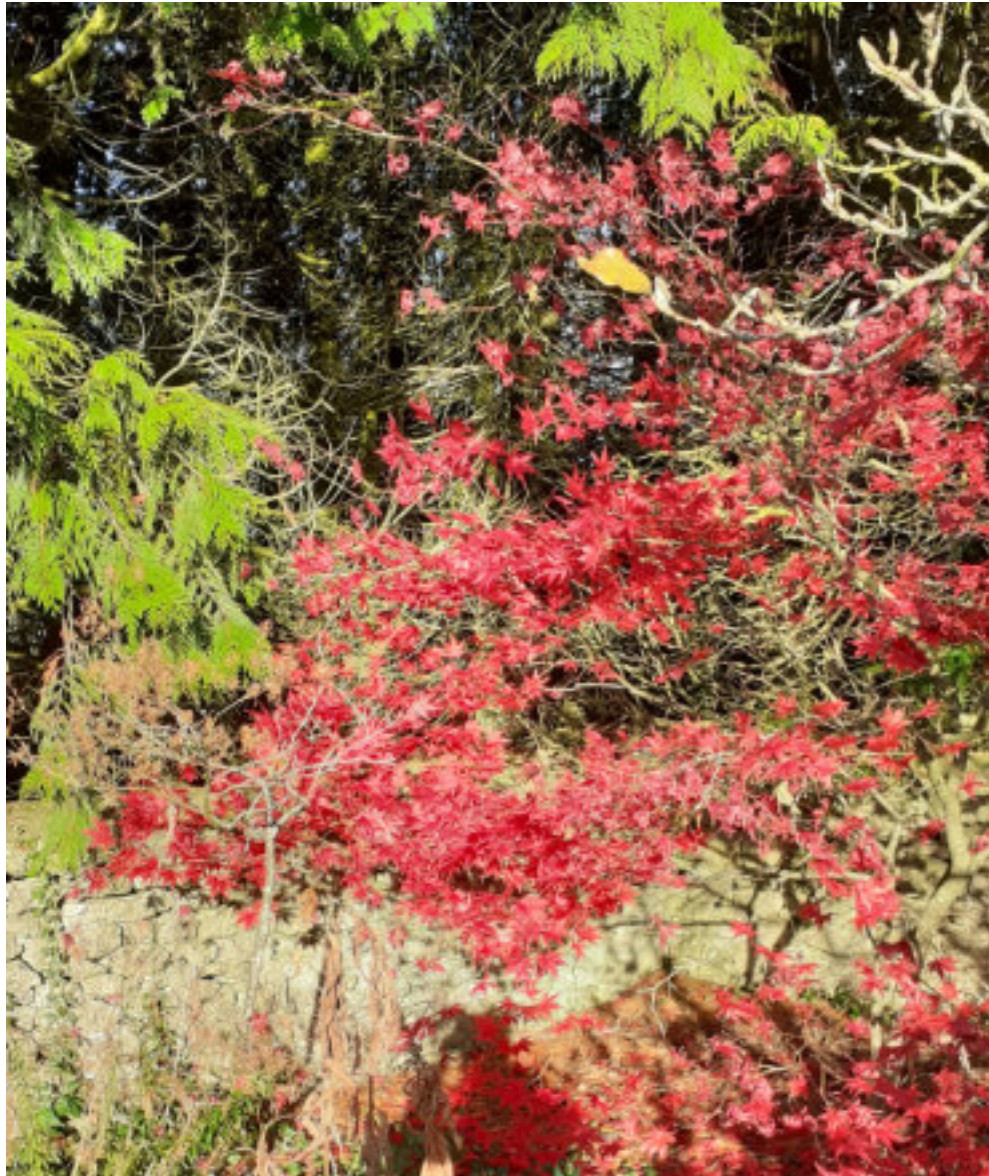
~ Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves, for they will never cease to be amused.

~ Many people's ambition: to be weighed and found wanting.

~ Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.

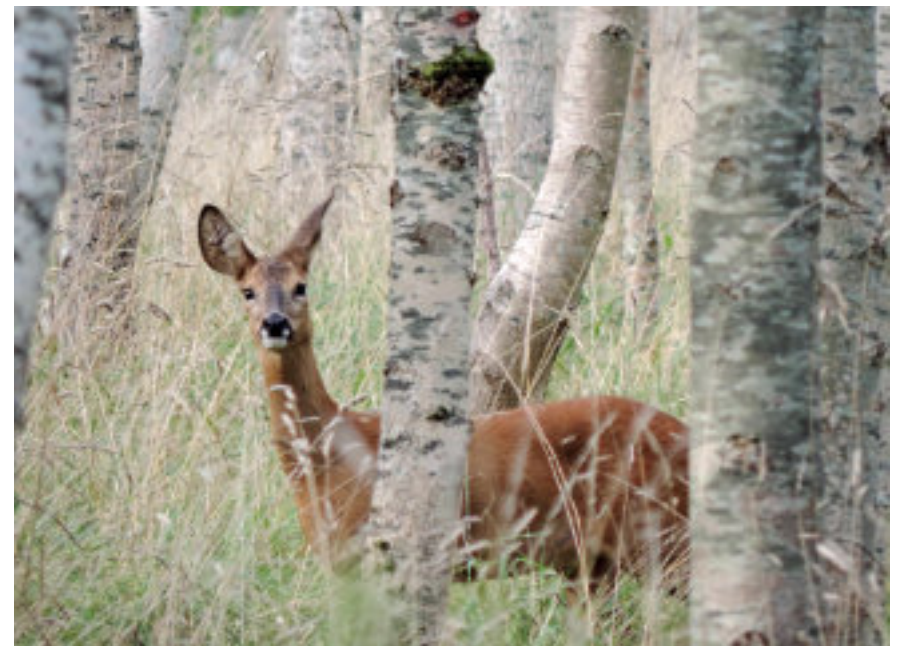


"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the vergers' nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."



Autumn look of a Japanese Maple.

Photos by Carol Bailey





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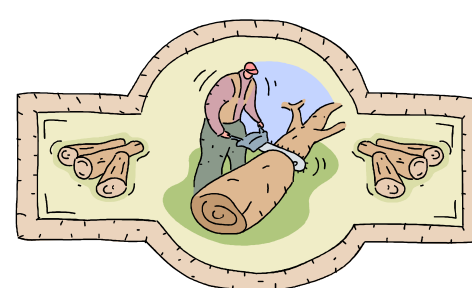
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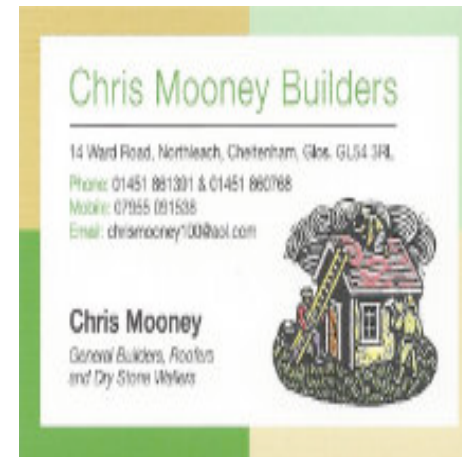
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