

February 2025

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 this edition was Julie Young (01285 720398) and for the next edition will also be Julie.

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

Cover photo and contents page photos by Mark Lanyon

The HILL & VALLEY

PARISH MAGAZINE

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Julie Young Coordinator for this edition



Karen's Letter

The winter has been dark, wet, very cold and sometimes quite bleak, but there have been glorious, crisp, blue-sky days; crystalline, feathery hoar frosts; wonderful, warm, convivial evenings sharing good food and wine with friends and family; and community gatherings, buzzing with camaraderie and bonhomie. As the writer of Ecclesiastes, the ancient Hebrew book of wisdom says – there is a time and a season for everything under heaven.

As I head into my sixties, I have asked myself what I want to focus on over the next couple of decades, if I am fortunate enough to have them. What is it time for now?

It's time to stop worrying and to focus on being fully present. I have found that if I'm not careful I can easily become distracted with anxiety. As we all know, worrying doesn't solve anything, and is in fact harmful to us. Every time I catch myself worrying about something in the past, or about the future, I've resolved that from here on in I will let go and allow God to guide me. As is often said, we come

into the world with nothing, and we will depart with nothing. I find that a quite liberating thought.

Buddhist mindfulness, another ancient wisdom, teaches that nothing exists but the present moment. The past doesn't exist, nor does the future. If we live mindfully, our memories and our future can become full of moments lived well, and therefore bring a richness of meaning and purpose to our lives. I would really like that for myself.

I wonder what it is time for in your life?

Karen Hunter Krimald



Church Briefing

Hill & Valley Benifice Church Services 2025

Everyone Welcome

2nd February

Holy Communion 10.30am – St Jame's the Great, Coln St Denys.

9th February

BCP Communion 9.00am – St Andrew's Chedworth.

Holy Communion 10.30am – St Andrew's, Coln Rogers.

16th Febuary

Holy Communion 10.30am – St Andrew's, Chedworth.

23rd February

Happyfull Service 10.30am – St Andrew's, Chedworth.

Thank-You

To all who decorated St Andrews Church so lovely for Christmas, and had the mammoth task of erecting and decorating the tree.

Thank -You

To Myra Burrige (Tower Captain) and team for ringing in the New Year at St Andrews church, and for always being on hand whenever asked to come.
Much appreciated.

Helen Oldham

Those notices which didn't come out quite right...

Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.

Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.

In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11:00am.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

Dates for Your Diary

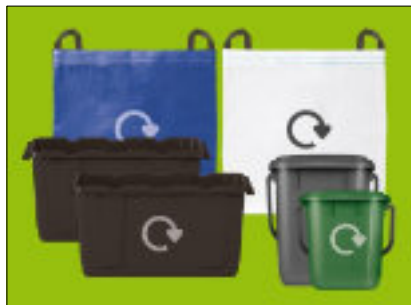
Date	Time	Event	Venue
1 Feb	19:00	ChedEnt Club - An Evening of (very) Old Radio	Chedworth Village Hall
8 Feb	15:00	Children's Magic Show	Chedworth Village Hall
12 Feb	19:15	WI - Peter Seymour "A French Resistance Heroine"	Chedworth Village Hall
15 Feb	9:00-13:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
17 Feb	17:30	Fish & Chip Van	Chedworth Village Hall
1 March		NTL - The Importance of Being Ernest	Chedworth Village Hall
7 March	18:30	World Day of Prayer	Chedworth Church
8 Martch	10:00	Tennis Club Open Morning	Chedworth Tennis Courts
12 March	19:15	WI - Sqn Ldr Andrew Wyatt " Flying the Queen and other stories"	Chedworth Village Hall
15 March	9:00-13:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
17 March	17:30	Fish & Chip Van	Chedworth Village Hall
29 March		NTL - Dr Strangelove	Chedworth Village Hall
5 April	11:00-14:00	WI - Jumble Sale	Chedworth Village Hall
9 April	19:15	Brian Barbour - "I worked for the CIA in Libya"	Chedworth Village Hall
19 April	9:00-13:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
21 April	17:30	Fish & Chip Van	Chedworth Village Hall
14 May	19:15	WI - Resolutions	Chedworth Village Hall
17 May	9:00-13:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
11 June		WI - Garden Party	



Recycling Dates

Domestic Waste & Recycling

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



Chedworth Area, Fossebridge, Yanworth, Coln St Dennis, Coln Rogers

Thursday	13	February
Thursday	27	February
Thursday	13	March
Thursday	27	March

Dates may change due to holidays

*Turn your event into an occasion
at*

Chedworth Village Hall

Visit our website for full details including making
booking enquiries

chedworthvillagehall.co.uk



We are really pleased with our most recent OFSTED report from November 2024. The purpose of the formal OFSTED report is to provide parents, carers and the community with a concise overview of key information about what the school is like, where it is succeeding and where it needs to improve. We were only given two next step points, both of which were already identified and being worked on in our school development plan and self-evaluation. This shows that we have a good understanding of our school and our continual improvement journey.

The process was extremely rigorous, and the inspectors were able to be forensic in their understanding and unpicking of our pupils' experiences.

Some of the general comments given by inspectors that stood out to us were:

"The potential here at this school is vast."

"A very inclusive school with no narrowing of the curriculum."

"Inclusivity shines through."

"All staff are happy to work here and positive about their roles."

The quality of education **Good**
Behaviour and attitudes **Good**
Personal development **Good**
Leadership and management **Good**
Early years provision **Good**

We are so proud of our school (children, staff, governors, parents and the wider community) and this report fully celebrates everything we have and continue to achieve for our pupils and families. We are starting the new year with a continued ambition to work together and enable everyone to flourish. We are thrilled to have this external validation of the successes and hard work put into make St Andrew's the wonderful family it is.

We thank you for your continued support to help our school thrive. Word of mouth is the greatest tool for marketing, and we ask that you promote these achievements within and beyond the community.





Flora Fiora!

Flora Fiora visited us on the last week of term to talk to the children about her time here at St Andrew's C of E and The Cotswold School. Flora embodied, everything we want from our children and our vision for them to flourish and shine like stars. The children were captivated by her performance. She sang a range of songs. Our pupils have been so inspired by this and we now have a guitar teacher starting private lessons, we are hoping one of them will be back in 10 years to play with us again.



We were also thrilled to host a musical trio, who performed a range of classical songs for our pupils to enjoy, this was a lovely way to end the term and inspire their passions beyond the academics.



During the Spring term we have a few events and school trips for the pupils. This term we also will celebrate children's mental health week, safer internet day and World Book day.

We wanted to say a huge thank you to our local community. Firstly, Chedworth Village hall for the use of the facilities for the incredible PTA Christmas party and also thank you to all at Stowell Park for generously donating a Christmas tree for our pupils to enjoy.



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Chedworth Parish Council

Unitary Authorities and Devolution

A major shake-up of local government is on the cards; we are grateful to County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson for this explanatory note:

Just before Xmas the Government issued a white paper proposing 'devolution' and 'unitary authorities' across England. In Gloucestershire we are currently the only area within the West of England to have 'two tier' councils i.e. a county council responsible for certain things like roads and social care and a district council responsible for things like bin collections and planning. Under those are parish/town councils who look after functions in their area like village greens, playgrounds and cemeteries. The Government has proposed that all parts of England will move to 'unitary' councils – one council carrying out all the functions which our current county

and district councils do. This would happen by 2028 latest.

It would mean that the current county and district councils are abolished and are replaced with a unitary authority. At the time of writing there are two options for this being mooted:

-a county wide Gloucestershire unitary council

-two unitary councils: East Gloucestershire and West Gloucestershire.

The benefit of one Gloucestershire-wide council is that it is simpler, you have less staff and less councillors, but it is more remote from people and very big. A smaller unitary council would be closer to people but would need to divide services between it and the other one.

The Leader of the County Council has expressed a desire to delay the 2025 County Council elections and has written to the Government to request that. However, five of the six district councils in Gloucestershire are opposed to delaying the elections – personally I see no practical reason for it and am very keen that local democracy is not disrupted.

However, what is clear is that:

Gloucestershire will have new councils in the next few years. Whatever your personal feelings on that, it seems sensible to take a practical approach to the reality of the situation.

Gloucestershire will be grouped in with other Unitary Authorities to become a

Councillors

David Broad (Chairman)	01285 720313
Ian Morgan (Vice Chairman)	07778 168822
George Broad	07895 177961
Mike Dentith	07970 900373
Tony Kingsley	01285 720743
Alan McLellan	01285 720642
Bella Amory	07808 724972

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

regional area that would then support an elected Mayor.

Quite what b) will look like, is yet, unknown. One possible grouping is Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Another is with Oxfordshire or the West of England.

The impact of this on Parish and Town Councils is likely to be very significant. In areas which have a unitary council, parishes have often taken on extra responsibilities like street lighting, some highways functions and public toilets. This comes with opportunities and challenges.

At present things are moving very quickly and so it is not clear exactly what will happen. Timelines, potential groupings of unitary authorities – they are all up in the air.

The most important thing is that any new council is efficient, sufficiently close to residents and has simple and easy to understand structures so that we all can deal with it as easily as possible when we need to.

Large Screen

The Parish Council has been working with the Village Hall committee to improve the experience for members of the public attending Council meetings. At the January meeting a wireless adaptor had been purchased and connection established between a councillor's computer and the hall's large screen, so initially the agenda and by extension photographs, can be displayed mainly for the public's benefit.

Village Hall Stage Lighting

The Parish Council has also part funded the new hi-tech stage lighting which is due to be installed at the hall soon. The previous lighting equipment was very inefficient, and it is believed it was second hand when installed over 20 years ago. The Parish Council has provided just over £3000 nett £3600 inc VAT, which it can reclaim, towards the cost and Chedworth Entertainments are providing the remaining £1500 inc VAT.

Interactive Speed Sign

Gloucestershire County Council has agreed to fund an Interactive Speed Sign for Fields Road, following a request submitted some time ago. County Councillor, Paul Hodgkinson, chased up the submission following the previous meeting. However, when consulted about where to position the sign the Speed Watch group suggested we really need two signs. The signs flash up vehicle speed and record speeds and the number of vehicles passing.



Chedworth Parish Council

Queen Street

The Parish Council has been struggling to get some action on Ice forming in Queen Street, it is not on the County Council's gritting routes and water tends to run down from the Tuns waterfall and freeze making it hazardous. Both extra gritting and means to reduce the water flow are being explored.



David Broad

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MEMBERSHIP & SAVE



World Day of Prayer Service



6.30pm Friday March 7th 2025

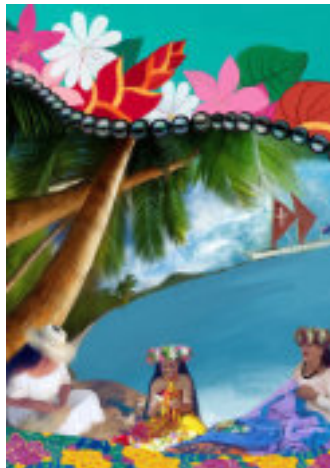
(Please note slightly earlier start time)

ST. ANDREWS CHEDWORTH

Everyone is very welcome. The service this year has been written by women of the Cook Islands, so if you have by any chance been to the Cook Islands do please bring any photos, mementos or stories of your time there to the service to share.

“I Made You Wonderful”

Psalms 139:14



See <https://worlddayofprayer.net/cook-islands-2025.html#/> for more information on the service this year.

Chedworth WI December 2024 and January meeting 2025

Well you should have seen the village hall on December 11th, the stage was covered in the most amazing amount of Christmas greenery you have ever seen! And Jo Todd had said she was worried there wouldn't be enough! We were amazed that there was anything green left in Chedworth. Not only this but Jo and the committee had sourced the most amazing choice of ribbons, baubles, red berries and other decorations for our wreathmaking evening. It was needless to say a huge success! Jo and her wonderful helper Heather had worked their fingers to the bone to give every member the chance to make the most superb wreath, we all went home with the most lovely wreath and/or table decoration. And a huge thank you was extended to them both.

Amongst all the greenery we did manage to do most of our more normal business and welcomed three friends Bee Brockman, Theresa Irving and Heather Brown, hopefully we will see more of them! Members were reminded that we needed to vote on the Resolutions short list on pages 17-22 of our monthly magazine WI Life. They are this year, *Let's talk about incontinence, Bystanders are Lifesavers – CPR, Join the Repair revolution and Eliminate landfill for medication packaging.* As always the resolutions have to be non-political, but provide causes for which the WI can campaign through the coming year and beyond.

Helen Taylor announced that after four years of organising our Chedworth Walking Group she was retiring. It had brought much pleasure to members particularly during the Pandemic years when people were allowed to meet outside. Helen will not be stopping her own personal long distance walking though, and any member who would like to restart or keep up the walking group would be very welcome. Many thanks were extended to Helen for all her work through the last four years.

The Pub Lunch Group will be on the 30th January at Aldsworth, and the Gym group will restart on the afternoon of 6th January at Far Peak.

We also held a raffle and raised money for our charity of the year Martha's Trust. We had hoped to have a Post Christmas Sales Table for Martha's Trust at the January meeting, but like the meeting itself, the weather defeated us and we had to cancel. Most of the business planned for the January meeting will be moved to the February meeting which will be on Wednesday 12th February at 7.15pm in the village hall, (weather permitting!) including, we are hoping, our speaker Peter Seymour's talk on his friend the 'French Resistance Heroine'.

Emma Isaac



Chedworth & District Poppy Appeal 2024

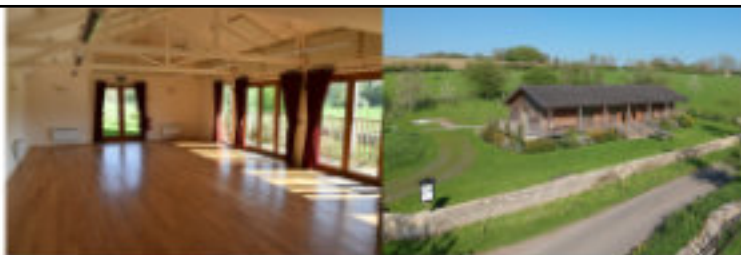
Chedworth & District Poppy Appeal Collection 2024 – update report

On behalf of The Royal British Legion and our local Royal British Legion Branch we wish to thank everyone who kindly supported our local Poppy Appeal during October and November of this year. Due to the combined generosity of local residents and visitors to the area (including donations from our local Branch of The Royal British Legion; Coln Rogers with Coln St Dennis PCC; Remembrance Service congregations at St Andrew's Church, Chedworth and St Oswald's Church, Compton Abdale; Rendcomb College staff, students and parents); our local annual Poppy Appeal for Chedworth and District (including 'house to house' collections in Calmsden, Pinkwell, Coln

St Dennis, Coln Rogers, Calcott, Compton Abdale, Fossebridge, Stowell Park, Yanworth) and at our 4 'static points' (St Andrew's School, Chedworth, The Fossebridge Inn, The Stump, and Chedworth Roman Villa) raised a magnificent grand total of £6,667.75p - This figure includes £260.50p raised via our one allocated credit/debit card machine and £475 raised via QR codes for our collecting area.

The Royal British Legion can claim an additional 25 pence for each pound sterling donated via the HMRC 'Gift Aid' scheme. The Gift Aid results for the 2024 St Andrew's Church Remembrance Service, and 'house to house' collections, and 'static points' donations (included in the above grand total figure) are as follows -

Amount of completed Gift Aid declaration forms	£ amount donated that GA can be claimed on	Gift Aid contribution
108	£1,905	<u>£476.25p</u>



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The Gift Aid results for our one allocated contactless machine, and QR codes (included in the above grand total figure) are as follows -

Amount of online Gift Aid declarations	£ amount donated that GA can be claimed on	Gift Aid contribution
45	£512	<u>£128</u>

During the past 30 years the Chedworth & District Poppy Appeal has raised a grand total of £129,853.16p. This is an incredible achievement. It is also a testament to all the hard work of our gallant band of Poppy Appeal collectors, past and present and the continued generosity of residents and organisations in our area.

On Remembrance Day this year, Mrs Mick Marsh, one of our Poppy Collectors, was awarded a 10-year certificate by Andrew Tabor (Chair of our local Royal British Legion Branch) for service to the Poppy Appeal in The Rookery are of Chedworth. We are very grateful for her 10 years of

dedicated service to our annual Poppy Appeal.

Once again, our heartfelt thanks go to our wonderful and hardworking team of 18 ‘house to house’ Poppy Appeal collectors, the staff at our 4 ‘static points’ and our two wonderful independent money counters, Sue Robertson and Gill Tovey.

As always your support and generosity is very much appreciated.

David & Felicity Peake

*Honorary Poppy Appeal Organisers -
Chedworth & District*



Ash Trees and Ash Dieback



It is so tragic that Ash Dieback is ravaging the Ash-*Fraxinus Excelsior*, which is one of the most prominent

hardwood trees of woods, hedgerows and fields. It is a species that is well suited to our thin Cotswold brash soil and regenerates profusely. Ash-*Fraxinus* is a genus of the olive and lilac family. It is an excellent pioneer species and in woods it has a long clean stem, its light canopy encourages ground cover. It is our tallest native deciduous trees when fully mature and comes into leaf much later than any other tree in the UK. The predominance of ash in this country is reflected in the many place names incorporating the word- Ashford, Ashurst, Ashwell, Ashdown Forest.

The Woodland Trust estimate that dieback will kill up-to 80% of ash trees in this country and will change the countryside for ever and threaten many species that rely on ash trees. The disease is predicted to cost the United Kingdom £15 billion pounds.

The disease is a fungus that affects ash trees of all ages and originated in Asia and spread to Europe and then this country via windborne spores and the importation of ash transplants from areas affected by dieback in Europe. Affected trees develop dark patches in summer, wilt and discolour to black. The fungus overwinters in leaf litter,

the pores can blow miles away. It is estimated that 1-5% of ash trees may have reasonable tolerance but none have complete tolerance. We have several large ash trees that have dieback and were recently pollarded. (A traditional form of management whereby the trees are cut at 8-10 feet above ground level and allowed to grow again to provide successive crops of wood for rails etc). Since pollarding, most of the trees have not produced any new growth apart from one tree that has vigorous new shoots, which appear healthy apart from some rather sick shoots on one side.

Most ash trees affected will die and the branches develop rot and become brittle and be vulnerable to wind damage and shedding branches. Affected trees near to roads, public rights of way and buildings represent a health and safety risk, not only to the general public but also those involved in tree surgery. Some insurers will no longer insure the tree surgeons for climbing to reduce the branches and advise using cheery pickers or complete felling. Affected trees need to be risk assessed, monitored and managed. There is no known cure for ash dieback.



Mountain Ash (Rowan) is not affected by ash dieback.

Ash trees have a strong link with the Vikings who made talismans and amulets from ash to ward off evil and

disease. The Norse tree of life Yggdrasil, whose crown was in heaven and roots in hell was a giant ash. Celtic peoples refused to cut ash trees lest their house is consumed by fire. Folklore associated ash with healing, magic and life. Ash is often found growing near holy wells and sacred springs and is referred to in a traditional song:-

*Of all the trees that grow so fair
Old England to adorn
Greater are none beneath the sun
Than Oak and Ash and Thorn*

Ash is a very useful and adaptable wood being strong, tough, flexible and easy to work albeit not very durable. It has a wide range of uses, including turnery, hurdles, hand tools, arrows, base-ball bats, furniture, snooker cues, hurling sticks, oars, ladders, fencing and rails. At one time ash was used for tennis rackets and hockey sticks but these are now made from synthetic materials and wood grown in Asia. It is also a very good firewood as it splits easily and burns well but do not tell Ed Milliband! In the past, ash leaves were an important winter fodder for cattle.

Not since Dutch Elm Disease just about wiped-out elms in the 1970's, has a tree disease had such an impact as ash dieback. You only have to drive along parts of the Fosseway between Cirencester and Bourton and the Cirencester to Aldsworth Road to see the loss of the ash and the rawness of the gaps in the hedgerows and tree belts. Each ash was a habitat and a source of resources for insects, bats and birds, especially nut hatches and woodpeckers. Ash leaves have a considerable impact on soil quality

because the leaves are nutrient and base rich and decompose quickly.

Ash dieback represents both a challenge and an opportunity for replanting. The Tree Council point out that no one species can ever replace ash. They advise that a mixture of species is planted taking into account local conditions to give diversity, enhance the landscape and spread the risk of possible future diseases. They recommend aspen, alder, field maple, sycamore, birch, rowan, native oaks, also smaller trees and shrubs such as crab apple, holly, hawthorn and rowan.

Geoff Bailey at Wrens Orchard Rendcomb, has sadly lost most of the ash that he planted in his wood and has carefully reviewed replanting taking into account hardwood species suited to the Cotswolds that are drought resistant (now an important consideration because of climate change) and are not prone to squirrel damage. Grey squirrels are a major threat to young trees, especially beech, which is frustrating as beech is well suited to the Cotswolds. Geoff has replanted some of the areas where the diseased ash has been removed with red oak, silver birch, wild pear, small leaved lime and few sweet-chestnut. It will be interesting to see how the replanting fares.

The Forestry Commission and Reading University have recently published "Tree Species Guide for UK Agroforestry Systems" which sets out a helpful analysis of 32 hardwood tree species and one conifer (Scots Pine).

Hopefully over time, there will be a concerted programme of replanting

Ash Trees and Ash Dieback

from commercial woods to amenity areas and individual trees. All of us can play a part even if it is only planting a few trees in our garden or helping those who are replacing dead ash trees.

Since I drafted this article, Geoff Bailey has referred me to an interesting article in The Guardian on 20th December 2024 “Ash Dieback experts identify shoots of hope for Britain’s threatened trees” – salient points include:

Research suggests many of Britain’s ash trees might be more resilient than initially believed and emerging solutions could help to protect them.

Ash dieback infection is not a death sentence.

Government guidelines and tree experts, including the Woodland Trust, advise against felling infected trees unless they present a safety threat. This is important because it allows disease-tolerant trees to set seed and reproduce, vital for regenerating landscape with young, hopefully resistant ash. Even trees that succumb to the disease have an important ecological role. Dead and dying trees provide essential habitats for species from fungi and insects to bats and birds.

Considerable research is being carried out in this country and Europe, especially advanced microbiome- based solutions.

Robert Young

Chedworth Gardening Club

Private garden visits

10% discount on plants, bulbs & seeds at Burford Garden Centre

Discounted prices on compost & soil conditioners

Informal garden visits where you can meet other members in a sociable setting and share successes and failures, spread ideas, swap plants and give growing tips.

All this and more when you join Chedworth Gardening Club, so come & join us!

The cost of annual individual membership is only £15 and £25 for joint membership.

**For more information, contact Chedworth Gardening Club
Chedworthgardeningclub@gmail.com**

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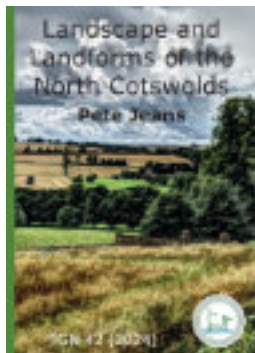
SAT 8 FEB | 3 PM

CHEDWORTH VILLAGE HALL

NO TICKETS
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Landscape and Landforms of the North Cotswold



This book has just been published by the Gloucestershire Naturalist's Society (GNS), and it sheds light on how and why the Cotswold landscape looks

as it does. The landscape that we see today dates largely from the Quaternary period (2.6 million years ago to the present) and especially from the most recent Glacial advances and the following, warm, Holocene epoch (together comprising the last ~60,000 years). Although they were never glaciated, the Cotswolds were severely affected by the alternations of warm (Interglacial) and cold (Glacial) conditions, with the latter especially characterised by permafrost and dramatic seasonal snow and ice melt.

As well as the geological processes (weathering, erosion, and deposition) which shaped the landforms, the scenery that we see today has been heavily influenced by the activities of

man. The Holocene saw the re-colonisation of the Cotswolds by Mesolithic man as the climate improved after the inhospitable Last Glacial Maximum (i.e. after ~15,000 years before present). Actual landscape evidence survives of over 6,000 years of human occupation from Neolithic times (long barrows, e.g. Belas Knapp), through the Bronze Age (stone circles, e.g. Rollright Stones), Iron Age (hill forts, e.g. Cleeve Cloud) and Roman times (towns, villas, and roads, e.g. Cirencester, Chedworth, and the Fosse Way, respectively).

View southwards across Asthall oxbow towards the A40 from ~600m SW of Asthall village, East of Burford.

More recently, and almost as dramatically, the Parliamentary enclosure of the High Wolds from ~1700 – 1850 CE had a major impact on the Cotswold scenery, with the construction of the network of drystone walls, the planting of hedges, and the building of new roads. Much of what makes the Cotswolds so attractive is the result of this human intervention, with the drystone walls, honey-coloured stone villages, the wool



View southwards across Asthall oxbow towards the A40 from ~600m SW of Asthall village, East of Burford.

The book is A5 in format and contains 152 pages and 146 maps and colour illustrations, and includes a series of walks which illustrate many of the features described. It is written for the

Copies (at £9.00 incl p/p) can be obtained from The Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society:-

www.glosnats.org > publications >
publications to buy.
All proceeds from sales go to support
the GNS.

These are actual comments left on US Forest Service registration comment cards by backpackers:

"Escalators would help on steep uphill sections."

"Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands."

"Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers that use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals."

"Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill."

"Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests."

"Please pave the trails so they can be ploughed of snow in the winter."

"The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these



...are you late with your 'Vicar's Letter' again, dear?

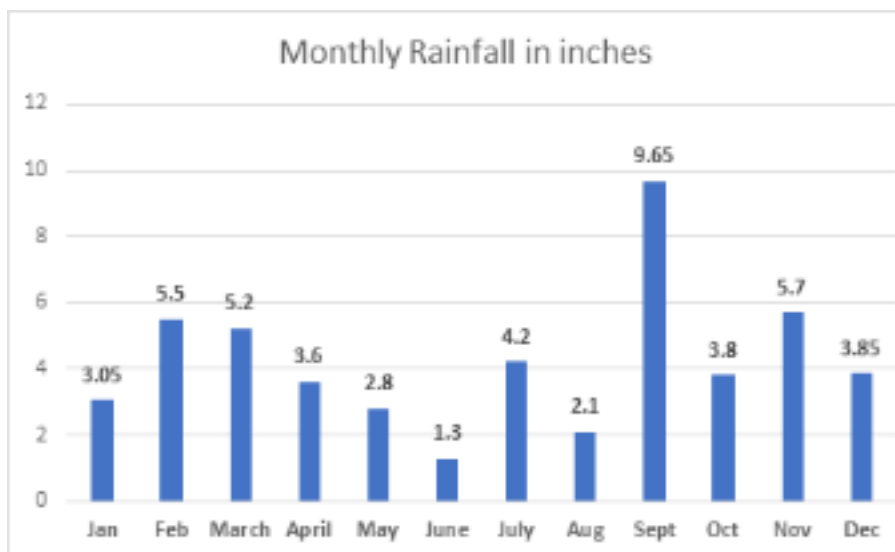
Chedworth Rainfall 2024

2024 was another very wet year, we recorded 50.75 inches at Malthouse Grounds. It was the third wettest year since we started to record rainfall in 1990, the highest rainfall was 52.05 inches in 2023 and the lowest 19.30 inches in 1990. The average rainfall for the last ten years is 39.80 inches.

The chart shows the monthly rainfall for 2024. The wettest month was

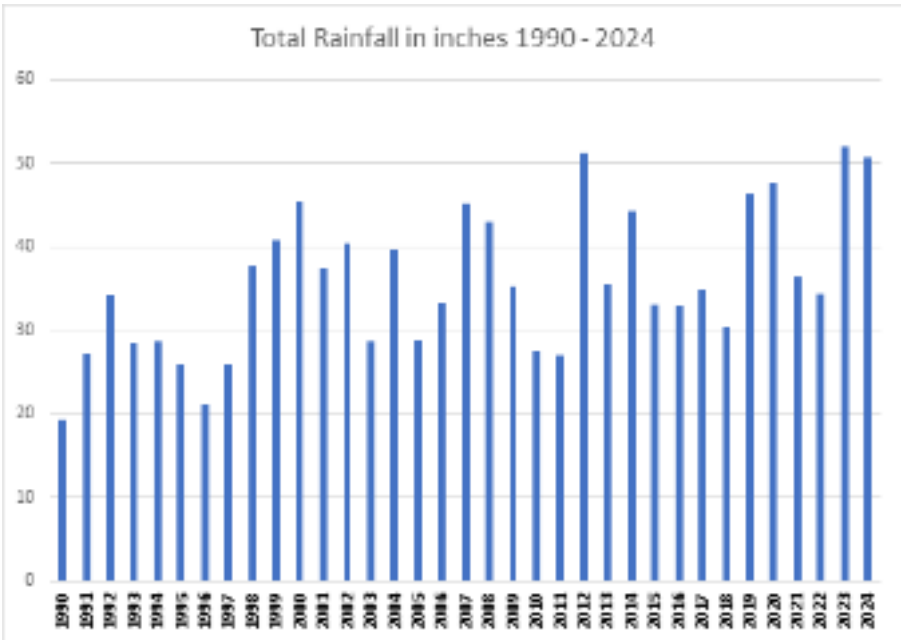
September- 9.65 inches followed by a wet autumn. It was again a difficult year for farming, construction and forestry. The river levels and springs are at a high level. It really is time that this country had a comprehensive water policy, particularly for distributing water from the areas of high rainfall to the areas of low rainfall, especially the south east which is densely populated.

Robert Young





After the storm by Mark Aveline



Your Gardening Tips for February



The world is reportedly warming up, but not in Chedworth!! If last year is anything

to go by, uncertain weather conditions with rain and wind likely to prevail gardening throughout the year will not be easy. But try we must!

- Chit potato tubers.
- Seeds that can be sown outside include broad bean, garlic, spring onions, first early peas and radishes. Other vegetable seeds such as brassicas, beans, tomatoes and peppers will need to be started off indoors or in a greenhouse. Onion sets and shallots planted outside will probably develop better from early March.
- Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green', if they have not already gone over! If you want to divide them later, put a label into the spot for each bulb!
- Heavy soil can be improved significantly by working in coarse gravel or sharp sand as well as organic matter.
- Use leftover tea and coffee grounds to acidify the soil of acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, gardenias and even blueberries. A light sprinkling of about one-quarter of an inch applied once a month will keep the pH of the soil on the acidic side
- Dahlia tubers stored over winter can be potted out in a frost-free space, and lily bulbs can be planted in pots.
- Prune wisteria by cutting back the side shoots to two or three buds. Avoid cutting off flower buds.
- Protect your delphinium, hosta and lily shoots from slugs and snails before they appear above ground.
- If you are worried about your crocuses being eaten by squirrels and pheasants protect them!
- Continue to prune roses as required and cut late summer and autumn flowering clematis down to the lowest pair of strong buds. Mulch and feed.
- Cut back old autumn fruiting raspberries to ground level.
- Continue to dead head winter pansies as they will carry on flowering into spring and early summer.
- Cut off old leaves of hellebores that produce flowers from ground level.
- Plant roses, avoiding areas where roses have been immediately before.
- By whom was this snowdrop named 'grumpy'?
- Keep clearing out dead and dying leaves from brassica plants such as purple sprouting.
- Protect fruit blossoms from frost where possible.
- Worm casts can be troublesome at this time of year, so keep brushing them away, but remember that if



they are there, they are doing a lot of good!

- Delay turning your compost heap until mid-spring to avoid disturbing wild life such as slow worms.
- Feed the small birds. They will be good to you in the spring and

Summer and complete pruning of hedges by the end of the month before nesting starts.

Simon Colbeck

Chairman

Chedworth Gardening Club

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Free refreshments including cake!

For further information email pkear@blueyonder.co.uk

Follow us on



Wine Column

Hello Neighbors,

Were you one of the millions worldwide that tried Dry January? Did you make it through? I took off a couple of days to keep myself in check but still enjoyed some glasses of wine throughout the month.

Recapping the year! The Wine Industry had a tough 2024.

Production: Global wine production decreased in 2024, down over 12% and the lowest since 2012.

Sales: sales are down all over the world in restaurants, and people are trading down and spending less.

Demand: the demand for wine is declining with people choosing alternatives like spirits, low alcohol and the younger generation is choosing NO alcohol. Cannabis is also on the rise.

Inventory: There is an oversupply of planted vineyards, which may lead to inventory excess, discounting, and price reductions. Calling all collectors – now is the time to buy! Deals to be had.

Retail sales: Retail sales are lower throughout the first three quarters, but the 4th quarter numbers were great so evening it out a bit.

Climate Change: has influenced wine regions all over the world.

Country-specific trends:

- **France:** around 23% lower than 2023 and also pulled out many vineyards (farmers were paid to do



this)

- **Germany:** 4-6% down
- **Portugal:** almost 8% down
- **Italy:** A little increase
- **Spain:** Increase of 18% higher than the previous year
- **USA:** down two years in a row about 5% overall but premium wine is flat

It is not ALL doom and gloom. **The English wine industry is up in sales and production.** Hopefully that continues as we have our first harvest in 2025!

February is for lovers! Some fun wines to pick up for you and your honey.

- Woodchester Valley Brut Rose from the Cotswolds - £39.99
- Hattingley Valley Rose: £36.99
- Bollinger (France) Brut Rose: £56.99

Gifts for your wine lover! How about some Riedel glasses and a decanter?

Or maybe you don't want to lose the bubbles in your champagne (if you want to have one at lunch and one for dinner) – Buy a Champagne stopper (even Amazon sells them!)

Vineyard Update and Tour the Vineyard:

As of mid January, we have seen snow three times in the vineyard. This doesn't hurt the vines at this point as they are in hibernation and if it doesn't get too cold, all is well. I have been busy pruning the vineyard by hand, (all 6500 vines!) making a very important decision on where the "crown" will be on each vine. This cut is the most important as it sets the vine for the rest of its life. Every cut after will be above the crown. We are getting excited about harvest 2025 and hope for a year of more sunshine than the last three. Fingers crossed.

Many people have reached out with concern about the tall pines that fell on our vineyard. We were disappointed and it caused extensive damage, but this also reminds us that Mother Nature is always "the boss".

We've had a couple of neighbors and friends ask for a "tour" of the vineyard and it has been fun for us to do this. We have had quite a few visitors! Are you interested in learning more about the details of what is happening in the vineyard and our plans? Email us and we can have you come over and we will walk you through.

Until next month, cheers!

Amber
cotswoldswineadventure@gmail.com

Follow our vineyard on Instagram or facebook @cotswoldswineadventure





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Hill & Valley Lawn Tennis Club

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

CLUB NEWS

We are looking forward to some spring-like weather to re-commence 'normal' tennis sessions as soon as possible; just the way to shake off the winter blues! Winter maintenance work on hedges around the courts has taken place; and we are considering repainting the playing surface in April. Our new season membership opens on 1st March and we extend our invitation to all to join the club, and especially welcome the many new players who have joined over the last 12 months. The programme of events and regular sessions is taking shape as you'll see below; we very much hope to see you at the courts – please bring the spring sunshine with you!

Robert Baker, Chair hillandvalleylta@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON

Saturday, March 8th 10-12noon

Open Morning with Tennis, Coffee & Croissants

HILL & VALLEY TENNIS CLUB
OPEN MORNING - SATURDAY 8TH MARCH
10AM - 12PM | CHEDWORTH GL54 4NE

Join us for a fun, **FREE** morning of tennis, coffee & croissants and see what our friendly club has to offer. **All welcome!**

REGISTER NOW

bit.ly/hillandvalleyevents
or scan the QR code

Marking the start of our new season we invite everyone to come and join in. Open to all including non-members so do come along and meet us and see what our friendly club has to offer.

Discounts for new memberships on the day!

PLEASE BOOK IN via QR code or on the website

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



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>



ADULT GROUP COACHING WITH TOM WYMAN

Saturday, February 8th

Monthly group coaching for all levels



AFTER SCHOOL JUNIOR COACHING

Starts on Wednesday, Feb 26th for ages 4-18yrs

A 7 week block open to non members, rackets provided

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



HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMPS

February 18th and 20th

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

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

Juniors 4-13yrs

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

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, March 8th 10-12noon

Open Morning for all with tennis, coffee & croissants

Saturday, June 14th

Coln Valley Open Mixed Doubles Tournament

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



Facebook.com/TennisChedworth

Instagram.com/hillandvalleytennisclub

Twitter.com/HillValleyTenn

CE



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7PM SATURDAY FEB 1ST

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TICKETS & INFO➔

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Soon

National Theatre Live

CE

Chedworth Entertainment Club

SATURDAY 1st MARCH

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Hoping to impress two eligible ladies, two gentlemen find themselves caught in a web of lies. Three-time Olivier Award-winner Sharon D Clarke is joined by Ncuti Gatwa in a joyful reimagining of Oscar Wilde's most celebrated comedy.



SATURDAY 29th MARCH

DR STRANGELOVE



Seven-time BAFTA Award-winner Steve Coogan plays four roles in the world premiere stage adaptation of Stanley Kubrick's comedy masterpiece Dr. Strangelove, an explosively funny satire about a rogue U.S General who triggers a nuclear attack.

WWW.CHEDWORTHENTCLUB.CO.UK

Chedworth Silver Band



Chedworth Silver Band would like to thank everyone who supported us over the Christmas period at our Carol Concert at St Andrews and street collection on Boxing Day.

Band contacts remain 01285 720313 and chedworthsilverband@mail.com

Elizabeth Broad

WALKING TENNIS

On Fridays, 2.30-4pm in Chedworth

For All ages & Abilities

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



It will help to get you going again and improve your fitness and wellbeing.

It is relaxed and fun, you go at your own pace. You only need a pair of trainers, we can provide a racket if you don't have one. Come and give it a try or you 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





The Cafe is open
for coffee and cake
and a
happy new year!

This month to spread the love
and start the year as we mean to
go on, the Pop-up is making a
contribution to **FOUR very local**
charities.....

Cirencester Long Table

(pay-as-you-can restaurant & social hub)

The Food Bank

(for families that might be struggling)

Sign Post

(supporting the homeless)

CHYP

(helping vulnerable, homeless young people)

.....but of course we can only do this with your
support, so again - **MANY THANKS.)**

And looking ahead as next month heralds the
start of Spring, the cafe is hoping to introduce a
new plant and produce swap-shop. See the March
H&V for more info on how you could help.

Open every Monday morning 10am-1pm at Chedworth Village Hall



CHEDWORTH PRODUCE MARKET

**Every third Saturday of the month
Next few dates are**

Saturday 15th February 2025

Saturday 15th March 2025

Saturday 19th April 2025

with Pop Up Café

Village Hall

9am-1pm



Uncle Eustace

On the peculiarities of ordination candidates

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained – even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were He to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Mattins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service, and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or



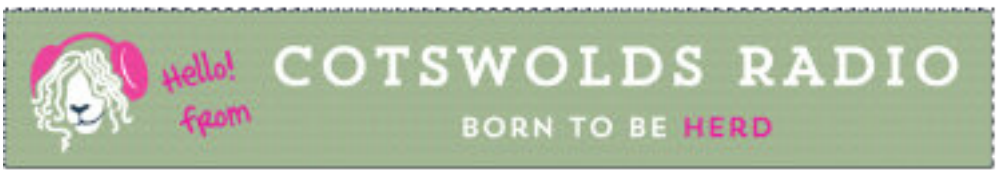
Victorian gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other's homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of withering astonishment that with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace





We're thrilled to share that Cotswolds Radio is now a multi-award-winning radio station! On the 18th November we were honoured to be awarded **Radio Broadcaster of the Year 2024** - South West Community Engagement Excellence Award, part of the Southern Enterprise Awards in partnership with SME News. The Southern Enterprise Awards, now in their seventh year, recognise the outstanding achievements of businesses and organisations across the South of the UK. This year's awards spanned diverse sectors, from creative consultancies to online wellbeing platforms. Amidst such a wide array of innovative enterprises, Cotswolds Radio stood out for its forward-thinking approach, community dedication, and consistent effort to stay ahead of industry trends.

We then followed up with winning the **Best Community Organisation Award** at the North Cotswolds Awards, an award scheme set up in 2024 to celebrate the fantastic local businesses

operating in the North Cotswolds. This award is really special to us as it's voted for by the local community and so we'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of our wonderful listeners who took the time to vote for us. It's a huge pat on the back to our incredibly hard working team of volunteers who put so much effort into producing high-quality radio programmes for our community. Annabelle and Colin were delighted to attend the award ceremony and pick up the trophy on our behalf.



We love to hear from listeners, so get in touch! Message using our app or email contact@cotswoldsradio.com.

Cotswolds Radio is a community radio station run entirely by volunteers of all ages – from under 8 to over 80. We broadcast over 30 shows from our studio at The Old Prison in Northleach

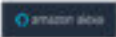
covering a host of topics – all kinds of music, health and wellbeing, beauty, chat, local news and history, culture and the arts, sports and of course our popular daily Breakfast Show.



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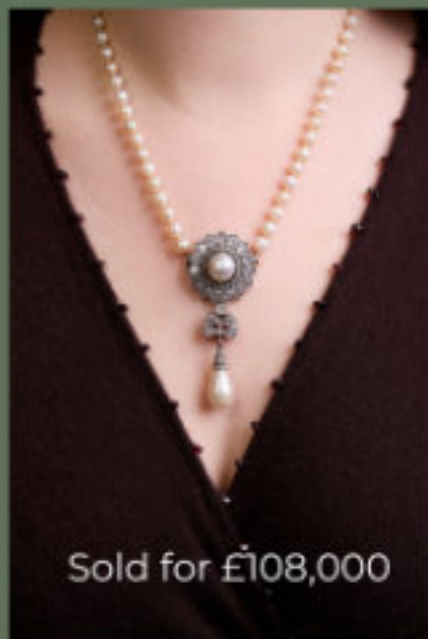
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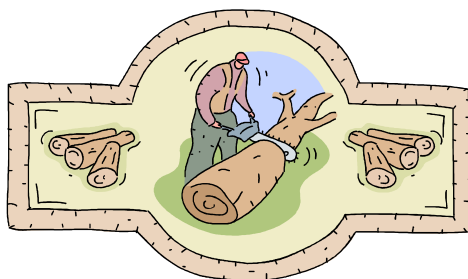
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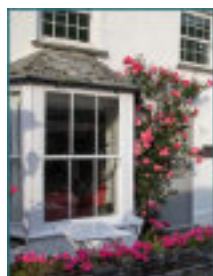
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