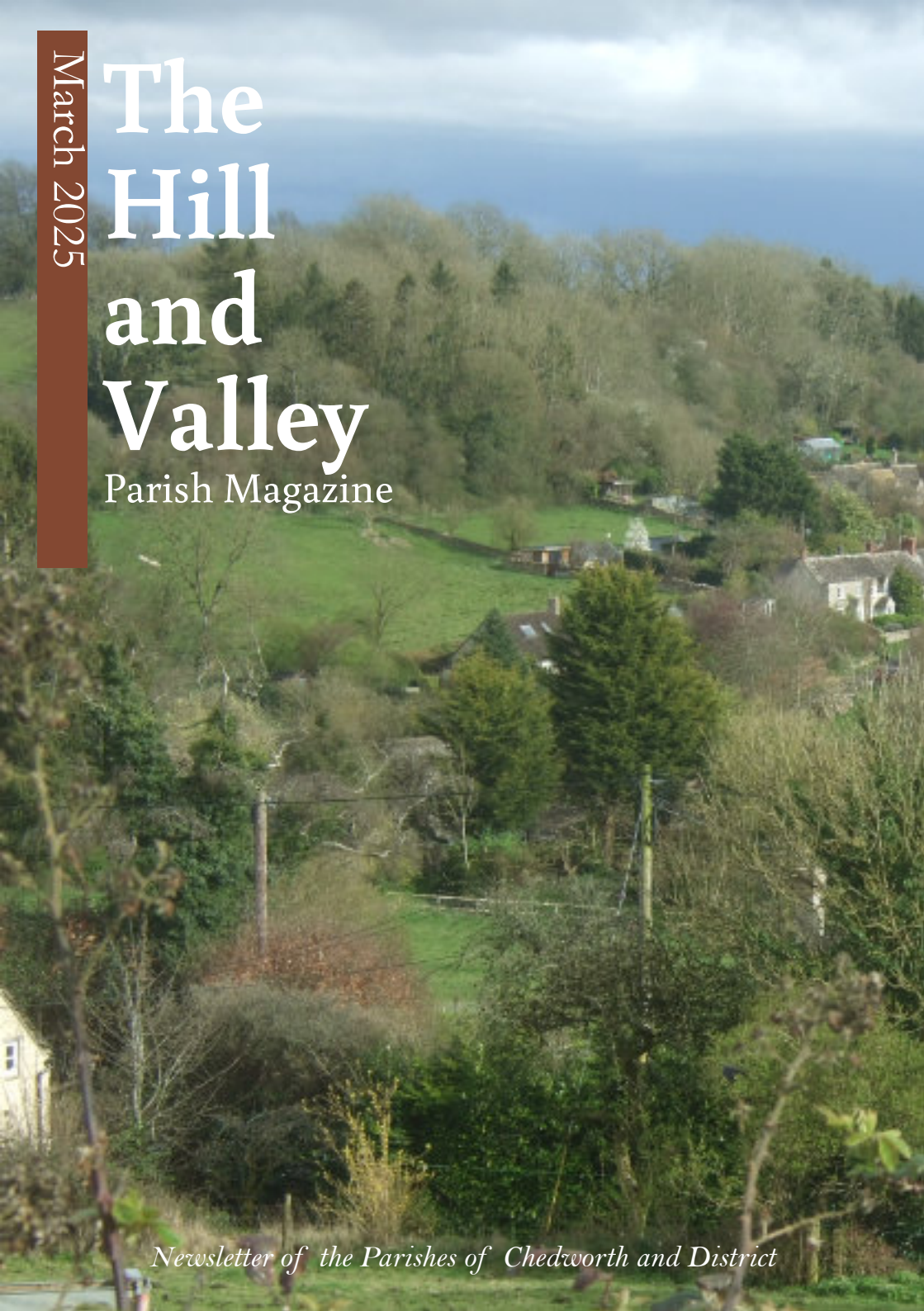




March 2025

The Hill and Valley

Parish Magazine

Newsletter of the Parishes of Chedworth and District

The Benefice of Chedworth and District

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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.

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.**

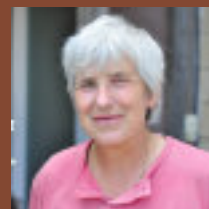
Cover and contents page photos by Julie Young

The HILL & VALLEY

PARISH MAGAZINE

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Julie Young Coordinator for this edition



Karen's Letter

Being an artist, writer and musician, I am also a bit of a sensitive soul...a bit of a mystic. But I think we all have the ability to tune into the mystical presence of God in and around us at any time, whatever you might call it. Howard Thurman, a mystic theologian describes the freedom we all have to possess and experience the divine:

"The claim of the mystic is that you don't need anything to bring you to God. God is in you and me, and the ladder from earth to heaven is available. So, I can ascend my own alter stairs wherever I am, under any circumstances, and the key to the understanding of the experience, and to the experience itself, is never in the hands of any other human being.

When I love people, then I find God in me. Whether I bow my knee at any altar doesn't make any difference, the God in me begins to move up through the corridors of my mind and my emotions ... and moves out from me and broods over us together....

Nothing that I can do can kill the God in me. Nothing. Nothing. Since this presence cannot be destroyed, perhaps

if I listen, if I can become still enough, I will hear the still, small voice whisper to me the precise word I need to take away so much of my unhappiness and my misery and my pessimism about the nature of life and the meaning of my own life. I don't need any priest, I don't need any preacher, I don't even need any church. These may help, but I don't need them. God is in me, and if I find God in me, when I come to church, I'll find God in church too. The burden of proof is on the vitality of my own awareness." - *"The Religion of the Inner Life," in The Way of the Mystics, ed. Peter Eisenstadt, Walter Earl Fluker (Orbis Books, 2021), 115-116.*

I hope this encourages you.

Karen Hunter Kriwald



Church Briefing

Hill & Valley Benifice Church Services

Everyone Welcome

2nd March

Holy Communion with a Baptism 10.30 - St Jame's the Great, Coln St Denys.

9th March

Holy Communion 10.30 - St Andrew's, Coln Rogers.

16th March

Holy Communion 10.30 - St Andrew's, Chedworth.

23rd March

Happyfull Service 10.30 - St Andrew's, Chedworth.
12.30 - 3.00 - Marriage Prep Seminar

30th March

BCP Communion 9.00 - ,St Andrew's Chedworth

Beware of these contagious diseases in church

Frontophobia: A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door, and so collapses in the nearest back seat.

Sermonic Throat: A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to effect a complete cure.

Double Auricular Clearance: A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition is acute during Bible reading and sermon.

Accelerated Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

Retarded Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing slower than the organ.

Theexits: A condition where the sufferer rushes for the exit before the minister gets there.

Church Meeting Paralysis: This can strike suddenly, when a post in the church needs filling. A good dose of enthusiasm works wonders with this sad affliction.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
1 March		NTL - The Importance of Being Ernest	Chedworth Village Hall
4 March		Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)	
7 March	18:30	World Day of Prayer	Chedworth Church
8 March	10:00	Tennis Club Open Morning	Chedworth Tennis Courts
10 March	19:30	Chedworth Parish Council Meeting	Chedworth Village Hall
12 March	19:15	WI - Sqn Ldr Andrew Wyatt "Flying the Queen and other stories"	Chedworth Village Hall
14 March	19:30	Backrow Club - Conclave	Chedworth Village Hall
15 March	10:00	Open Tennis Morning	Chedworth Tennis Courts
15 March	9:00-13:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
17 March	19:30	Annual Parish Meeting	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
12 April	10:00	Church Spring Clean	St Andrews Church Chedworth
14 April	19:30	Chedworth Parish Council Meeting	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
29 April	19:00	Annual Church Meeting	St Andrews Church Chedworth
12 May	19:30	Chedworth Parish Council Meeting	Chedworth Village Hall
14 May	19:15	WI - Resolutions	Chedworth Village Hall
23 & 24 May		Music in Country Churches	St Andrews Church Chedworth



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	March
Thursday	27	March
Thursday	10	April
Thursday	24	April

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



St Andrew's C of E School & Pre-school



We have had a wonderful start to the year, in early January, we were joined by the Air Ambulance, who came to talk to our children about what they do to help the community around them. We have been celebrating E- Safety day, Children's mental health week and have World Book Day and Science Week coming up.

Every year we enter the Gloucestershire Oracy Competition 'Look Who's Talking'. Our parents were brilliant and have supported pupils with writing, learning and practicing speeches. We had many pupils who made it from the class rounds to the whole school final.

Darcy- Scottish Highland Terriers **Percy-** Hockey club

Arthur- Liverpool Football club **Artie-** Lego **Ben-** Harry Potter

Artie and Ben represented us at St David's and Bledington Primary for the school rounds.



Charity donations



We are so proud of two of our pupils who have chosen to **serve** their community by donating their hair to the **Little Princess Trust**. Harry has already donated his hair and Annie is due to in February half term. We are so proud of Harry and Annie! This was a particularly momentous occasion for Harry as it was his first hair cut!

What **STARS** they are serving their community so generously.



Thank you!

Harry:

for kindly donating your hair

Your wonderful donation makes a real difference to children affected by hair loss

January 2025



Cross Country Running



In February, we took a Key Stage 2 team of cross country runners to the cross country event held at Far Peak. We were so impressed with their performance, stamina and attitude. The conditions were bitterly cold, with a lot of perseverance needed in-between races. As always, our pupils were beautifully behaved and represented us beautifully.



During February we celebrated Children's Mental Health week. We held a 'well-being Wednesday' morning for parents/ carers to join pupils while they did a mindful craft activity.

Each class had art and well-being sessions for each year hosted by a specialist art teacher. They had sessions on:

Y5 / 6: 'Making your mark'

Y3 / 4: 'Enjoy the journey, don't worry about the destination!'

Y1 / 2: Memory Maps / Happy Maps'



In April we are planning an art gallery to showcase our pupils work. Please look out on our Facebook page for more details and dates.



We were visited recently by the family who founded our twinning school in Malawi. Leah came to visit us and tell our pupils more about life in Malawi.

Leah and her family have bought us a copy of a book, which we can use to learn Chichewa and a range of songs and stories.



The children apparently love dancing and singing and have kindly gifted us a special home-made drum.



Chedworth Parish Council

News from the Parish Council

Unitary Authority

The proposed changes to amalgamate our County and District Council's into a "Unitary" authority have been postponed so there will be County Council Elections this May.

Queen Street

The Parish Council has been offered the opportunity to expedite drainage works in Queen Street by making a payment of £5,000 to Glos. County Council towards the £60,000 cost.

After careful scrutiny of the expenditure for 2024/5 just over £5,000 is available as long as it can be paid before 31st March and so we are hopeful that the works to prevent water flowing down the road and flooding properties can be brought forward.

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

Interactive Speed Sign

An Interactive speed indicator and speed monitor is due to be installed on Fields Road this month. The project has been ongoing for some time and our Speed Watch team led by Alan McLellan has been working with County Council to finalise the positioning. Funding is from Glos. County Council, and we are very grateful to Cllr. Hodgkinson for his support with this. It has been suggested we may need to provide a second unit, so we have one each end or one up and one down and this was borne in mind when setting our budget.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Monday 17th March at 7.30pm. This is the opportunity for residents to have their say on local matters affecting the Parish but not regional or national issues.

Charity reports are usually received and an annual report by the Chairman of the Parish Council. Some items will be on the formal agenda, but the current Chairman will allow AOB on the night.

Seven Tuns

The Parish Council is continuing to support efforts to re-open the Seven Tuns including providing funding for STAG. Some residents have requested a public meeting should be held regarding the situation and while this has been agreed in principle, we are mindful that there may be delicate negotiations going on behind the scenes, so no dates or times are available at the time of writing.

River Coln

The Parish boundary includes a long stretch of the river Coln from near Compton Abdale to Fossebridge and Harvey Sherwood, a Chedworth resident and experienced environmentalist/land manager, has approached us to highlight that the iconic limestone River Coln is suffering, and he is keen to end pollution and return the river to its previous healthier status. The website, <https://www.cotswoldsrivetrust.org/upper-coln-restoration-group> has useful information and a new WhatsApp volunteer group "River Guardians" has been formed to monitor and look after the interests of the River Coln and its catchment.

Salt Delivery

The Parish has had a fresh supply of salt delivered. We replenished our stocks last summer but when we ran short around Christmas, we were told should have ordered more last June, however stocks are now healthy again.

Funding

The Parish Council was pleased to support the recent Magic Show at the Village Hall by funding the magician's fee. Feedback from the public is that it

was great! It is not often appreciated that entertainment is something a Parish Council can fund from core funding, and we have also agreed to support Children's entertainments at the annual fete later in the year.

Village Hall Stage Lighting

The Village Hall state of the art stage lighting has now been installed to the relief of performers who previously had to struggle with ageing unreliable, power hungry and especially hot heritage lighting. The Parish Council paid £3,500 or about 66% of the cost with Chedworth Entertainments providing the other 33%

Parish Precept The Parish Council has set its share of the Council Tax "The Precept" for 2025/26 at £16.426, the same as for £2024/25.

David Broad



Miscellaneous observations on daily life

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

A healthy adult consumes each year one-and-one-half times his own weight in other people's patience.

A pun is the lowest form of humour - unless you thought of it yourself.

Based on my calculations, I can afford to retire five years after I die.

Chedworth Parish Council

How Chedworth Parish Council spends your money

The Parish Council is often asked where its funds come from and what they can and can't be used for. In our drive to improve communication and transparency with residents of the village, many of whom are relatively new to Chedworth, we hope that this brief account may provide some clarity.

Where does the money come from?

Every year a Council Tax demand drops on your door mat. Three tiers of local Councils receive funding from **Council Tax**.

Glos. County Council has the lion's share. Locally, its main spends are on roads and education.

Cotswold District Council's share mostly goes on refuse collections and planning.

Chedworth Parish Council's share of the Council Tax for use in the parish comes solely from Chedworth taxpayers and is for things not covered by Glos. County Council or Cotswold District or by Central Government expenditure, as well as its core costs.

The Parish Council has a second, rather unpredictable income stream from Cotswold District Council: the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This amounts to 10% of the sum developers pay to improve infrastructure when they build new homes in the village. (See below).

What can the money be used for?

The Parish Council can fund many village necessities such as notice

boards, meeting rooms in the village hall, as well as works on footpaths and bridleways, though not highways.

Education is funded by the County Council, but some village entertainments can be funded by the PC. As we see it, there is nothing to stop the PC providing entertainment which children can enjoy at the school. This saves the school money, which it can spend on other educational efforts.

The Parish Council can spend up to £11 per elector per year, or around £6,500 on items that it has no specified authority to spend on. This is "sounding - the Orwellian Section 137 "or the" Free Resource".

Our own Parish Council often gets asked for funding for highways-related items. The only way we can fund highways items is through s137 Free Resource. Current requests include £5,000 to help kick start £60,000 worth of drainage works on Queen Street, £4,000 for a second Speed Camera, and an estimated £10,000 to resurface Tuns Hill. Clearly those sums don't cover all requests, even over 2 years, so choices will have to be made.

The Precept

Parish Councils cannot borrow in the way private individuals or businesses can. The "Precept", the amount the Parish receives from Chedworth Council Taxpayers is, in principle, unlimited. It is requested in January and the bulk is paid in April. Parish finances are at their lowest in late March and highest in early April, but are more likely to show a genuine surplus in

March. The Parish Council should thus project enough Precept money to cover the expenses reasonably expected to be incurred in the financial year, less other income. Sometimes it will underspend in a year and decide to use the surplus above what it feels is a reasonable reserve figure to reduce Precept. Sometimes it will overspend and face difficult and competing choices.

Coordinating the funding streams through the year

This year Chedworth Parish Council sought to balance the budget of income versus expenditure with the expectation that donations will come from reserves. Any unspent reserves roll over to the next financial year, but the ability to spend s137 money does not. It is fixed expenditure per financial year. This can mean s137 money available say in March 2025 is not

available in April 2025 if the s137 monies for 2025/6 have already been allocated. It also means 2024/5 s137 money has to be paid by the end of March 2025, so as not to reduce the amount of S137 money available for the following year.

Restrictions attached to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) complicate the picture further. It must be spent within 5 years of being received. The Parish Council has little if any advance notice of when and how much we will receive.

In summary, there are at least three types of funds in Parish Council accounts.

Restricted, 137 and CIL.

David Broad



Mark Aveline Animal husbandry 2: loading supplementary feed for the cattle

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



Poem - Art 'n Soul

Art 'n Soul

The click of knitting needles, sharp scissors snip, snip, snip.
The pencil strokes on parchment, needles threaded with pursed lip.
When Alison showed us how to spin, we watched with mouths agape
And had a go at weaving wool and learned to 'jush' and shape.
We made some mice with whiskers and stuffed their little tumms,
Then sewed their shirts and trousers and gave them eyes and bums.
The gentle sound of voices with questions to and fro
Of gossip from the village - those things we need to know.
The room is briefly silent, concentration levels high.
The brows are deeply furrowed, hoping nothing goes awry.
Then Sue announces loudly that she's made a mess of it!
And Ann complains "it's difficult" and Sheila says "Oh shit!"
So Karen calms us ladies and everyone is praised
And she brings us all a coffee, knowing spirits will be raised.
Now Angela has artistic flair, which soon begins to show
By tracing pictures delicate, this Heather seems to know.
New members come to join us, there's Jean and Peter too
And even baby Jesus has come to join the crew!
New skills are being mastered with patient teacher Chris
And some of us are learning fast and dare to hope for this:
A finished producta piece of art, a willow star, a tiny Christmas mouse
A lino-printed picture to put up in the house.
We'll treasure what we do create and so achieve our goal,
To be forever proud to have put in our heart and soul.

Sheila Veuve

With a lot to catch up from our missed meeting in January our President Sheila Bowley welcomed us all on a cold but not quite as freezing (literally) as our cancelled January meeting.

The Jumble Sale has been fixed for Saturday 5th April – start turning out those cupboards and drawers! Unfortunately this clashes with the Annual Gloucestershire Federation meeting at Cleeve School and members seemed keener on helping at the Jumble Sale than going to the County meeting. The February monthly pub lunch is at The Catherine Wheel in Bibury. There is a county competition for the Tim Poole Cup, this year it is to make a wreath for your front door, it can be made out of any material, sewn recycled or dried. Hopefully the wonderful Christmas Wreath making meeting in December will have inspired members.

There was a purely indicative vote on whether the trustees for WI House in Gloucester should become incorporated, this would mean that they would no longer be fully personally liable for any major problems with the building. The collecting tin was sent round for the annual ACWW coin collection, (ACWW is the Associated Country Women of the World), the money collected supports all sorts of projects all round the world. Two local Charities have been selected for our own institute to support this year, Helen Douglas House and Cotswold Friends.

There is a GFWI visit to the Shab Hill site to show the archaeological finds

and what the 'missing link' will look like on March 11th and Chedworth WI is visiting the Javelin Park incinerator on 23rd April.

The committee has decided that once again they will subsidise the cost of annual membership (subs due 1st April). This will bring it down from £51 to £35 per year. The membership fees are split three ways between National WI, County WI and Chedworth WI. Thank goodness our treasurer Chrissy understands it all!

Then the last of our votes for the evening was deciding on which resolution to support to be put to the Annual Conference. Of the four possible resolution, the one that received the most votes from Chedworth WI was the one proposing that the waste from drug packaging should be eliminated from landfill. All the votes recorded will be forwarded to GFWI to be counted for the final county decision, then counted for the country wide vote.

Quite exhausted after all this democracy in action and decision making, we sat back and listened to the enthralling story from Peter Seymour of the quite amazingly brave, deeply determined and highly decorated Gertrude Mary Lindell (11 September 1895 – 8 January 1987), Comtesse de Milleville, code named Marie-Claire and Comtesse de Moncy, nurse, in World War I, courier and organiser of a Home run route for escaped airmen during World War II. A true Resistance heroine perhaps best summed up by the French word 'Formidable'! Peter

and Annette had met her in Paris in the 1970's and became close friends. It was



*Mary Lindell OBE, Croix de Guerre
(twice WWI and WWII)*

a fascinating and marvellously illustrated talk, complete with video footage of 'Marie-Claire' herself and her surviving son. All three of her children had been engaged with her in her resistance work. Tragically one of them died whilst imprisoned in a forced labour camp in 1943.

This was followed by tea and chat which rounded off a busy and informative evening. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 12th March, 7.15pm at the village hall, the talk will be given by Squadron Leader Andrew Wyatt 'Flying the Queen, and other stories'.

Emma Isaac

HILL & VALLEY TENNIS CLUB

OPEN MORNING - SATURDAY 15TH MARCH

10AM - 12PM | CHEDWORTH GL54 4NE

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



ONE DAY ONLY!
SIGN UP FOR
MEMBERSHIP & SAVE



REGISTER NOW

bit.ly/hillandvalleyevents

or scan the QR code

Chedworth Wildflower Verges

Chedworth Wildflower Verges- Do not Mow!

Chedworth Parish Council have for the last three years allocated funds for the management of the main lengths of road verge in the village under the auspices of the Verge Committee chaired by Ian Morgan. Left unmanaged, road verges become overgrown with tall grass species predominating, which suppress most wildflowers. The Verge Committee have spread wildflower seed on most of the prominent road verges. The verges are left unmown until after the wild flowers have seeded in late summer, when a programme of selective mowing is carried out by Brian Brazinton from Farmington. The grass cuttings are removed to avoid enriching the soil, which would otherwise encourage invasive grasses. Earlier in the season, visibility splays are mown at road junctions.

97% of wildflower meadows have been lost since the Second World War due to changes in farming practices and development. It is now recognised that wildflower verges have considerable environmental benefits, including the transfer of carbon dioxide from the air into the soil and reduced carbon emissions from mowing. Wildflower



verges are home to almost half of the United Kingdom's wildflower species and are an important habitat, source of food and shelter for insects, birds and small mammals. Wildflowers are particularly important for pollinators such as bees and butterflies. In addition to providing food and refuge for wildlife, verges link many habitats which might otherwise be isolated, potentially allowing species to migrate and colonise.

There is now a concerted effort to restore wildflowers, including grants to farmers for establishing meadows and planting wildflower strips in fields. In the 1930's, 40% of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was covered in wildflower rich grassland, less than 1.5% remain. In 2022 the CAONB introduced the Glorious Cotswolds Grassland policy to create the largest network of wildflower rich Jurassic limestone grassland in the country. Locally harvested seed is used to over-seed existing grassland and sown on selected areas of arable land.



The wildflower meadows must then be managed and maintained through sensitive grazing.

It is noticeable that over the last few years there has been a considerable increase in both the quantity and diversity of wild flowers in the village road verges, including Goats Beard, Red and White Campion, Ladies Bedstraw, Meadow Cranesbill, St John's wort, Agrimony, Trefoil and many others. A key part of the strategy has been the introduction of Yellow Rattle which feeds off the nutrients of the roots of nearby grasses and leaves space for wildflowers to colonise.



Yellow rattle photo by Ivar Leidus - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=124149818>

Robert Young



It's Spring again ...

And time for our annual Chedworth Church spring clean.

**Do please come and lend a hand and
join our convivial spring cleaning session in
St. Andrew's Church & Churchyard**

Saturday 12th April starting at 10:00am

Coffee, Tea and Biscuits provided.

Bring your own energy and tools.



Backrow Club at the Village Hall



COLN VALLEY VILLAGE HALL
 Ideal venue for small events/parties
 Gigaclear Ultrafast internet connection
 If you would like to hire the hall please see our website for
 availability and prices.
www.coln-valley-village-hall.co.uk



STAY CONNECTED WITH CHEDWORTH!
 Join the Chedworth Hub WhatsApp Group
 for local news, events, and support

****Stay Connected with Chedworth – Join the Chedworth Hub WhatsApp Group!****

WhatsApp is a free and easy-to-use messaging app that allows people to stay connected through instant text messages, photos, videos, and voice calls. It works on smartphones, tablets, and even computers, making communication simple and accessible wherever you are. Unlike social media platforms, WhatsApp provides a private and secure way to share information, as only group members can see and participate in conversations.

The *Chedworth Hub* WhatsApp Group is a great tool for staying informed about local news, events, and important updates in our village. With over 160 members already, it is an active and welcoming space where residents can share useful information, seek advice, recommend local services, and support one another. Whether it's updates on road closures, lost and found items, upcoming village events, or local services, the group ensures you're always in the loop.

To maintain a safe, friendly, and useful environment, the group is administered by villagers who help ensure that discussions remain relevant to Chedworth, non-political, and free from spam or inappropriate content. This makes it a trusted space where residents can engage positively and constructively.

Joining is easy—just ask a fellow villager who is already a member, use this QR code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/hubforchedworth> to be added. Don't miss out on important updates and community discussions. Sign up today and be part of keeping Chedworth connected!



Your Gardening Tips for March



Lets hope that spring brings some brighter less stormy weather to encourage us to get out into the garden and prepare for the growing season. At least there should be plenty of spring flower colour to enjoy.

- Top up outside pots with fresh compost or replace completely. To reinvigorate your compost in pots, remove old roots and check for slugs and vine weevil larvae. Mix 20% finely chopped bark or wood chips to add air space and add granular fertilizer such as chicken pellets.
- Start Sweetcorn inside or in warm greenhouse as it needs a long growing season.
- Germinate tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and aubergines in heated propagators if possible or indoors.
- Prune to the ground autumn fruiting raspberry canes if not already done.
- Prune gooseberries by removing dead wood then spur prune all side shoots back to one to three buds from the base. Shorten branch tips by one quarter.
- If your rhubarb sends up flower

stalks, remove them so the plant will focus on foliage production, not seed production, and it will still benefit from a dose of manure.

- Most vegetables need full sun to perform well. If you have some shade, try growing cool season crops such as lettuce, spinach, radishes and cabbages. Remember small successional sowings will nearly always provide better cropping and reduce wastage if there are some failures.
- Plant shallots, onions and early potatoes, if the ground is not too soggy. Start brassicas and lettuce off in-doors. If you have problems growing parsnips try chervils which have a sweeter creamier flavour.
- Think about protecting your leeks and brassicas from flea beetle and leaf allium mining fly infestations by purchasing the Ultra Fine Veggiemesh Netting from 'Gardening-Naturally' and other similar outlets. The netting needs to be protecting the plants in March/ April and August - October.
- For slug control, try watering in nematodes at the end of March and into April. Snails that live above ground can be repelled by copper collars and tapes or layers of sharp grit
- Start canna rhizomes into growth in 20cm pots of multipurpose compost and water lightly in a warm place.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs, sow

sweet peas outside, and protect all new shoots from slugs. If the weather warms up remove protective fleece and straw to avoid damage to new shoots.

- Lift and divide overgrown lumps of perennials. Divide hostas before they come into leaf.
- Prune back Cornus (Dogwood) and Salix (Willow) to two buds above ground level, and mulch to get a good showing of winter stems. Prune fruit trees
- Insects cannot stand plants such as garlic, onions, chives and chrysanthemums. Grow these companion plants around the garden to help repel unfriendly insects.
- Prune winter flowering Jasmine, once flowers have faded, then feed and mulch.
- Feed roses as they come into growth. This the best month for planting roses in heavy soils or cold areas. Prune bush and climbing roses.
- There is just about enough time this month to buy bare rooted perennials and bienennials. They are less expensive than potted plants as no compost or pots are involved. Plants will establish more quickly as they will not be trying to break out of a root ball. Plants need to be soaked in water for at

least three days before potting up and then putting out in the boarder later in the spring.

- Remember to put in place any supports needed for tall border plants now to allow the plants to grow through them.
- Feed shrubs, hedges and especially newly planted trees with a balanced fertilizer such as Growmore or Blood Fish & Bone.
- Keep thinking about bees!! There are apparently 24 species of Bumble Bees but declining fast, so try to provide places for them to live, such as holes bored in to dead trees. If you have a 'grassy area' that you would like to devote to 'lawn weeds' some of the ones that attract pollinating bees are daisy, selfheal, yarrow, white clover and dandelion.
- Whilst it may be sensible to remove ivy from smaller trees to reduce windage, be aware that it does provide shelter to birds and offers pollen and berries from December each year.
- This is a good month to start layering bushes such as Philadelphus (Mock Orange), Forsythia, Cotinus (Smoke bush) and Lonicera. Buried stems should have taken root by next spring.

*Simon Colbeck
Chairman Chedworth Gardening Club*

I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month. Oh, wait, sorry, bad punctuation. I meant, I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.

New meanings

Dogma - a puppy's mother
Polygon - a lost parrot

Chedworth Open Gardens 2025

Chedworth Open Gardens 2025
Saturday 7th June. 10am – 5pm

We are opening under the National Garden Scheme again this year. Due to the logistics we have decided to base this year's event in Lower Chedworth, with parking in the Dog Training field opposite the Hemplands. This means we don't have to rely on coaches to ferry people the length of the village.

There are 4 named gardens already on the NGS website and yellow book, but there will be a couple of others named just before the day. Also Pancakehill Flowers, will be selling plants and flowers.

Visitors can then drive to the village hall and take advantage of all day refreshments, light lunches and tea's supplied as usual by our very own Claire Booth Cooks.

However, we need volunteers to help with the Open Gardens; manning a garden for a couple of hours to give the garden owner 'a breather', selling Open Garden tickets in the Car Park or helping with car park duties at both the village hall playing field and dog training field. You will still have plenty of time to visit the gardens yourself.

If you think you can help, please contact me. I am putting a rota together over the next few weeks and will be able to give you full details of how you can help to make the day a real success.

Thank you in anticipation.

Sue Bradbury
Open Gardens Organiser / Chedworth
Gardening Club
bradburydesigns@aol.com

Northleach Historical Society

The Mystery of Stonehenge – did it have a thatched roof?

What explains the mystery of Stonehenge? Cotswold landscape architect Sarah Ewbank argues that the ancient structure was once a two storey roundhouse with a thatched roof – and after years of research has created a scale model to prove it. The frame would have been made out of oak, with thatch used to keep out the elements.

The Westwoods Centre
Wednesday 5 March 2025 7.30pm
Members Free, Guests £3.00

FoStA - Children's Magic Party

FoStA- Children's Magic Party
Saturday 8th February



Children Village Hall was full to the gunnells for a very good show of magic, illusions, juggling, fire eating and breathing (this part of the performance was on the grass outside the village hall!) and stilt walking by Johnny the Juggler. He quickly established a rapport with the children, who much enjoyed his enthusiasm, humour and skills. Tea was provided by the FoStA Committee.



Donations from the performance were for the Friends of St Andrew's Church. Thank you to Chedworth Parish Council for sponsoring the event.

Photos- Thank you to Simon Colbeck and Robert Young

Robert Young

Coffee: starter fluid for the morning impaired.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner - all it was doing was gathering dust. My dog will eat anything until you put a pill in it. Then he's Gordon Ramsey.

Snoring

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted.

The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?"

"Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."

Birthday cake is the only food you can blow on and spit on, and still everybody rushes to get a piece.



Hill & Valley Lawn Tennis Club

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

CLUB NEWS

Now the snowdrops have come out we are looking forward to some spring-like weather to re-commence 'normal' tennis sessions as soon as possible. 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 hillandvalleytc@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON

Saturday, March 15th 10-12noon NOTE NEW DATE

Open Morning with Tennis, Coffee & Croissants

HILL & VALLEY TENNIS CLUB
OPEN MORNING - SATURDAY 15TH MARCH
10AM - 12PM | CHEDWORTH GL54 4NE

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

REGISTER NOW
bit.ly/hillandvalleyevents
or scan the QR code

ONE DAY ONLY!
SIGN UP FOR
MEMBERSHIP & SAVE

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

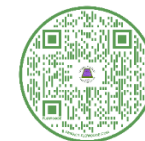
WALKING TENNIS

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, March 15th

Monthly group coaching for all levels



AFTER SCHOOL JUNIOR COACHING

Running on Wednesdays, for ages 4-18yrs

A 7 week block open to non members, rackets provided

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



EASTER HOLIDAY CAMPS

April 15- 24th

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 15th 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

RBL Talk by Justin Crump

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



**The Chedworth & District Branch
of the
Royal British Legion**

Will be hosting a talk on

Geopolitics and Intelligence/Current Affaires

(Title to be confirmed)

by

Justin Crump

On Thursday 15 May 2025

**At Chedworth Village Hall, GL54 4NE
6.30pm**

**Drinks and Canapes
followed by the talk at 7.00 pm**

Are you travelling this Spring? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...

Danish airline: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Heathrow: No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

Japanese taxi: Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.

Kenyan maternity ward: No children allowed.

Beijing shop: Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

Justin Crump

**JUSTIN CRUMP - RBL Speaker
Chedworth Village Hall 15 May
2025**

Justin Crump is CEO and founder of Sibylline. Justin is a military veteran with 25 years of full and part time experience. With degrees from the University of Durham and King's College, London, he was initially a corporate finance analyst at JP Morgan Chase & Co before being called up for military service after 9/11. This started a security focused career that led to founding Sibylline. He continues to serve as a Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank commander with the Royal Wessex Yeomanry in the UK. His focus areas are global jihadism, the evolution of cyber and technical threats, and the creation of innovative and effective risk models. He is an acknowledged

authority on business intelligence, global risk analysis and governance, the Vice President of the Association of International Risk Intelligence Professionals (AIRIP); a member of the UK Risk and Security Management Forum; on the steering group of the International Security Foundation; and mentors next generation military professionals starting in business through Heropreneurs. He has on-the-ground experience in over 65 countries and is a regular print and broadcast media commentator, as well as the author of *Corporate Security Intelligence and Strategic Decision Making*, the first work dedicated to the topic.

He has been consulted on BBC radio many times

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**



DREAMING OF SPRING- It's (almost) in the air!

And to celebrate, on
Monday 17 March 🍀
the Pop up is bringing back
the ever popular, ever useful

PLANT STALL

All sorts of interesting plants & cuttings
will be on sale here every Monday morning,
with something to suit all gardens and
to make all gardeners a little bit happy....

*Talk about, ask about the plants you love
or want* - if you're lucky some helpful
horticulturalist may be on hand with
suggestions and advice!



Also, over the weeks & months ahead, it's hoped
that you might like to join in and donate any of
your own surplus and/or produce to the stall.
So that each lovingly grown thing can find a new
muddy or hungry home & NOTHING goes to waste.

As always plants will be modestly priced, with
any of the profits from this stall donated to
DEMENTIA UK.

It's good to dream (and gardeners are always
dreamers).....so come and browse and start to plan
for all those dreamy, sunny gardening days ahead.
Can't wait!



Every Monday at the Village Hall, 10am-1pm

Wine Column

Hello Neighbour's,

Spring is coming, right? The whimsical snowdrops are popping up everywhere and the tulips are starting to peek out of the ground, telling us it is near.

The winter has been a long one, no doubt, but I have hope that this year will be warm, sunny and the perfect growing season! Fingers crossed.

Have you been hibernating all winter, trying to stay away from the cold? Maybe its time to get out and eat at some of the incredible restaurants in the Cotswolds and I thought I would share some of my favourites who have solid wine lists.

- The Pig Hotel: They have opened and easily become one of the most lovely places to have a cocktail in that sleek snug or order a rare bottle of older wine, a hard to find Napa Valley wine, delicious English picks, and some older sommelier bottles of White Burgundy. Ed is the sommelier and is knowledgeable and brings a thoughtfulness to picking wine to please your price point – from value wines to the celebration bottles.
 - The Village Pub: For a pub, they have one of the best wine lists around. Diverse and you can find a great bottle in any price point.
 - The Feathered Nest: What a view! A place where you can sit and have a burger in the bar with a fun wine by the glass or have an extended
- The Double Red Duke: open fire grilling of everything and an extensive wine list. One of the most diverse in the valley besides The Pig Hotel.
 - Thyme: you can sit outside in the summer and drink light bright wines or dine inside and have a tasting menu paired with global wines. They also have so many interesting classes you can take, not just for the tourists but locals too!
 - Daylesford: At the farm, they have so many choices to eat – Green Michelin star restaurant serving some of the best vegetable dishes in the Cotswolds, sausage rolls outside from the trendy trailer, a house fired pizza and so much more. Their wine is diverse from their own private labels (which are quality), non alcoholic options, fun value wines and rare, hard to find wines in their wine cellar retail shop. Also worth a visit is their new Fox at Oddington and with



tasting menu with wine pairing.

Vincent overseeing things you are in good hands.

- The Stump – Our trusted pizza joint has a small wine list, but they have a Sicilian Red on the by the bottle list that is affordable and a perfect pizza match!

What are your favourites? Do you have somewhere that you love and I should try– let me know!

Vineyard Update and Tour the Vineyard:

As of mid-February, we have officially finished pruning. My right hand may never be the same again! As I am sure you've noticed we have had the trees removed that fell on our vineyard, as well as the remaining conifers and Ash, and will be replanting a native hedge in their place. The trellising is repaired and we can start to recover, the loss wasn't as bad as we feared, but certainly will hold us back a little. It is quite a difference and you can actually see the vineyard now from the Fosseyway.

We've had a couple of neighbours 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

God is talking to one of his angels and says "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24 hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?" The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?" God says "I think I'll call it a day".

- What's the best flower for a boy to give on Mothering Sunday? A son-flower
- What did the tree say during spring-time? Well, this is a re-leaf!
- What falls but never gets hurt? The rain
- What goes up as the rain comes down? An umbrella
- Lent is the best time of year to run a marathon. Because that's when you fast.
- I gave up giving things up for Lent
- As in previous years, for Lent, I gave up all my New Year's resolutions

Nature & Solitude



Exhibition of work by Claudia Clare
International ceramic artist

Thursday March 6th - Saturday March 8th
10.00am - 6.00pm

The Old Prison, Fosse Way
Northleach, GL54 3JH



Kathleen Ferrier *Whattalife!*

Performed by contralto Lucy Stevens
with pianist Elizabeth Marcus



Northleach Church
Saturday March 22nd, 7.00pm
Tickets £15 / £20



Tickets available at
Northleach Post Office and
northleachevents.co.uk



The Arts Society Cotswolds

Lecture on Wednesday 9th April 2025

Lecture: The Transformation of English Country Towns in the 18th century: Society, Art, Architecture and Travel

From the late 17th century towns and cathedral cities grew in size and prosperity, bringing in gentry from the surrounding countryside. To entertain the leisured classes, theatres and assembly rooms were built, subscription libraries started and racecourses set up. Gentry families increasingly owned a house in their local town, where they could spend the winter, shop, attend concerts, and see their friends. In the 19th century some towns became industrialised and lost their charm, others still have some of their 18th century attractions.

About the speaker:

Architectural historian, trained at the Courtauld Institute of Art and specialising in 16th to 18th century English and Scottish architecture. Lecturer at the V&A on year courses and short courses, and lecturer for the Arts Society, the Art Fund, and for the Royal Oak Foundation in the US. Researched and wrote a history of Kensington Palace. Contributed to a book on the Cecil family and has written several articles on architectural and social history and the history of travel. Wrote London's Country Houses (2009). Contributed a chapter to a history of the Royal Academy (Yale, 2018).



This hybrid lecture will be held at the Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford, OX18 4RZ at 11am and via Zoom. Please be seated by 10.50 for notices of upcoming events. Numbers are no longer restricted but booking is recommended to reserve a place via our website (see below) Non-members are welcome (space permitting) at a charge of £10.

Further information will be circulated via the newsletter and bookings can be made via the website (see below) or please call Lisa Etheridge on 01285 711805 for a booking form.

Special Interest Day on Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Watercolour in Britain from Cozens to Constable and Beyond
? Not on TAS site

Lecture 1: Thomas Gainsborough
Lecture 2: John Constable
Lecture 3: William Henry Hunt

About the speaker:

The Special Interest Day consists of three sessions, two in the morning,

followed by lunch and then another session in the afternoon. It is a smaller event and an opportunity to get to know other attendees over lunch. This day will be held at the Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford, OX18 4RZ at 10.45am, finishing at 3.00pm. Doors open at 10.15am, with coffee being served. Numbers are restricted so booking is essential to reserve a place via the website (see below) or contact programme@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk or call Alison Morgans on 07771 7817050 for a booking form. Charge

£42 for members. Non-members are welcome (space permitting) at a charge of £44.

To learn more about The Arts Society Cotswolds and to see what lectures, Special Interest Days and other activities are planned, please log into the website www.theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk

Or contact Alison Morgans on 07771 7817050

Clocks go Forward

Don't forget the clocks go forward by one hour at 1am on 30th March. (Clocks 'spring forward' in spring). This marks the beginning of British Summertime which started when the Summer Time Act was passed in 1916 so that people in the northern hemisphere could make more use of the daylight hours. Double Summer Time (Greenwich Mean Time + 2 hours) was used during the Second World War.

Proponents say that changing the clocks is good for:

Reducing energy consumption for environmental reasons
Having longer evenings to support leisure and tourism
Encouraging people to exercise more outdoors
Reducing road accidents

Opponents say that:

There are safety concerns about

darker mornings

Farmers are worried about changing routines for livestock
It's irrelevant nowadays as many people spend most of their time in well-lit homes, shops and offices

People's opinions vary with geographical location, occupation and lifestyle. Much of Europe and North America change their clocks too.

If you usually have difficulty adjusting, The Sleep Council suggest that a few nights before the clocks are due to go forward, start going to bed a little earlier each night and wake up 10-15 minutes earlier each morning. When Sunday arrives, you will already be adjusted. This is particularly helpful for those with young children.





It's Cotswolds Radio's 5th Birthday!

It's hard to believe it's been five years since we first went on air from a humble cellar setup, with the simple aim of keeping our community connected and entertained during lockdown. Since then, Cotswolds Radio has grown into a vibrant station that broadcasts over 30 live shows from our dedicated studio at The Old Prison, supports more than 45 volunteer presenters, and is committed to making a difference in the Cotswolds.

We're really proud of our diversity of programming and local interest. We start every weekday with a lively Breakfast Show, with different hosts each day and we're building up our Drivetime shows. We broadcast a wide range of music shows – whether you're into Soul and Ska, Rock, Blues, Jazz, Indie, Britpop, Prog, Americana, The 80s or really enjoy a Party Mix – you should find music you'll enjoy curated by enthusiastic and knowledgeable presenters. We also champion new and local musicians with our live music show "Live in the Lockup". If you're more into talk radio, we cater for all kinds of interests: Saturday Sports Desk; Culture Club for theatre, books, films and art from the Cotswolds and further afield; Beauty and Holistics;

Living a Colourful Life interiors; Cotswolds Tastes featuring local food; Afternoon Live; Cotswolds Women; Business Forum; the Money Show; Community Action Waves; Let's Talk Love and more.

We're always looking for new ideas, so if you have an interest you'd like to share get in touch – maybe you're into gardening, local history, fitness or travel. You might like to be a guest on one of our shows or present a show yourself. We provide full training and lots of encouragement.



Pictured here are just a few of our volunteers, including our founders Richard and Keith Blundell. We're a friendly bunch so if you'd like to join us you can message using our app, WhatsApp on 07824 368947 or email contact@cotswoldsradio.com.



DEMENTIA PEER GROUP

A friendly and supportive environment where **ANYONE** can chat about Dementia in one group



Meeting every last Wednesday of the month
(excl. Dec) at 3-4.30pm

Church Centre
Station Road, Andoversford, Nr. Cheltenham

GL54 4LA

Free refreshments including cake!

For further information email pkear@blueyonder.co.uk

Follow us on



PARENT'S DICTIONARY

Bottle feeding: An opportunity for Dad to also get up at 2 a.m.

Defense: What you'd better have around the garden if you're going to let the children play outside.

Family planning: The art of spacing your children the proper distance apart to keep you just on the edge of financial disaster.

Feedback: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

Uncle Eustace

On the perils of parking near church

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I cannot be wholly sympathetic because your church car park is now inadequate, only having space for 100 cars. Your solution of advising members of the congregation to park in the adjoining supermarket car park may not have been wise. The maximum time people can stop there is 90 minutes, and as your services often reach that length, returning to find their cars clamped may not make you universally popular – although it may give your congregation the opportunity of practising Christian forgiveness.

Since the medieval architect who built St James the Least of All was not overly concerned with car parking, the only space we have is along the road by the church. Inevitably, it gets blocked, which causes us all immense satisfaction when those not attending church but intending to have a morning shopping, find themselves unable to get out of the village until Mattins is over.

I did once encourage people to walk to church across the fields, but after we had nearly lost the present Earl in that swampy bit near the brook, I decided the idea was best dropped.

For most, the inconvenience of parking only makes attending church more of a pleasurable challenge; we so enjoy



having something to complain about. Major Hastings, however, who has complained endlessly about parking problems, made a point last Christmas by leaving his car in the middle of the vicarage lawn. I was so pleased he happened to park just where I had had a garden pond filled in only the previous week. He returned to find that the car had sunk up to the windscreen and needed a crane to remove it.

For weddings, a farmer allows us to use the field adjoining the church. While he rarely attends church on Sundays, he is always there the week before – I suspect praying for heavy rain, so he can make a fortune charging to tow out with his tractor those who have got stuck. Perhaps the greatest act of witness your church could perform would be to get everyone attending church to park on the ring road, bringing the entire town to a halt until your Sunday morning Service is over.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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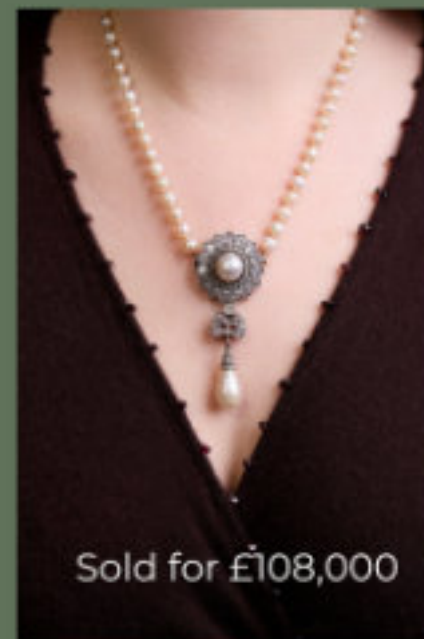
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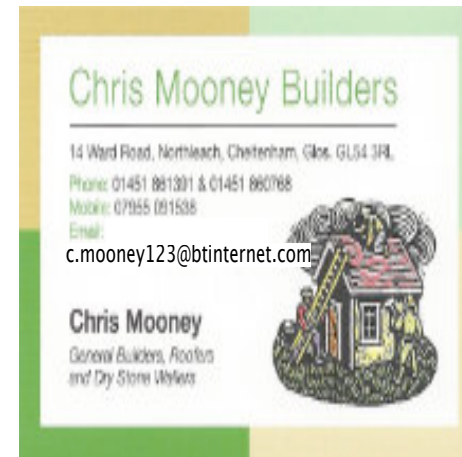
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