

April 2026

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 - 07771 958380 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 Pippa Clarke

The HILL & VALLEY

PARISH MAGAZINE

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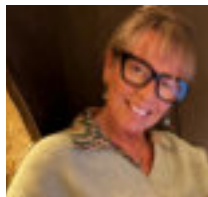
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Julie Young Coordinator for this edition



Karen's Letter



What would you do if you knew you could never fail? Regarding the invention of the light bulb, Thomas Edison is thought

to have said, "I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that don't work." If we can see every apparent failure as an opportunity for learning and growth, rather than disaster, we can alter our emotional landscape. I've had that quote above my desk for over a decade and every now and then it has been a huge comfort and enabled me to dust myself down, learn and grow.

What would you do if you were not afraid? In Matthew 14:22-32 the text tells us that disciples saw Jesus walking out to them on the lake. They were terrified, thinking he was a ghost at first, but he shouted to them to take courage and not to be afraid, that it really was him. Peter's response was to say, "If it is you, invite me to join you." Jesus said, "Come". Peter got out of

the boat and started doing the impossible, walking on water too. But when he looked at the waves being whipped up by the wind, logic and his survival instinct kicked in and he began to sink. Jesus caught him and asked him, "Why did you doubt?" The fight, flight, freeze response – the survival instinct – is strong in us human beings, isn't it? Anxiety is the result of that instinct being in overdrive. If we can look up and calm it down, perhaps we might be able to do what seems impossible.

What would you do if you knew you were incredibly lovable? What if there was nothing you could do to make yourself more or less lovable? What if, just as you are, warts and all, you are deeply lovable and indeed you are deeply loved by the passionate lover of your soul, from whom you came and to whom you are returning? What would you do?

Karen



Church Briefing

Hill & Valley Benefice Church Services

Everyone Welcome

2nd April Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion 7.00pm St Andrew's Chedworth

3rd April Good Friday

Good Friday walk 10.00am starting at the Brew House,
Chedworth, stopping halfway at Sheila Bowley's for hot-cross buns and a
drink and finishing at St Andrew's Church, with accompaniment of the
Silver Band.

The Last Hour reflections 2.00pm St Andrew's, Coln Rogers.

5th April Easter Day

Easter Service 10.30am St Andrew's Church, Chedworth.

12th April

BCP 9.00am St Andrews, Chedworth.

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

19th April

Holy Communion 10.30am St Andrews, Chedworth.

26th April

Happyfull Service 10.30, St Andrew's, Chedworth.
AGM straight afterwards.

Weddings:

Please pray for these two couples as they embark on the adventure of marriage.

28/03/2026 – 1.00pm, Nara Windsor & Andrew Brown, St Andrew's Chedworth

17/04/2026 – 2.00pm, Hayley Capp & David Hill, St Andrew's, Chedworth.

Funerals:

Please continue to hold the Hall family in your thoughts and prayers in the wake of David Hall's funeral which was on the 19th Feb 2026.

Dates for Your Diary

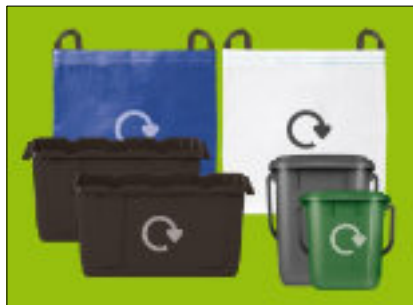
Date	Time	Event	Venue
8 April	19:15	WI - Sqn Ldr Andrew Wyatt "The Red Arrows" - Open Meeting	Chedworth Village Hall
10 April	19:30	Backrow Club - She Said	Chedworth Village Hall
18 April	9:00-12:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
20 April	17:30	Fish and Chip Van	Chedworth Village Hall
23 April		Saint Georges's Day	
10 May	16:30	Sung Evensong by The Queen's College Choir Oxford	St Andrew's Church Chedworth
16 May	9:00-12:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
27 May	14:00	Garden Club visit to Sezincote House and Garden	
12 June	16:00	Garden Club visit to Awkward Hill Cottage , Bibury	
13 June	All day	The Coln Valley Mixed Doubles Open Tennis Tournament	Chedworth and surrounding villages
20 June	9:00-12:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
26 June	18:00	Garden Club visit to Private Garden in Coln Rogers	
18 July	9:00-12:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
21 July	14:30	Garden Club visit to Green and Georgeous, Wallingford	
15 Aug	9:00-12:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
29 Aug		Chedworth Village Hall Golden Anniversary Event	Chedworth Village Hall
11 Sept		Golf Day	
19 Sept	9:00-12:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall



Recycling Dates

Domestic Waste & Recycling

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



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

Thursday	9	April
Thursday	23	April
Thursday	7	May
Thursday	21	May

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



World Book Day is always a cause for celebration- we had lots of amazing book character costumes, shared buddy reading time together and Rowan class visited the Pop up Cafe to share their favorite stories with the community- if you were there, thank you for your patience and kindness in supporting our pupils.



To celebrate Science week, each class has been having opportunities to be curious about Space, asking and answering questions about the moon, astronauts and the solar system. As part of our enrichment for the week, all classes were treated to an amazing drama session with Cotswold Youth Theatre, who will also be delivering a drama club for pupils.



Pre-school's rocket

During the end of the week we also held a lovely Mother's Day celebration, 'Afternoon at the Opera' for parents to enjoy songs, poems and sweet treats as a thank you for everything they do.



Oak class in their drama session

We previously announced that we had been nominated for a county award for our tennis provision and enrichment for our pupils and we have now been notified that we have been selected as National finalists, with staff heading to London to represent us at the awards ceremony.



We are excited to share that we have been selected as a national finalist.



PRESENTED BY LEXUS

Tennis School of the Year

NATIONAL FINALISTS

Science in action

Earlier this month we were joined by a local Geologist, who was hugely inspirational to the children. He spoke to the children about our local geology and the importance of local sites nationally. The children were enthralled learning about the significance of fossils and enjoyed bringing in their own fossils to find out more about them!



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Chedworth Parish Council

The Parish Council are still looking for volunteers to help maintain the Community Orchard in Ford's Field, adjacent to the football pitch. You would only need to set aside a couple of hours every few weeks to help with weeding, watering, strimming (we have our own brush cutter) and removing no-longer-needed tree guards. With its rich and varied wildlife, we are really hoping that the orchard becomes a village attraction and popular picnic spot. If you think you can help, please contact Alan McLellan or Tony Kingsley.

The Parish Council has obtained a supply of wildflower seeds from the Cotswold National Landscape for residents to use on the roadside verges outside their properties if they wish. Arrangements for distribution have been made but if you have not been contacted please contact any Councillor and we will pass your

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

details.

The problems many residents have experienced with Thames Water recently will be on the April agenda. There have been many water outages leaving some residents high on the valley sides with no mains water and other lower down unaware of a problem. It is important to report any outages to Thames Water as they respond depending on the number of complaints and will assume one complaint means only one property without water. The Parish Council has no role in reporting outages or leaks to Thames Water. Arising from this, a new pressure reducing valve has been fitted at the Tuns Hill triangle and all pressure reducing valves are to be reset to lower pressures. This may mean some properties gave very low water pressure and some power showers and similar appliances may no longer work. The Parish Council will discuss this. but please complain to Thames Water in the first instance and copy the Parish Council in.

Potholes are a permanent fixture on our agenda and Cllr. Hodgkinson, our County Councillor, is well aware of the Parish Council's concerns. One way for everyone to help is to report potholes or other defects on the Gloucestershire County Council Website under "Fix My Street". Several residents have reported damaging two or three tyres, and even wheels, on some of the really bad surfaces.

The Parish Council has become aware that there is a vacancy for a trustee on the Hugh Westwood Trust Educational

Trust, a charity which provides for books and similar equipment for students within the catchment area of Westwood's Grammar School, Northleach. The vacancy became known when a charity report for the Hugh Westwood was requested for last month's Parish Meeting. More details will be available at the April 13th meeting.

The Parish Council has found a new location for the Seven Tuns defibrillator. As there is no immediate prospect of restoring electricity to the Seven Tuns cabinet and using battery power posed some irresolvable problems, the Council is working with a local resident, and a new Green (coloured) cabinet has been ordered and should soon be in position near the junction of Ballingers road

with Cooks Hill.

Work is in progress on the awkward stiles on the Footpath from the top of School Hill to Fields Road past the Tennis Courts. Councillors have already reduced the height of the much complained about football field stile and Cotswold Wardens, the volunteer arm of the Cotswold National Landscape, are hoping to complete the works soon.

David Broad

Chedworth
Parish
Council



CHEDWORTH GARDENING CLUB

Private & informal garden visits
 10% discount on plants, bulbs & seeds at Burford Garden Centre
 Discounted prices on compost & soil conditioners
 50% off the cost of entry for up to 2 people to any RHS garden
 (Bridgwater, Harlow Carr, Hyde Hall, Rosemoor and Wisley)

All this and more. Come & join us!
 Annual membership: £15 individual or £25 joint
 Contact Chedworthgardeningclub@gmail.com

Crowdseeding

Bringing Back the Wildflowers.

Chedworth Parish Council has provided each household with enough seed to cover 1 square metre of ground or in pots.

This is WHY!

Large-scale haymaking is a thing of the past now that concentrate feeds have become more popular as winter stockfeed. Modern intensive grass production requires that wildflowers (“weeds”) be clobbered by herbicides. As a result 97% of the UK’s wildflower (hay) meadows have been lost since the 1930’s and our rich diversity of wildflower species has declined with them.

In the UK today the total length of rural roadside verge makes up around half of the remaining flower-rich grassland habitat and could provide a lifeline for the survival of remnant hay meadow species from cowslips to orchids.

Wide, wildflower-rich roadside verges used to be a traditional characteristic of limestone grassland areas such as the Cotswolds. Increased traffic has dramatically reduced verge width while recent poor management strategies have reduced their biodiversity.

Where landowners have close-mown verges several times during the growing

season we have a tidy, grassy sward often devoid of wildflowers and supporting a limited range of species. Where managed for the last twenty years under Gloucestershire Highways’ programme of repeatedly mowing only the first metre width, verges have a grassy roadside edge but the rest has been encroached by scrub – blackthorn, brambles, coarse grasses and nettles. Although scrub is another valuable habitat, the roadside is not necessarily the best place for it and prevents landowners from maintaining their dry stone walls and fences.

Chedworth Parish Council has taken responsibility for verge management from County Highways and has been following a conservation regime over the past 6 years which involves:

- A single, delayed cutting late in the season to allow wild flowers to flower and set seed
- The removal of the cuttings before it rots down and fertilises the soil, preventing nutrient-loving grasses and nettles from thriving at the expense of low-nutrient-tolerant wildflowers
- cutting the entire width of the verge where possible

The underlying principles are simple: wild flowers thrive in poorly-fertilised soils. Rank species like being fertilised. Do nothing and you will end up with scrub.

Cutting back vegetation at road junctions will still be undertaken as required for road safety and in the first seasons additional mowing of dominant species may be required but once the programme becomes established we should be able to enjoy at close quarters an abundance of locally characteristic plant species plus all the bees, butterflies, bats and bugs dependent on this habitat. And all achieved with far fewer fossil fuel-gobbling, noisy, smelly mechanical operations.

SO JOIN IN THE CROWD
SEEDING!



**Indicator species we will be looking out for include:*

common bird's-foot trefoil • kidney vetch • oxeye daisy • rough hawkbit • cowslip • lady's bedstraw • salad burnet • betony • common rockrose • devil's bit scabious • great burnet • greater knapweed • horseshoe vetch • small scabious • wild thyme

A Parish Council Project

Children's Magic Show

FoStA- Children's Magic Party Saturday 7th March

There was a full house at the Village Hall for the Children's Magic Party. After Percy Poole's very polished introduction, Emily, the magician soon had the children engaged, initially with magic tricks and then taking them through series of energetic dance

games on the stage, which they much enjoyed. The show culminated with a giant cotton wool snowball fight. Refreshments were provided by FoStA volunteers. The event raised £357 for church funds.

Thank you very much to Chedworth Parish Council for their generous grant.



Chedworth WI March 2026 meeting

Chapter and verse set out below of the new form that members are being asked to fill out before they pay their subscription for 2026. Please note that thanks to the generous decision of our committee Chedworth WI members only have to pay £40 a year – we are fortunate.

Key Details Regarding the New Form (April 2026)

- **Purpose:** The form confirms eligibility (as a woman registered female at birth) and agreement to follow NFWI policies and the Code of Conduct.
- **When to Fill Out:** This must be completed before or at the time of paying the 2026/27 membership fee (£54.00 for full, single membership).
- **Where to Find It:** The form is available through your local WI Secretary, MCS Representative, or via your local Federation's website (e.g., Hampshire or Surrey WI websites).
- **Process:** The completed form should be handed to your WI Secretary or MCS Representative to be uploaded to the Membership Communication System (MCS).
- **Data Protection:** The data is used for administration and to verify eligibility.

As you can imagine this prompted much interest, and I have no doubt there will be much further discussion to follow! As was diplomatically suggested by our President.

After that reminders for the bulb catalogue, showcasing Chedworth, support for the Chedworth Crafter's table at the Produce market and the monthly lunch seemed a little tame!

Fortunately our speaker for the evening Anne Chambers, the third generation of remarkable women gardeners at Kiftsgate commanded our attention with wonderful stories and pictures of the garden's history and design through nearly one hundred years of development, from her grandmother to her mother and herself.

Starting with a magnificent house, purchased by Anne's family in 1919, which has a Georgian portico transported up the Cotswold escarpment by a miniature purpose built railway, with a Victorian main house built behind it. Prior to their purchase the house had been let and other than woods surrounding the house on its position at the western edge of the Cotswold escarpment nothing had been done to make a garden round it, bar a formal area in front of the portico which has become known as the 'Four Squares'.

So in the 1920's Anne's grandmother, Heather Muir set about planting hedges, just like her lifelong gardening friend Laurence Johnson at Hidcote just a few miles away. But her garden took shape with organic curves as opposed to his fiercely exacting straight hedges. Following this was terracing on the steep slopes taking advantage of the glorious views. The 'wide border's, the 'yellow border' and the 'rose border' gradually took shape. Plus of course,

the finding and planting of the famous Kiftsgate Rose which now covers three trees!



The Wide borders

Heather Muir handed the reins of the garden over to her daughter Diany Biny in the 1960's. Diany Biny replanted the white sunken garden and put in a fountain and pool. She also put in the crescent shaped swimming pool – still used but it has to be hot as it is unheated!



The 1960's swimming pool

Another 40 years on and Diany handed the garden on to Anne and her husband. They have built on their predecessors work expanding the opening times and days and now have 20,000 visitors a year! A new parred back water garden and a replanting of

the orchard, followed by a re-design of the mound created by the spoil from the water garden work and an annual wildflower meadow shows that the constant refreshing and rebuilding of the garden continues in safe hands. Anne has clearly brought a wonderful sense of colour and design to Kiftsgate, partly as she says inherited from her mother and grandmother but mostly clearly from her own artistic and gardening ability.



The 2000 Water Garden

Following this delightful talk we were treated to feast of tea and talk!

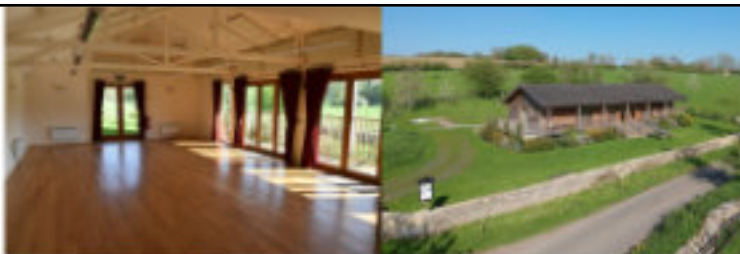
Next month we move from the earth to the skies with a talk on the 'Red Arrows' by Squadron Leader Andrew Wyatt. Once again this is an open meeting with everyone very welcome (no forms necessary, but a donation towards refreshments would be appreciated). 7.15pm at the Village Hall, Chedworth on Wednesday 8th April. Look forward to seeing you there.

Emma Isaac

Fake?

"The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you can never be sure they are genuine." - Winston Churchill.

Backrow Club at the Village Hall



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Save the Date **Saturday 29th** **August 2026**

**The Village Hall Committee are planning a day of celebrations
to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the current
village hall.**

**Look out for further details in future editions of the
magazine, posters around the village and social media
channels.**

We look forward to welcoming you!

Your Gardening Tips for April

After a few days of sunny weather, the prospect of Spring and a warmer climate should encourage gardeners to get bulbs and seeds in the ground but beware the possibility of a short cold snap to hold things up. Guard against predation too, especially on tulips! The Muntjac is about!



pittosporum, which as well as restricting size can produce new colour in the foliage. Once Forsythia has finished

- Pinch off old flower heads from spring flowering bulbs that are going over but allow to die back before trimming or mowing so that the bulbs retain as much energy as possible.
- Tie in climbing and rambling roses and climbing plants such as clematis and honeysuckle. Climbing roses will flower better if trained to grow horizontally. The hormones are normally concentrated at the tip of the plant, but if spread equally along the stem, each bud will be encouraged to grow a leaf and eventually a flower. Spray new foliage against rose mildew ideally with SB Plant Invigorator, but if that fails use a fungicide.
- If you want to help queen bumble bees find a nest, seal the hole in a flower pot, fill with pet bedding or similar and place top down in the ground. Run a small tube with drainage holes underground to the pot.
- Do not put out large seeds or peanuts out on ground as newly born chicks may choke. For later in the year think about growing sunflowers for the bees early on then the birds later.
- Plants that benefit from regular clipping often with shears are box, yew, hebe, lonicera and flowering cut the stems back to a strong new leafy side shoot to ensure a good display next year and remove one or two of the oldest stem at the base.
- Slightly tender plants such as penstemons and lavender can be pruned, cutting just above fresh new shoots.
- Sweet peas can be sown outside when the ground has warmed up. Protect from mice!!
- Plant soft neck garlic.
- Herbaceous perennials such as Geranium can be divided and planted outside in well prepared soil.
- Put supports in for perennials before they grow too large.
- Loosen any tree ties that are biting into the bark, and feed trees shrubs and hedges, with a balanced fertilizer, then mulch.
- Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds, and plant out plugs already started off under cover.
- Increase water to house plants, and if you have any citrus plants, now is the time to start giving them high nitrogen or proprietary summer feed.
- If not done in late March, rake out moss from lawns, sow grass seed over bare patches and apply lawn feed and weed control.
- Keep an eye out for aphids and remove by hand as soon as

spotted.

- Keep weeds under control as they will want to be growing vigorously.
- There is still time to sow an annual wild-flower meadow or corner.
- Cover ground to be sown with a membrane to help warm up the soil ready for sowing seeds, but also try sowing some quick maturing root crops such as radishes, spring onions and baby beetroot.
- Brassicas can be sown outside, but it may be better to start them off in the greenhouse.
- Sow chard, coriander, parsley, beetroot and carrots in modules in a greenhouse for an early crop of each.
- The decision whether or not to grow plants close together or more spaced out will depend on a number of things including soil quality and sunlight, and the desire to have a higher but smaller yield. Closely grown cabbages for example will provide a higher yield but smaller size. Carrots can be grown close together without too much loss in size, but beetroot and celeriac quality declines with overcrowding. Calabrese will not develop properly if planted close together.
- Do forget to rotate your crops around the vegetable patch if you can. If not, make plans to sow green manure in the autumn.
- If you like sweet potatoes you can easily grow lots of your own. Take one sweet potato and immerse the root end in in a glass of water, using cocktail sticks to hold it in place. After a while roots will grow and shoots will emerge out of the top of the potato. Break these shoots off and plant out in the garden and bingo you will have lots of sweet potatoes!
- Use your compost straight away as if left in the bag for too long it will degrade as the microbes start to break down the organic material and consume the available nitrogen.

Simon Colbeck

Chairman

Chedworth Gardening Club

Don't delay

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today, because by that time there will be a tax on it.

Family pride

"Yes," boasted the woman to the visiting American priest, "my family can trace its ancestry back to William the Conqueror."

"I suppose," said the American, "You'll be telling me next that your ancestors were in the Ark with Noah."

"Certainly not. My people had a bigger boat of their own."

Cotswold Landscapes- Sudeley Castle

Sudeley Castle is situated one mile south east of Winchcombe at the foot of the steep hill off the

Cotswold escarpment. It has a most interesting history that illustrates many of the forces that have shaped this country, not least the vagaries in the fortunes of landed gentry on changes in the monarchy. This is perhaps unsurprising given that Winchcombe was the capital of Mercia during the reign of King Offa in Anglo-Saxon times and that Sudeley occupies a strategic location between the vale and high Cotswolds. Winchcombe is best approached on the road past Hawling which provides long views over the vale and enters old Winchcombe. Sudeley is a corruption of its Anglo-Saxon name *Sudeleagh*, meaning “south lying pasture or clearing in a forest”. It was given as a gift from King Aethelred the Unready to his daughter Goda on her wedding day. In 1041 Sudeley was vested in Ralph de Maunt who came from France with Edward the Confessor. He was a member of Goda’s family, whose son Harold took the name De Sudeley. The manor included a deer park. Notwithstanding William the Conqueror’s policy of depriving Saxon nobles of their estates, the property remained in the family after the Norman Conquest and Goda’s descendants held Sudeley for another four centuries.

In the C12th it is believed that the first castle was built at Sudeley. The castle was probably destroyed in 1139 by the Earl of Worcester during the Anarchy-



[Wdejaeger, CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

1138-1153. By the beginning of the C15th the Sudeley name was extinct and the Boteler family inherited the estate through the marriage of Joan, the sister of the last de Sudeley. In 1443 Ralph Boteler started the construction of the castle. He was a supporter of the Lancastrian dynasty



and in 1469, the Yorkist King Edward IV compelled him to sell Sudeley and gave the estate to his brother, Richard Duke of York. Richard, is understood to have built the great banqueting hall. After King Richard’s death at Bosworth in 1485, Sudeley passed to King Henry VII, who presented it to his uncle Jasper Tudor. Henry VIII stayed at Sudeley during his 1535 Royal Progress with Anne Boleyn. Whist staying at Sudeley, Henry and Thomas Cromwell, who stayed at Winchcombe Abbey, put

in place the arrangements for the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Henry's executors, enacted an "unfulfilled gifts" clause in his will, whereby Thomas Seymour, one of Edward IV's council during his minority, became Baron Seymour of Sudeley and acquired the estate.

Thomas Seymour secretly married Henry's final wife, Katherine Parr, who was 36 years old, without the permission of the King. In 1548, Catherine now pregnant and her husband moved to Sudeley with a huge retinue, including Lady Jane Grey, Thomas Seymour's ward, who would be Queen on the death of Edward IV in 1553 for less than nine days, before being executed. Katherine died at Sudeley in 1548, five days after giving birth to her daughter Mary Seymour and was buried at St Mary's church in the grounds of the castle. It was the first time Protestant rites were used for a royal funeral service. Lady Jane Grey was the Chief mourner at the ceremony. Thomas Seymour did not attend the funeral and returned to London where he was involved in various intrigues. As a result of which he was executed for treason six months later. Sudeley passed to Katherine's brother William Parr, the Marquess of Northampton who was implicated in the plot to have Lady Jane Grey made Queen. He was accused of treason and Sudeley was seized by the crown.

In 1554 Sudeley passed to John Brydges, who had been Lieutenant of the Tower of London and was elevated to Lord Chandos by Queen Mary in 1554, who also leased him Winchcombe Abbey. The Abbey was

demolished and salvaged material was used in the rebuilding of the outer court of the castle by the second Lord Chandos. His son Edmund considerably remodelled the castle in the 1560's and 1570's. In 1592 to celebrate the defeat of the Spanish Armada, Elizabeth 1 embarked on a grand progress and stayed at Sudeley, the first of three occasions during her reign. It is interesting to imagine the upheaval of a large royal party descending on a country house and the excitement it engendered in the locality. The large cost was a major burden on the owners. During the c16th Sudeley Castle was visited by four English queens.

During the Chandos ownership, the castle was expensively furnished and extensive Tudor gardens were laid out. The Fifth Lord Chandos entertained on a lavish scale and Rudder writing in the 1770's said that he was described as *The King of the Cotswolds*. The 6th Lord Chandos supported King Charles 1 during the Civil War. Charles 1 set up camp at Sudeley as a base for operations in Gloucestershire as it was the chief fortress between Berkeley and Warwick. The castle was besieged and taken by the Parliamentarians and in 1649 was "slighted" so that it never again be used for military purposes. The Chandos family had been ruined by the Civil war and did not have the resources to restore it. Sudeley Castle remained a ruin for almost 200 years but not abandoned, as the estate continued to be managed and farmed. The estate changed hands several times. The castle was rented out to tenants and was visited by George III in 1788.

Cotswold Landscapes- Sudeley Castle

In 1837, Sudeley was purchased by brothers John and William Dent of Worcester, wealthy glove manufacturers. The Dent brothers spent twenty years carrying out a sensitive restoration of the castle, leaving part as a ruin, including the large tithe barn and the banqueting hall, which gives the castle much of its character. It is a testament to the skill of those who built these buildings that the walls remain vertical without the support of roofs. The Dents also refurbished the castle, including many antiques. In 1885, Sudeley was inherited by the Dent brother's nephew, John Croucher Dent who carried out further improvements in the Victorian heyday for landed gentry. However, following the death of Henry Dent-Brocklehurst in 1932 huge death duties resulted in the sale of most of the estate of 12,000 acres leaving only the castle and a rump of 1200 acres. Sudeley remains in the ownership of the Dent family.

St Mary's Church stands in the grounds of the castle and was built by Ralph Boteler c. 1460. The church was badly damaged and desecrated by the Cromwellians during the English Civil War. It was restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott c.1859-63. David Verey describes the church *as a very elegant piece of Perpendicular work by the best masons around in the peak period of Cotswold Perpendicular architecture.* The restoration was not to the taste of Ulric Daubney who in "Ancient Cotswold Churches" states *"The interior of the church presents an aspect of uncompromising hideous modernity, having been reconstructed and consecrated in*



the year 1863, prior to which it had stood in a ruinous condition for more than two centuries" Notwithstanding Daubney's comments, St Mary is an interesting church and an integral part of Sudeley Castle. There is some good c13th stained glass and an impressive monument to Catherine Parr dated 1859, she is the only English Queen to be buried in a parish church and in the grounds of a private castle.

Sudeley played its part in the Second World War when the Tate Gallery used it for storage to safeguard the pictures from the Blitz and the site of what is now the visitor's car park was used as a prisoner of war camp. The prisoners worked on local farms.

The extensive castle gardens, which include a Tudor Physic Garden and knot garden, are well laid out, reflecting the input of Gloucestershire based garden designers Rosemary Verey and Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall. The

gardens complement the setting of the castle and add to its character, especially the Ruins Garden in the remains of the banqueting hall. There are several public footpaths though the former deer park, which give access to the escarpment with good views over the castle and Winchcombe.

Robert Young



A history of our Easter chocolate

Chocolate. Just a mention of the word can trigger off all kinds of emotions: craving, greed, passion. Few foods have the ability to get such a hold on people. As you buy your Easter eggs and bunnies and whatever else this month, here are some of the facts of chocolate:

Where does chocolate come from?

Chocolate is made from the seeds of the tropical cacao tree, *theobroma cacao*. The Greek word 'theobroma' means literally 'food of the gods'. The Cacao Tree is found in Latin America.

Who first discovered it? The Aztecs. The cacao beans were used to prepare a hot, frothy beverage with stimulant and restorative properties, something like hot chocolate.

Who was (probably) the first chocoholic? The Emperor Montezuma. He drank 50 goblets a day of the frothy drink.

Who used chocolate as currency? The Aztecs. 100 cacao beans would

buy a slave; 12 cacao beans bought the services of a courtesan, etc.

When did chocolate as we know it today begin? Surprisingly, not until 1879. That year Rodolphe Lindt had the inspired idea of triglyceride cocoa butter. The cocoa butter in chocolate contains saturated fat, but a normal level of consumption doesn't have any bad effects.

At what point does a chocolate lover become a chocoholic? It is generally considered to be when a person feels impelled to consume 12 or more 60 gram bars of chocolate per week. Chocolate contains its own cannabinoid (a chemical that prolongs pleasurable sensations) and when you eat chocolate, there is an increased blood flow in areas of the brain which are also activated by addictive drugs such as cocaine. But scientists agree that occasional over-indulging will cause no long-term problems... except perhaps around your waistline!

Continue on page 25

Chedworth Gardening Club Garden Visits

We have 4 garden visits scheduled so far for 2026 costing no more than £20 per visit. All the gardens are quite different and this year include a trip to a renowned flower farm in Oxfordshire.

Sezincote House and Garden, Moreton-in-Marsh - £15



Our first visit is on Wednesday, 27 May at 2pm to a unique house and garden in an Indian style. The afternoon includes a tour of the house and the garden. Refreshments will be available to buy.

Awkward Hill Cottage, Bibury - £15



Our second visit on Friday, 12 June at 4pm is to a beautiful terraced Cotswold garden. Visitors and admirers describe it as 'a beautiful, tranquil, and thoughtfully designed space with a mix of formal and informal areas.' Refreshments are included.

Private gardens in Coln Rogers - £15

Our next visit on Friday, 26 June at 6pm is to 2 private gardens in Coln Rogers. Both show varied planting

including a vegetable garden for those interested in more than flowers and shrubs.

Refreshments will be provided.

Green and Gorgeous, Wallingford – £20



Our visit on Tuesday, 21 July at 2.30pm is to a highly regarded, sustainable flower farm and studio offering artisan flowers, expert-led workshops, and premium seeds. The garden tour will be followed by tea and cake and a floristry demonstration. There will also be the opportunity for some plant shopping!

If you would like to join us on these visits and aren't yet a member of Chedworth Gardening Club please get in touch

chedworthgardeningclub@gmail.com.

Annual membership is only £15 for individuals or £25 for joint membership.

When you join the Gardening Club you can visit these lovely gardens and have an opportunity to meet fellow gardeners in an informal setting to chat about all things gardening. You can also take advantage of various discounts: 10% off plants, bulbs and seeds at Burford Garden Centre, discounted compost sales at Shurdington Nurseries and 50% off the cost of entry for up to 2 people to any RHS garden

(Bridgwater, Harlow Carr, Hyde Hall, Rosemoor and Wisley) except during RHS Flower Shows and RHS Glow events

[com](#) if you have any queries about these visits or membership.

*Ang MacNaught
Gardens Visit Organiser*

Please contact Chedworth Gardening Club chedworthgardeningclub@gmail.com.



The poster for 'The Pop-up cafe' features a small illustration of a coffee cup with the words 'POP UP CAFE' written above it. The text on the poster reads: 'The Pop-up cafe', 'Every Monday morning 10am-1 pm at Chedworth Village Hall', 'Tea, coffee, cakes & sausage rolls ...also PLANTS!', 'it's a lucky dip - you might find a new treasure for your garden, or perhaps some snowdrops-in-the-green', and 'Come and see us!'. At the bottom of the poster is a photograph of a field of white snowdrops.

How to get the best from your chocolate:

Keep your chocolate cool (16 – 18 degrees Centigrade) and in a dry, airtight place.
Never put your chocolate in the fridge (if you already have, let it warm to room temperature for a couple of hours before you eat it).

Bring out the full flavour of chocolate by drinking water with it.
If you are drinking tea or coffee, don't bother with expensive chocolates – you won't be able to appreciate them properly!



Economic definitions

A recession is a period in which you tighten up your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

Rendcomb Surgery Newsletter

A Message from the Partners

As we move further into spring, we would like to take a moment to thank our patients for your continued kindness and support towards our team. General practice continues to be very busy nationally, and we remain grateful for the patience and understanding shown by our community.

April brings a focus on Stress Awareness Month – a reminder that looking after our mental wellbeing is just as important as caring for our physical health. Many people are balancing work, family responsibilities and health concerns, and it is normal to feel under pressure at times.

This month we are also sharing advice on managing hay fever as the pollen season begins, and highlighting the benefits of using the NHS App to help you access services more conveniently.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to keep healthcare safe and effective for everyone.

Dr Ian Davis, Dr Clare Henderson
Rendcomb Surgery

April is Stress Awareness Month

Life can often feel busy and demanding. Stress Awareness Month provides an opportunity to reflect on how stress can affect our wellbeing and to consider small steps that may help us manage pressure more effectively.

Stress can present itself in many different ways. Some people notice physical symptoms such as headaches, muscle tension or sleep difficulties,

while others may feel irritable, overwhelmed or anxious.

Common signs of stress include:

- Difficulty sleeping
- Feeling constantly tired
- Headaches or muscle tension
- Feeling overwhelmed or anxious
- Difficulty concentrating
- Changes in appetite

If stress continues over long periods it can also impact physical health, including blood pressure, digestion and immune function.

Simple steps such as talking to someone you trust, taking regular breaks, spending time outdoors and maintaining good sleep habits can help support wellbeing. If stress begins to affect your daily life or you feel unable to cope, please speak to us. Our team can offer advice, support and signposting to appropriate services.

Hay Fever Season Is Approaching

As spring progresses, many people begin to experience symptoms of hay fever, also known as seasonal allergic rhinitis. Hay fever is very common and affects around one in four people in the UK.

Symptoms may include:

- Sneezing
- A runny or blocked nose
- Itchy or watery eyes
- Headaches or sinus pressure
- Tiredness due to poor sleep

Symptoms are often worse during warm, windy weather when pollen levels are higher.

Some simple steps may help reduce symptoms:

- Keep windows closed during high pollen periods
- Shower and change clothes after spending time outdoors
- Wear sunglasses when outside
- Avoid drying laundry outdoors on high pollen days

Many treatments are available from pharmacies, including antihistamine tablets, nasal sprays and eye drops. Starting treatment early can often help control symptoms more effectively. If your symptoms remain troublesome, please contact the surgery for advice.

Using the NHS App

The NHS App provides a simple and secure way to access a range of healthcare services from your phone, tablet or computer.

Many patients now use the app to manage their healthcare without

needing to telephone the practice.

Using the NHS App you can:

- Order repeat prescriptions
- View your medical record
- Check test results
- View hospital referrals and appointments
- Access a range of NHS services online

Ordering repeat prescriptions through the NHS App can be one of the quickest and most convenient ways to request medication. Please remember to allow three working days for prescription processing.

You can download the NHS App from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or access it online at www.nhs.uk/nhs-app.

If you need help setting up the app, our reception team will be happy to assist.

Sung Evensong by

The Queen's College Choir Oxford

4.30pm Sunday 10th May 2026

at

St Andrew's Church Chedworth

There will be a retiring collection for

The Friends of St Andrew's Church

An undoubted jewel in
Britain's choral scene.

BBC Music Magazine





Hill & Valley Lawn Tennis Club

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

CLUB NEWS

With a little more spring like feel in the air, it won't just be the postman wearing shorts! It will be great to soak up some warmth and get the tennis season in full swing. We are developing a refreshed juniors coaching programme with new coach Sam Edwards who will bring his youth and energy to the school, after school and holiday camps. Glos League matches for the two Ladies and one men's team commence in April and just over the horizon is our annual main event the Coln Valley Open Mixed Doubles Tournament on Saturday 13th June played on our many generous local owner's courts. I can smell the roses already! Hope to see you at the Club soon.

Robert Baker, Chair

NEW COACHING PROGRAMME STARTING ON APRIL 1ST

Sam Edwards is joining us to head up our new coaching programme from April 1st, providing group and one to one coaching for Adults and Juniors and Junior Camps in the school holidays.

He is an LTA Level 3 Accredited tennis coach with a passion for coaching and will be managing all the bookings through his website setacademy.co.uk. As well as tennis coaching, Sam also holds a First-Class Degree in Physical Education and School Sport, a PGCE teaching qualification, and has close connections with the home educated community by providing tennis and multisport sessions through his other business Kidz do Sportz.



WHAT'S ON



COACHING FOR ADULTS AND JUNIORS

With Sam Edwards www.setacademy.co.uk

Mondays

Junior Red/Blue for 4-8yrs at 4.45-5.30pm

Wednesdays

Junior Red/Blue for 4-8yrs at 4.00-4.45pmpm

Junior Orange/Green for 8-11yrs at 4.45-5.45pm

Junior Yellow for 11yrs+ at 5.45-6.45pm

Ladies Team Training for Team players at 7-8.30pm

Saturdays

Sam and Tom Wyman will alternate Saturdays

Cardio Tennis Blast for ages 8 and above at 9-10am

Junior Fun Green/Orange for 8-11yrs at 10-11am

Mini Fun Red/Blue for 4-8ys at 11-12

Adult Base for Beginners & Improvers players at 12-1

Adult Ace for Intermediates and Advanced players at 1-2.30

JUNIOR HOLIDAY CAMPS

Sam runs Junior holiday camps at half term and in the school holidays, they cater for children aged 5 - 13 yrs and are all about fun, friendship and developing tennis skills in an exciting and supportive environment. Whether your child is completely new to tennis or already playing regularly, our camp offers something for everyone.

WALKING TENNIS

Every Friday from 2.30-4, open to non members

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, May 16th American Doubles

Saturday, June 13th Coln Valley Open Tournament

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/EventsV2>



Red Squirrels

What does your child know about red squirrels?

Sadly, red squirrels are now so rare in Britain that many of our children are not even sure what they are. A recent study found that one in 10 children are unable to even identify a red squirrel when shown a picture of one. And a third of British children do not know that red squirrels live in the UK.

It all means that our native species of squirrel is at risk of being forgotten as

the larger grey American invader takes over.

In order to combat this trend, Center Parcs, in collaboration with The Wildlife Trusts, has launched a campaign to create a red squirrel emoji. The aim is to help increase awareness of the species among our young people.



Farmers' bane: too much, too little rain

Mark Aveline

Saint George April 23rd

Saint George is the patron saint of England. He's popularly identified with England and English ideals of honour, bravery and gallantry - but actually he wasn't English at all. Very little, if anything, is known about the real Saint George. Pope Gelasius said that George is one of the saints "whose names are rightly revered among us, but whose actions are known only to God."

Everything about Saint George is dubious, so what follows should be taken as mythical rather than real. He was born in Cappadocia, an area which is now in Turkey, in the 3rd century to Christian parents. They later moved to Palestine where George became a Roman soldier. He protested against Rome's persecution of Christians, was imprisoned and tortured and beheaded at Lydda.

He is patron saint not only of England but also of Aragon, Catalonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany and Greece; and of Moscow, Istanbul, Genoa and Venice (second to Saint Mark). He's also patron saint of soldiers, archers, cavalry and chivalry, farmers and field workers, riders and saddlers, and he helps those suffering from leprosy, plague and syphilis. In recent years he has been adopted as patron saint of Scouts.

Some people have campaigned for Saint Alban to be the patron saint of England instead of George. Alban is honoured as Britain's first saint, and his grave became a place of pilgrimage. As an ordinary man, doing an extraordinary thing has endured and

continues to inspire to this day.

The story of Saint George is so wrapped in myth and legend that it's difficult to extract the historical facts of a real life. Some believe he never existed or that he's a Christianised version of an older pagan myth.



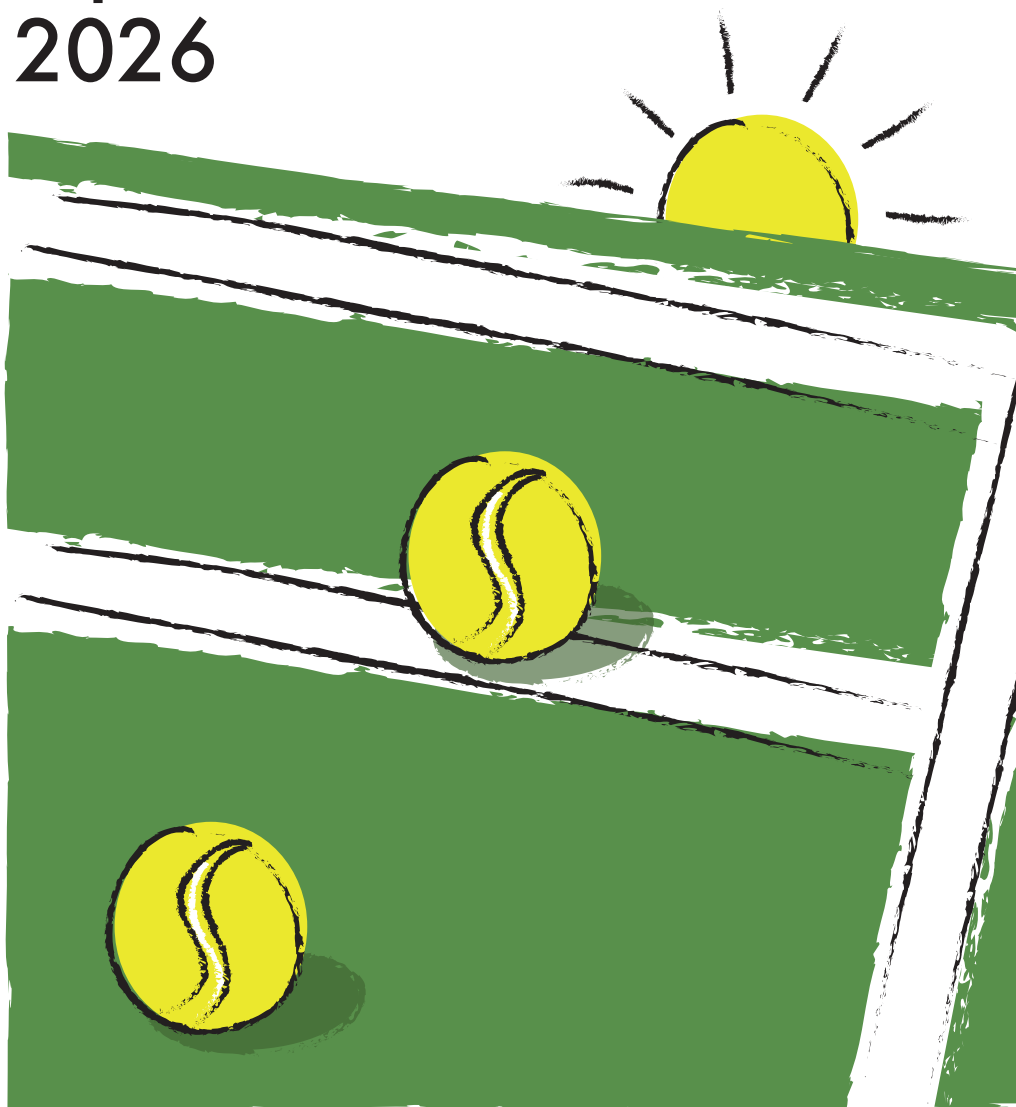
What we believe to be the truth is that George was born in Cappadocia, an area which is now in Turkey, in the 3rd century; that his parents were Christians; and that when his father died, George's mother returned to her native Palestine, taking George with her. George became a soldier in the Roman army and rose to the rank of Tribune.

The Emperor of the day, Diocletian (245-313 AD), began a campaign against Christians at the very beginning of the 4th century. In about 303 AD George is said to have objected to this persecution and resigned his military post in protest.

George tore up the Emperor's order against Christians. This infuriated Diocletian, and George was imprisoned and tortured - but he refused to deny his faith. Eventually he was dragged through the streets of Diospolis (now Lydda) in Palestine and beheaded.



The Coln Valley Mixed Doubles Open Tennis Tournament 2026



Saturday 13th June

Chedworth, GL54 4NE

A fun day of social competitive tennis
played on wonderful private
courts in surrounding villages

- Sliding handicap for morning round robins
- Top pairs compete for the Speke Cup
- Remaining pairs compete for the Scott-Smith Salver

Entry **£44** per person
Includes hot lunch coffee & cakes

Proudly sponsored by

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Home Visiting GP Practice



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

Wine Column

Hello Neighbour's,

Spring is here (or at least the daffodils have arrived and told us so!)

The snowdrops signed off for the year and I found myself pulling wild garlic to make pesto in March midmonth. By the time you read this in April, the tulips will be dancing in the sun, and our days will be longer. With Spring comes many things for us to forage, sunshine and all the buds showing face. Easter is also around the corner and so to help with your wine picks and maybe something new, find an easy Easter wine guide below.

Wild Garlic Recipe:

Four handfuls of wild garlic, four garlic cloves, lemon zest and juice of one lemon, ½ teaspoon of salt, ¼ cup of roasted nuts or pinenuts (I used cashews this time but have used walnuts, hazelnuts and pecans), grated parmesan cheese and four glugs of olive oil. Whiz that all together and you have a delicious treat to put on pizza, toast, on top of soups, mix in with pasta, add to soups – anything. 12

Easter is a time for family, friends, tradition, food and wine.

My childhood in Wisconsin in America always had an Easter ham, deviled eggs, buttery mashed potatoes and maple carrots. In Napa Valley, where I have been for the last 15 years, we have

Spring Vegetable risotto (normally fresh asparagus or spring peas) and loads of fresh lettuces with soft herbs and lemon – but my favorite was dessert and that is always strawberry shortcake. The St Helena strawberries are award winning!

Here are some helpful hints on what to have with your favorite dishes and even some chocolate eggs.

Easter Wine Pairings

- **Roast Lamb:** Classic choices - Rioja, Bordeaux, Chianti Classico, Syrah
 - **I just had a 2019 M.** Chapoutier Saint Joseph Biodynamic Pinot Noir (Burgundy) that was dynamite good and £127 a bottle – worth the spend
 - **Something a little better on the pocketbook:** try this Syrah - Esprit des Trois Pierres Costières de Nîmes and only and £10 a bottle at Waitrose
- **Roast Chicken:** Light, fruity reds such as Beaujolais or Pinot Noir and the classic Chardonnay pairing
 - **I have been loving Domaine Seguinot-Bordet Petit Chablis from Waitrose and about 17 a bottle**
- **Easter Ham:** Italian White wines like Falanghina, a heartier rose and Pinot Noir are great choices
 - **We are drinking our very own Rose off the property right here in Fossebridge!**

- **Vegetarian:** Grüner Veltliner or Albariño with roasted vegetables or a nut roast
 - Palacio de Fefñanes Albariño from Waitrose and £23 a bottle
- **Sparkling/Aperitif:** Try a local Larkhill Vineyard English Sparkling or how about some local sloe gin and some fizz
- **Chocolate Eggs:** Ruby Port or Muscat

Vineyard Update:

March was one of the busiest months of the year. We pruned, pulled the canes, took off rabbit guards (finally), tied two rubber bands on every vine to keep them straight, mowed in between the vines, got the sprinklers for frost protection up and running, suffered the

buds, put Fruit 50 fertilizer on every vine, and started tying the canes to the fruiting wire. Needless to say, my body isn't 25 anymore! Thanks to Reade, Elizabeth, Anne, Dick, Siobhan and Stewart for coming to help in the vineyard this month!

April will bring budbreak and the vineyard coming to life!

Are you interested in learning more about our vineyard? 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

Amber

What's orange, sticky and worth preserving?

This month sees National Marmalade Week (18th – 25th April). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they hold the World Marmalade Awards & Festival. It celebrates, preserves and promotes artisanal marmalades, with thousands of entries. (Even Paddington Bear will be in attendance!)

If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate

to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a shipload of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. If you also want to get your fingers sticky, visit: www.marmaladeawards.com.

Pop up Cafe Team

Pop up Cafe team pop up at
Colesbourne snowdrops



The wonderful team from the
Chedworth pop up Cafe stepped up to
support the fundraising efforts of
nearby North Cerney Primary School
over the weekend of 28th Feb.



The team worked tirelessly, alongside
parents, pupils and school supporters,
serving refreshments to over 500
visitors at Colesbourne Gardens.
Visitors commented on the warm and
friendly service,
and the generous
cake portions!
A heartfelt thank
you to the pop up
cafe team for their
wonderful
community
support.



Jess James
Chair of the North Cerney School
Association



North Cerney Primary School invite you to enter
the North Cerney Scamper on Saturday 16th
May.

This community fun run (or walk) welcomes
participants from the age of 8 to take on a
challenge, with delicious refreshments in the
village hall afterwards.

This is a wonderful community fundraiser, so
pleased do support us!

<https://race-nation.co.uk/register/north-cerney-village-hall/north-cerney-scamper-2026-placeholder>

Or email the PTA on NCSA@northcerney.dgat.org.uk for more details.

Jess James
Chair of the North Cerney School Association

Dawn Chorus

If you sleep with your bedroom window open, you will know all about the dawn chorus around now. The birds are busy establishing their territorial rights, and the 'early birds' have probably already selected a nest site and started building.

The blackbird builds a solid cup of twigs, plant stems and leaves, lined with a thick skin of mud covered with finer grasses and leaves. The long-

tailed tit forms a soft hollow ball of mosses, hair and wool, with a tiny hole as entrance. The wrens do it differently, with the male wren sometimes building several nests before his finicky mate will accept one. He gets his revenge, though, because he sometimes installs a second wife in one of the rejected sites.



A Loveliness of Ladybirds in a Winter shelter

Mark Aveline

The Arts Society

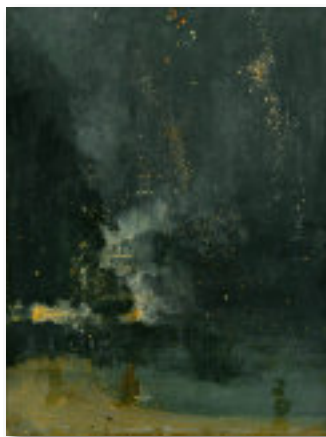
Lecture on Wednesday 13th May
2026

Lecture: The Nocturne in 19th-century Music and Art

In 1859 when Franz Liszt edited the Nocturnes of the Irish composer John Field, he said in his preface 'to him we may trace the origin of pieces designed to portray subjective and profound emotion.' Once Field had coined the term nocturne in 1812, other composers such as Chopin, Mendelssohn, Fauré and Debussy followed suit and contributed to an increasing repertoire of atmospheric and meditative night pieces. However, from the early 1870s, the term 'nocturne' was used in the titles of paintings by the American painter, James Whistler, and in addition to exploring the history of the musical nocturne, the study day explores its relationship with the world of art.

About the speaker:

Peter Medhurst appears in the UK and abroad as a musician and scholar, giving recitals and delivering illustrated lectures on music and the arts. He studied singing and early keyboard instruments at the Royal College of Music and at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.



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. Booking is recommended: to reserve a place book online (www.theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk) or contact Lisa Etheridge on 07918 180895 for a booking form. Non-members are welcome (space permitting) at a charge of £10.

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

Or contact Alison Morgans on 07771 817050

Cured

A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."

Hairy-footed Flower Bee

March can be a cold month and not one we associate with insects, the majority of which will emerge a little later in the year. Bumblebees are amongst the first to appear as their hairy bodies give them some insulation against the changeable weather of March; but have a look for another bee, which looks at first glance like a small bumblebee, but which is actually the delightfully named Hairy-footed Flower Bee. The males emerge first and can be found from late February onwards. The male is a rusty brown with a yellow face and long hairs on the middle pair of its six legs. It is these long hairs that give the bee the name of 'hairy footed'. About two weeks later the females emerge, looking completely different. Females are mainly black with orange hairs on their back pair of legs which act like little brushes, collecting pollen as they visit flowers. Hairy-footed flower bees have a long tongue which they use to probe into flask- shaped spring flowers such as primrose and lungwort (or pulmonaria). It is worth checking primroses and lungworts for this little bee, they have a faster, more zippy flight than a bumblebee and also a shrill buzz.

As spring progresses, have a look at the walls of your church or churchyard if they are lime mortared or cobb. The female will nest within the mortar of an old wall, making a small hole in which to lay eggs. These are 'solitary'

bees, so they do not nest in a colony like honey bees and bumblebees.



Hairy-footed flower bees are a good example of the need to provide a range of flowers for pollinators, including both spring and autumn blooms. This bee is active until June and relies on early pollen to give them energy for their brief breeding season. Most churchyards contain primroses and perhaps you can include lungwort and comfrey in flower beds or planters as well. Please let us know if you see a hairy-footed flower bee, for



those who love a phone or computer app, take a look at iNaturalist (uk.inaturalist.org) to confirm your identification and make a record of your spot.

Male Hairy footed flower bee – spot the long hairs!

Stargazing

I can see how astronomers figure out the distance of the stars and their size and temperatures and all that. What really gets me is how they find out what their names are!

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





CHEDWORTH PRODUCE MARKET

Saturday 17th January 2026

Saturday 21st February 2026

Saturday 21st March 2026

Saturday 18th April 2026

Saturday 16th May 2026

Saturday 20th June 2026

Saturday 18th July 2026

Saturday 15th August 2026

Saturday 19th September 2026

Saturday 17th October 2026

Saturday 21st November 2026

Saturday 19th December 2026

Village Hall

9am - 12noon



You paragraph text

Tango Calor

An evening of Argentine tango music

Featuring bandoneist - Mirek Salmon, guitar virtuoso - Daryl Kellie
and vocalist - Jimi Cantera



Northleach Church
Friday May 8th, 7.30pm

Tickets £20 /£15
(Under 18s: £5 on door)

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



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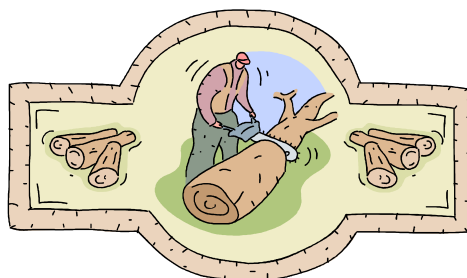
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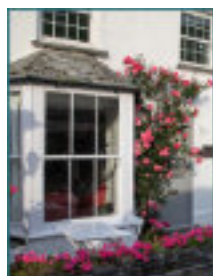
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