

May 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.**

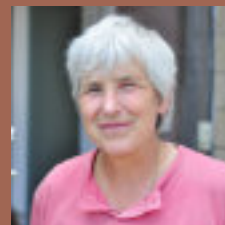
Cover and contents page photos by Julie Young

The HILL & VALLEY

PARISH MAGAZINE

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Julie Young Coordinator for this edition



Karen's Letter



I read something the other day which made me stop and take stock. It said, "trust the journey".

There's a text in Acts 17:26 which sort of says the same thing and I share it with you now in case it may encourage you in your life journey:

"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands."

However you came to be here at this time in history, it is apparently not an accident, according to this text. The people you have connection with, what you have done with your time and energy and even the boundaries of where you live seem to all be part of a grander plan. There are choices to be made along the way, things to be learned, power to be exercised and opportunities for giving and receiving, but the idea that we are part of something much greater than ourselves

is something I find uplifting, if somewhat bewildering at times.

I've often thought life is a bit like viewing a complex tapestry from behind. It may look like a right mess, with loose threads hanging here and there and intricate multi-stranded knots arbitrarily placed through the warp and the weft. But one day, the master weaver will invite us to view it from the other side and it will all make sense and it will be staggeringly beautiful.

So whatever is going on in your life journey, perhaps you might join me in trusting the flow of life all around you, in you and through you in this beautiful place we are so privileged to live in, even in these troubling times we happen to be part of.

With Easter still fresh in mind, our Lord endured the suffering of the cross for the joy that was set before him...the joy of seeing the other side of the tapestry where it would all make sense, where beauty and love would triumph over some of the worst suffering the Empire of his time had invented.

Karen



Church Briefing

Hill & Valley Benefice Church Services

Everyone Welcome

3rd May BCP Communion service	9.00am - St Andrew's, Chedworth. 10.30 - St James the Great, Coln St Denys.
10th May Rogation Sunday Sung Evensong by Queens College Choir, Oxford.	10.30am - The Barn, Yanworth. 4.30pm - St Andrews, Chedworth.
17th May Communion Service	10.30am - St Andrew's, Chedworth.
24th May Pentecostal Happyfull Service	10.30 - St Andrew's Chedworth.
31st May Communion Service	10.30am - St Micheal's, Yanworth.



Friday walk from Anchor Cottage, Coln St Denys to the Church

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
10 May	16:30	Sung Evensong by The Queen's College Choir Oxford	St Andrew's Church Chedworth
13 May	19:15	WI - Resolutions	Chedworth Village Hall
14 May	19:00	NTLive - "All My Sons"	Chedworth Village Hall
16 May	9:00-12:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
18 May	17:30	Fish and Chip Van	Chedworth Village Hall
27 May	14:00	Garden Club visit to Sezincote House and Garden	
10 June	19:15	WI - Sue Black "Her Life as an Opera Singer"	Chedworth Village Hall
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
25 June		NTLive - "The Playboy of the Western World"	Chedworth Village Hall
26 June	18:00	Garden Club visit to Private Garden in Coln Rogers	
27 June	18:00	Summer Evening Family Picnic	Chedworth Playing Field
8 July	19:18	WI - Gillian Cane "The Miracle of Bletchley" (Open Meeting)	Chedworth Village Hall
18 July	9:00-12:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
21 July	14:30	Garden Club visit to Green and Gorgeous, Wallingford	
15 Aug	9:00-12:00	Chedworth Produce Market	Chedworth Village Hall
29 Aug		Chedworth Village Hall Golden Anniversary Event	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	7	May
Thursday	21	May
Thursday	4	June
Thursday	18	June

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



On the last week of term we held our Easter service at St Andrew's Church. It was a beautiful day and a lovely service topped of with the Chedworth bell ringers ringing a quarter peel to celebrate.



We are fully in the swing of summer term and are enjoying the lighter evenings and sporadic sunshine! We have welcomed many new families this term and are really excited to begin our transition process over the summer for our new reception pupils in September.

As we hurtle towards the end of the academic year, we have lots of exciting events and milestons. Year 6 will be sitting their SATs examinations in May and then will be off on residential in June with their Year 5 peers. Not long after, they will be completing their bike safety courses and preparing for their end of year production.

This term, all of our pupils will be having tennis coaching with Sam Edwards up at the Hill & Valley tennis club. Rowan and Sycamore will also be having cricket coaching. Reception and Year 1 have a multi sports festival and Key Stage 2 have a swimming gala, district athletics tournament and many other competitive sporting opportunities.

As always, you are all welcome to our end of year production (date to be announced) and our wonderful summer fete- **Friday 17th from 1.30pm at the Village Hall field.**

Learn  Trust  Respect  Forgive

Thanks to Chedworth Gardening Club



Many thanks to Chedworth Gardening Club who donated bulbs and helped plant them at the school in the autumn and also assisted with other grounds maintenance tasks. The flowers have



been magnificent and well worth the labour of planting them! Thank you for supporting our School.

Ben Pridgeon for St. Andrew's School PTA

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



Chedworth Parish Council

Community Orchard

Do walk or drive up to the Community Orchard in Ford's Field next to the football pitch. It looks fantastic. There are loads of blossoms on the apple, plum and cherry trees. Allison and Chris Oldershaw are leading the maintenance effort. The team has weeded and pruned, removed a couple of dead trees and planted a new one. Next, we will be lowering the tree guards to allow the upper branches to spread, strimming paths through the long grass to allow easy access and mulching the base of the trees with manure sourced by Alan. We are still looking for volunteers to help with all this and to water the trees in the hot periods. If you can help with developing this amazing community asset, please contact Alan McLellan or Tony Kingsley.

Annual Litter Pick

The Annual Litter pick will take place

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

from Saturday May 9th - Sunday May 17th this year.

This is so that, as last year, the volunteer pickers have the flexibility to choose when to do their picking during the 8-day period. Those who would like to volunteer their help & take part please contact Alan McLellan (07966141245) who will try his best to co-ordinate coverage of the parish. Disposable gloves, rubbish bags, a limited supply of litter picking sticks & hi-vis should be available. If you have your own, please make use of them. The plan is for the collected rubbish to be returned to the village hall car park by Sunday 17th for collection by CDC during the following week. All help will be much appreciated.



Defibrillator

The Defibrillator at Ballingers Hill House is now fully operational. The 'what3words?' reference for the site is:/// tacky.salad.threaded. This is the first house on Ballingers Row, which is just off Queen Street. This is the replacement for the defibrillator outside Seven Tuns which has been decommissioned due to a lack of power. Many thanks to Richard and Emma Issac for hosting the defibrillator cabinet and to Ian Morgan who had the idea of finding a new location, has sourced the new cabinet, found someone willing to host it and

arranged for the cabinet to be installed by a professional electrician.

Hugh Westwood Educational Trust

The Hugh Westwood Educational Trust has informed the Parish Council of a vacancy on their board of trustees.

They have asked if we intend to nominate a replacement, and they would prefer someone with links to Cotswold School or at least education.

If you feel this is something you would like to take on, please contact Elizabeth in the first instance at clerk@chedworthpc.org.uk

The Parish Council has written to the trust highlighting that Chedworth and Northleach children were the original beneficiaries of the trust highlighting that many children attend other nearer schools and should still be eligible for support from the Hugh Westwood Educational Trust.

Interactive Speed Signs

The Parish Council has written to Mr Joe Harris, Portfolio holder for Highways at Gloucestershire

County Council, to express our frustration that interactive speed signs have still not been installed.

However, two bright shiny poles have been installed, very close to one another, at one end of Fields Road. We are hopeful that GCC is not planning to install both signs within a very short stretch of road as we would much prefer one to be towards the Northwest end and one to be towards the Southeast end of that road. We were delighted to be offered the signs, but we are wondering why it is taking so long to install them.

David Broad



Brain Teaser

See if you can figure out what these words have in common.

1. Banana
2. Dresser
3. Grammar
4. Potato
5. Revive
6. Uneven
7. Assess

Are you peeking or have you already given up? Give it another try. Look at each word carefully. You'll kick yourself when you discover the answer. No, it is not that they all have at least 2 double letters.....

Answer: In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word.



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



Our open meeting was held on an amazingly balmy warm and sunny spring evening, we welcomed a lovely number of guests all drawn to come and listen to Squadron Leader Andrew Wyatt's talk on the Red Arrows.

The business was very simple and brief this month with confirmation of our September visit to the John Moore Museum in Tewkesbury, on the 9th September, and an informal visit to Kiftsgate Gardens on the 25th June. A reminder for subscriptions to be paid as soon as possible and online if possible, from Deborah, the treasurer. And another reminder that the NFWI raffle tickets are now on sale price £1 with a chance to win £10,000 as first prize! The April lunch club will be meeting at a return visit to the Bathurst Arms on the 30th of April.

Squadron Leader Wyatt then took us through how you can qualify to fly for the RAF display team the Red Arrows. You have to be a serving RAF pilot, with operational experience including 1500 hours of fast jet flying (roughly equivalent to 10 years' experience!). You then have to apply, be put on a short list of applicants, who will have a practical flying test, various interviews the most vital of which is a peer assessment – most likely a convivial evening down the pub! Then you will have the chance to serve for three years as a pilot in the nine strong Red Arrows display team.

You will spend 3 years flying with the team in their BAE Hawk T1 planes moving position inwards on the formation flying, and finally getting the

chance to, (if you want to) to be part of the synchro pair – which is what the Squadron Leader did, flying past another team member both approaching at 400 miles per hour and theoretically passing at no less than 100 feet apart! Following your three years you will be automatically retired from the team.

The Red Arrows evolved from the aerobatic teams of the WWI, through each squadron having their own teams in the 1920's and 1930's. Then the 'Black Arrows' of the 1950's finally appearing as the iconic Red Arrows at Kemble in 1965. To support this amazing team it takes a Leader who is a Wing Commander, responsible for commentary and safety as well as flying. A PR team of six people, photo team (every display is recorded and analysed afterwards by the pilots), and finally but rather importantly a team of 120 engineers to keep the planes (now rather on the ageing side) flying. There is also a team responsible for loading the coloured smoke onto the planes – and every time a pilot uses the wrong coloured smoke in rehearsal (obviously they would never do this in a actual display!) they have to pay a fine which used to be £1 – possibly a little higher now due to inflation.

These amazing displays take six months of dedicated work to prepare, from October to March, first in England and then somewhere abroad to guarantee rather better weather. Then comes the display season with journeys all over the world turning the Red Arrows into so much more than just a aerobatic display team. They show case British

business and professionalism, act as ambassadors and as a recruitment team for the RAF.

The Squadron Leader demonstrated all this with a magnificently illustrated talk with still photos and video clips (even if some of us had to watch these from behind our fingers!).

When we had all come back down to earth it was time for a well earned cup of tea, cakes and catch up chat.

Next month we will be considering our resolutions put forward for consideration at the NFWI Annual meeting to be held on the 4th June 2026, this year these are:

- **Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health, and social inclusion**
- **Action on women's homelessness**

So members please put your thinking

caps on, look at the details for discussion and bring all your own ideas to the meeting so that we can decide how to mandate the vote of our representative at the Annual meeting. Don't worry there will be refreshments (as long as I remember to get baking, and don't panic I am not the only hostess!) to help your brain power! Look forward to seeing you Wednesday 13th May at 7.15pm at Chedworth Village Hall.



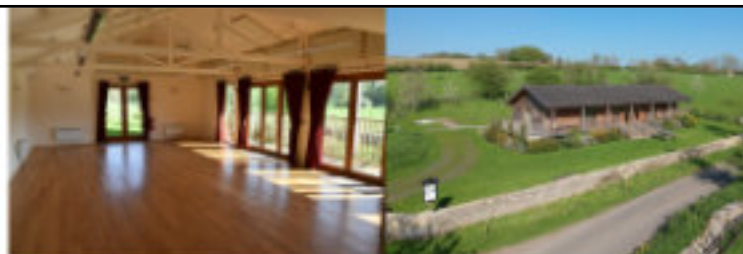
The Red Arrows flying in 2014 for their 50th anniversary (image copied from Wikipedia)

Emma Isaac



Terry made a note to fix the bolt

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

Technophobia

Download the app and you'll be fine
 If you need shoes, order on line
 Cancel the milk, the website's here.
 Renew your car tax for the year.
 But how much time it takes and stress!
 The bank says just go paperless.
 And so I find my password code
 And put myself in banking mode.
 My heartbeat rises every time
 It's a mountain I must climb.
 A message comes with password –
 where?
 I juggle phone screen and
 beware
 Of losing details of the
 thing
 That I am currently trying – to buy.
 And then I start again and cry.
 I need a person in my ear
 To reassure and make quite clear
 To me that all is well and I have paid
 And wish me cheerily “have a nice
 day”
 I now belong to many groups
 On WhatsApp used to rally troops
 Which flash up messages non-stop
 And talk about I know not what.



I scroll and click but don't
 take part
 I swiftly read and then
 depart.
 My weekly shop – to do on
 line
 Would be a thing I would decline.
 I'd make mistakes and leave things out
 I'd miss my Tesco walkabout.
 The kids in trolleys, Mums distraught
 The olds discussing what they'd
 bought
 The bargains and the three-for-tuos
 The browsing in the
 aisle of booze.
 But I can do an excel
 sheet
 I know my fonts and
 can complete
 An email sent to many names,
 A costing sheet, such fun and games.
 But do you know my favourite thing?
 (Apart from writing poems and to
 sing)
 I like to play and seriously dabble
 I just adore some on-line scrabble!



Sheila Veuve





Hill & Valley Lawn Tennis Club

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

CLUB NEWS

May is a wonderful month in Chedworth and all the more so with very much improved weather for tennis! The season is now in full swing with well attended social sessions, matches and coaching taking place, several children's camps set up for the holiday periods. The new juniors coaching programme with Sam Edwards is going well. 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; if you are intending to enter please sign up soon as entries are coming in fast.

Hope to see you soon at the Club.

Robert Baker, Chair

WHAT'S ON

Saturday May 16th

American Doubles Fun Club Tournament 2.30-6pm

A fun social mixed doubles club event playing American doubles with afternoon tea. Enter as an individual as your partner will be selected on the day. Numbers are limited so please book asap!

Saturday May 16th

Ask Sal Tennis Clothing Sale 10-4pm

Tennis clothing, shoes and accessories for sale beside the courts with a well stocked sale rail for men and women. Including brands such as K.Swiss, Lucky in Love, Poivre Blanc and Sofibella

Saturday June 13th 8-6pm

Coln Valley Open Mixed Doubles Tournament

Our main fundraising event for the club, our local churches and our village school. A special day of social tennis playing on beautiful local private courts kindly loaned for the day.



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 4.00-4.45pm

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 4-8yrs at 11-12

Adult Base for Beginners & Improvers players at 12-1

Adult Ace for Intermediates and Advanced players at 1-2.30

NEW JUNIOR HOLIDAY CAMPS

We will now be offering both Tennis and Multi Sports at our Junior holiday camps with Sam Edwards 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 Fun Club Tournament

Saturday, May 16th Tennis Clothing Sale

Saturday, June 13th Coln Valley Open Tournament

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



Wine Column

Hello Neighbour's,

The daffodils have come and gone and onto tiny hints of Summer. The garden seedlings have come to life, our vines have buds and are starting to shoot up! We have been told May 12 is the last real frost damage date so time to cross your fingers for us to ensure a good crop and no frost damage.



Champagne has long held a certain mystique in Britain—synonymous with weddings, Wimbledon, and New Year's Eve. One of the largest consumers of the fizz, we here in England stand proud but here are some myths to make sure you know your stuff!

Myth: All sparkling wine is Champagne

It isn't. Champagne refers specifically to wines produced in the Champagne region of France under strict regulations.

Elsewhere, excellent sparkling wines are made under different names and methods. Italy offers Prosecco, typically lighter and fruit-driven with bigger bubbles, while Spain's Cava often delivers a more savoury, traditional style at a friendlier price point. England, too, has entered the conversation in a serious way, with estates producing world-class bottles that rival their

French counterparts. Hopefully your very own Cotswolds winery, Fossebridge, will be in that conversation soon!

Myth: Champagne Is Always Better

There is a lingering belief that Champagne automatically trumps all other sparkling wines. While Champagne's reputation is well-earned, quality is no longer confined to one region.

English sparkling wine has flourished thanks to similar chalky soils and a warming climate. Many blind tastings have seen English bottles outperform established Champagne houses.

Myth: It Must Be Saved for Special Occasions

In Britain, Champagne is often reserved for grand moments—royal celebrations, promotions, or Christmas Day. But this mindset can make it feel inaccessible. It is TUESDAY! Let's drink some bubbles!

In truth, sparkling wine is one of the most food-friendly styles available. A crisp Brut pairs brilliantly with fish and chips, while a slightly richer style complements roast chicken or creamy cheeses. There's no reason a Tuesday kitchen supper shouldn't include a glass of fizz.

Myth: Serve It Ice-Cold

Over-chilling is one of the most common mistakes. Ice-cold Champagne numbs the palate and

suppresses aromas, particularly the delicate brioche and citrus notes that define quality examples.

Aim instead for a serving temperature of around 8–10°C. 20 minutes in an ice bucket will do the trick without dulling the wine's character.

Myth: Flutes Are the Best Glass

The classic flute may look elegant, but it isn't always the best choice. Its narrow shape preserves bubbles but restricts aroma development.

I prefer a white wine glass for premium sparkling wines. These allow the wine to open up and you can really smell what's going on in the glass.

Myth: A Spoon Keeps the Bubbles Fresh

The old trick of placing a teaspoon in the neck of an open bottle persists, but it has no scientific basis.

If you want to preserve fizz, invest in a proper sparkling wine stopper.

Myth: Pop open the bottle and let the cork shoot out

Opening a bottle shouldn't sound like a gunshot. A gentle sigh (or a nuns fart)

is ideal, preserving both the bubbles and your dignity.

Sparkling wine is no longer just for toasts—it's for tables. Whether it's a Brut style from Kent, a Spanish Cava, or a classic Champagne, the emphasis is moving away from ceremony and towards DAILY enjoyment

Vineyard Update:

April was busy in the vineyard tying down canes to the fruiting wire, a first time for us! Very Exciting. We sprayed sulfur and copper on the vineyard twice to get rid of any mites or disease leftover from last year and also mowed again.

May will be busy with bud rubbing and weeding.

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

Who's been good?

A father of five young children won a toy at a raffle. Back home, he called his children together to let them determine which one should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says?"

Five small voices answered in unison: "You, Daddy!"

Love

Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I drive by again?

Chedworth Gardening Club Garden Visits

Chedworth Gardening Club garden visits in May

Our first 2 garden visits this year are just a few weeks away and are proving to be very popular. Tickets cost only £15 each and are selling fast.

Friday, 15 May – 4pm – Black Dog Cottage, Little Barrington

Black Dog Cottage, a late 17th century Cotswold cottage is set in an acre of picturesque gardens, nestled in a quintessential Cotswold village in “The Windrush Valley”. In September 2021, Sue Bradbury was asked to undertake a complete garden design for the owners. The garden was landscaped by Sue and her team and planted up with large specimen topiary, trees and hedges and perennials. The effect the clients wanted was instant, yet looks like it has been there for decades with its timeless beauty.

Sue will lead a guided tour accompanied by a glass of wine and nibbles.

Wednesday, 27 May – 2pm - Sezincote House and Garden, Moreton-in-Marsh

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.



If you would like to join us on our 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.

*Ang MacNaught
Gardens Visit Organiser*

How to get rid of squirrels

Three churches in town were overrun with squirrels.

After much prayer, the elders of the Baptist church decided that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? So, they did nothing, and the squirrels multiplied.

The elders of the Methodist church, deciding that they should not harm any of God's creatures, humanely trapped the squirrels and then set them free outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back.

It was the Anglican church which succeeded in solving the squirrel problem. The curate baptised the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now, they only see the squirrels on Christmas and Easter.

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

Who knows what weather climate change will bring. It is best to be prepared be it protection or water conservation. The blossom has been wonderful this spring and unless caught by frost, fruit trees should give generously provided the pollinators have been working hard.. There are at least 45 flowers that could bring colour and scent to your garden in May as well as blossoms type flowers such as frangipani which will bring scent to the air in the evenings.



Box Hedging.

Coping with box moth, box blight and all the other problems that come with trying to maintain a box hedge, however small, is quite understandably too expensive and frustrating for many. If you do want some green manageable hedging *Lonicera nitida* might be the answer. It is fast growing robust easy to maintain and can be easily trimmed to any



height from 1ft to 7 foot. It is quick to recover from harsh pruning too. If you are not in a hurry

such *Texas*

- **Pea Pest Problem.** If you have experienced pea moth problems in the past (the larvae overwinter in the soil) you may wish to take measures to control infestation by either spraying with a bug killer

when flowering begins or covering the crop with an insect proof mesh.

- Put summer bedding plants into the ground at the end of the month.
- Continue to position plant supporters for herbaceous perennials
- Pick off dead leaves from plants to control the spread of disease.
- Keep weeding! Hoe out most annual and newly germinated weeds on a sunny day so that any left on the ground dry out and die, but perennial weeds such as ground elder, bindweed and dandelions, if not dug out should be left to develop leaf growth and then zapped with a good weed killer such as glyphosate, if you can get it!
- Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges. The nesting period is officially from February to August.
- Make bee and insect hotel/houses to help the pollinators.
- Lift and divide any overcrowding clumps of daffodils, once they have died back. Apply liquid fertilizer to encourage next year's growth.
- Watch out for and dispatch viburnum and lily beetle grubs as well as aphids and other pests.
- Sow winter bedding plants, and spring bedding plants such as wallflowers and pansies between now and July.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs such as Forsythia and Philadelphus
- Tie in the leading shoots of greenhouse crops such as tomatoes, peppers and aubergines

as they grow, to avoid stems breaking or growing in undesired directions. Pinch out the side shoots of tomatoes, to strengthen the crop. Side shoots can be used to grow more tomato plants.

- Harden off plants raised from seed gradually exposing them to cooler conditions, but protect from frost. This especially applies to courgettes and squashes. Lettuces are hardier and can be planted out sequentially to keep a steady supply going.
- Put up shading in the greenhouse to limit inside temperatures to 77-81F
- Thin out direct sowings of vegetables, in stages to obtain good sized crops. Sow seeds such as lettuce and rocket in small numbers sequentially so avoid glut. Plan to keep space available for this. Cover carrots with insect mesh to defend against carrot fly.
- Tie in rambling roses as near to horizontal as possible to encourage side shoots to grow along the stems.
- Prune out dead or overcrowded stems of clematis Montana once it has finished flowering.

- Aubretia around the village has once again given a fine showing in April. Now is the time, however, to prune hard after flowering down to ground level if possible, to prevent it becoming bare and leggy
- Take softwood cuttings of deciduous shrubs
- Keep feeding your compost heap with plant material lawn clippings and horse manure if you can get it, as it will provide your garden with the nourishment it needs to thrive.
- If you like us are trying to keep the muntjac off your tulips, bluebells et al you might consider hanging small blocks of scented soap around the garden. This quirky idea was passed to me by someone I met on holiday, and I have found it recommended on line too. So I have tried it and will see how effective it is!



*Simon Colbeck
Chairman
Chedworth Gardening Club*

Geraniums

A man burst into a flower shop and urgently demanded two pink potted geraniums. The clerk explained that they did not have any, but could offer him African violets instead. "No," said the man sadly. "It was geraniums that my wife told me to water while she was gone."

Golf

Golfer to caddy: "Why didn't you watch where my ball went?"
Caddy to golfer: "I'm so sorry. Your ball doesn't usually go anywhere, so this took me completely by surprise"

7pm
Thursday
May 14th

National
Theatre
Live

CE

Chedworth Entertainment Club

Chedworth Village Hall

ALL MY SONS

WRITTEN BY ARTHUR MILLER DIRECTED BY IVO VAN HOVE



Bryan Cranston and Marianne Jean-Baptiste feature in this five-star, triumphantly acclaimed new production of Arthur Miller's classic play, from visionary director Ivo Van Hove. One family, the heart of the American dream. When wartime delivers profits for Joe, it comes at a price when his partner is charged with criminal manufacturing deals, and his eldest son goes missing in action. Will peacetime bring peace of mind, or will he be confronted by the consequence of his actions? Please join us to see this screening of a live production from the West End.

Tickets: £15 www.chedworthentclub.co.uk or on the door



CHEDWORTH PRODUCE MARKET

Saturday 17th January 2026
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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



The Arts Society Cotswolds

Lecture on Wednesday 10th June

Lecture: Wilde About Oscar, Famous for being Famous – and Infamous

This lecture examines the extraordinary life and dramatic times of Oscar Wilde from his Irish roots to his days as a student at Oxford and his meteoric rise to the heights of celebrity. We travel with him to the United States and examine his starring role within the artistic & theatrical worlds of late 19th century London. We visit his home in bohemian Chelsea and some of his favourite West End haunts. Finally, we learn how 'tired of being in the heights, he plunged into the depths' and became famous for being INfamous...

About the speaker:

Simon Whitehouse is a (recovering) actor, lecturer, presenter, Alexander Technique and voice teacher and award-winning London Blue Badge guide. He has worked as a guide lecturer in house at Shakespeare's Globe, the Royal Opera House, the BBC and the National Gallery guiding both public and private tours. He is on the faculty of Ithaca College and also lectures for the Blue Badge Guide training course on the performing arts and English literature. Simon's

specialisms and passions are theatre, literature, fashion and art history but whatever the subject, Simon will weave a wonderful story from it.



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.theartsocietycotswolds.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.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk

*Or contact Alison Morgans
on 07771 817050*

"Daddy, I want to ask you a question", said little Bobby after his first day at Sunday school.

"Yes, Bobby, what is it?"

"The teacher was reading the Bible to us – all about the children of Israel building the Temple, the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, the children of Israel making sacrifices. Didn't the grown-ups do anything?"



Short-staffed

Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means, Daddy."

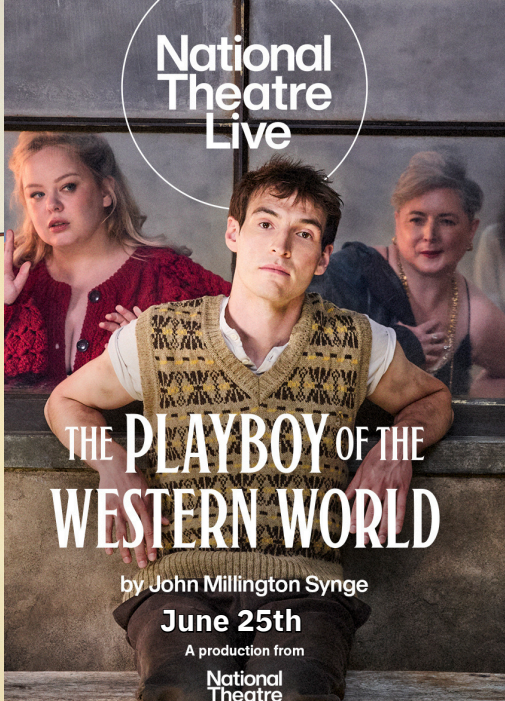
His father smiled "Okay. What does the Bible mean?"

"It's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

Prodigal

Prodigal son - one who left his home behind but took everything else.







CE Please see website for tickets, info and upcoming shows:
Chedworth Entertainment Club www.chedworthentclub.co.uk

Love your Burial Ground Week

Love your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature 2026

Registrations are open on the Caring for God's Acre website for Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature, our annual initiative to celebrate and monitor the wildlife to be found in churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries across the UK. The date this year are Saturday 6th – Sunday 14th June.

It is promoted by Caring for God's Acre in partnership with the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. It coincides with National Cemeteries Week, hosted by the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, as well as with the Great Big Green Week run by the Climate Coalition.

Burial Ground managers, PCCs and Friends groups are encouraged to get together with congregations and local residents to run events observing and recording wildlife, whether hosted by a local expert, as a fun activity for families, or any number of options in between.

Feedback from 2025 was overwhelmingly positive, with 97% of participating groups giving either a 4-

star or 5-star rating. A fantastic 58% said that attendees included people from outside their usual community, indicating that running an event helped to bring in new people to appreciate the wildlife treasures to be found. When asked to describe the highlight, quotes sent in by participating groups included "Finding hedgehog poo in our city centre churchyard!" and "A lovely evening looking for nature at its best."

Records can be submitted to CfGA via the iNaturalist app, an enjoyable and straightforward way to document findings that also assists in species identification, enhancing wildlife encounters. Simply visit the CfGA website to find out how to join the Beautiful Burial Grounds Project within the app and start submitting your records.

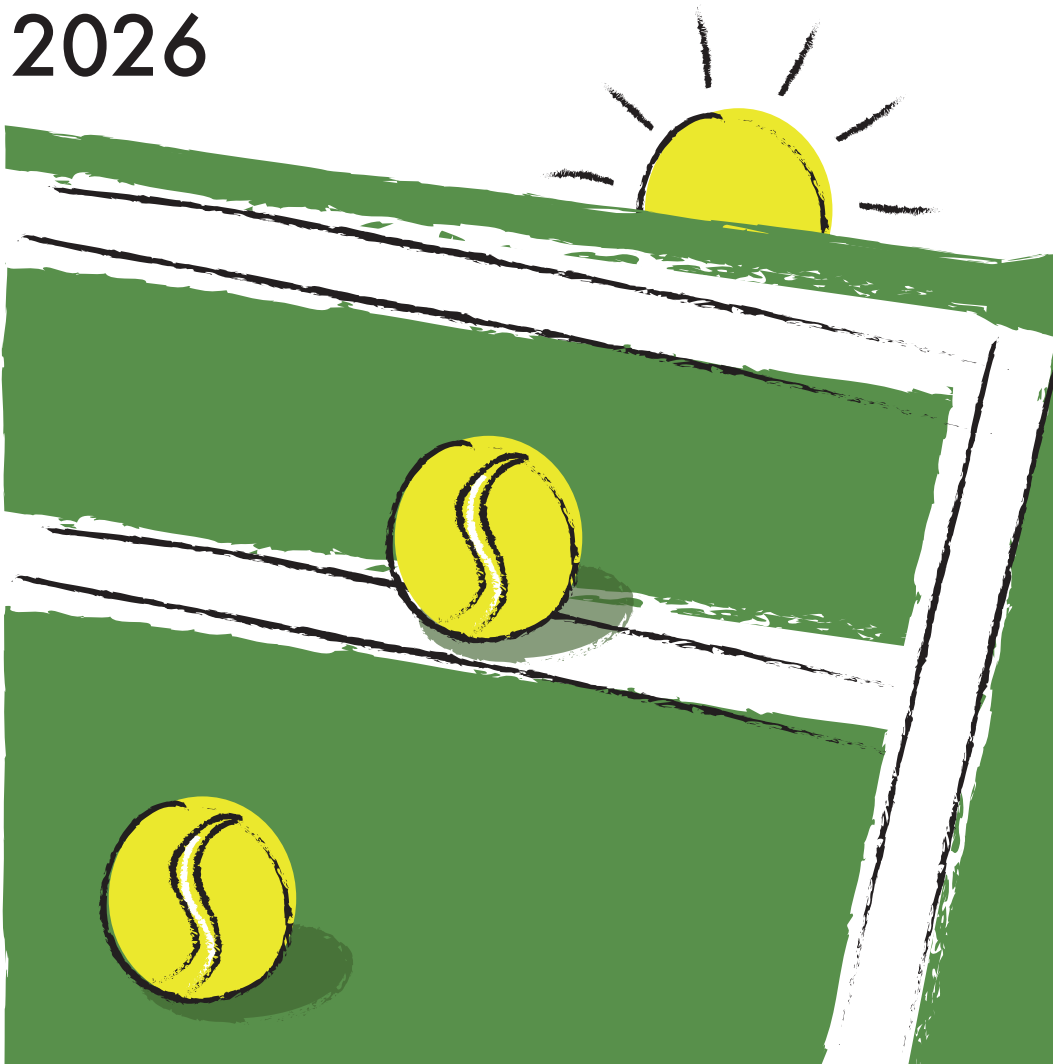
In 2026 we are specifically focusing on swifts, and the first 500 to sign up can request a booklet supplied by Action on Swifts, as well as the option to request copies of our Starter Guide to Burial Ground Heritage and Wildlife, plus a Guide to the Wildlife of Burial Grounds specially produced for us by the Field Studies Council.

Caring for God's Acre



The Coln Valley Mixed Doubles Open Tennis Tournament 2026

Saturday 13th June
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<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/CVTournament>

Sezincote House



Sezincote is situated about one and a half miles south west of Moreton-in-Marsh. The estate has had an interesting history. The name was originally spelt Chesnecote, meaning Oak wood. During the Civil War, the houses in the village and the church were ruined in an attack on Bishop Juxon, a prominent Royalist. The Home Farm is all that is left of the former village. The church was demolished in the 18th century. The original Sezincote House survived and was gabled in traditional style, according to an old print.

Sezincote House is Listed Grade 1 and is approached over a long driveway off the A44 Bourton on the Hill road. It is a most interesting house but is not typical of the traditional country houses in the area, in that whilst built of Cotswold stone, it is based on an exotic Indian style. It was designed by Samuel Cockerill, who also designed Daylesford House situated six miles to the south east for Warren Hastings in 1787. Both houses were financed by money made in India by members of the East India Company. The new owners great wealth enabled them to build large or adapt existing houses to create impressionable houses independent of the revenue produced from a traditional estate.

In 1798, John Cockerill became the owner of the Sezincote Estate. He had made a fortune in India working for the East India Company. His brother, Samuel Cockerill was an architect and between them they drew up plans for remodelling the original house. Work started in 1798 but came to an end with the sudden death of John Cockerill. Under his will, he left the estate to his brothers and sister. Charles Cockerill, the MP for Evesham who had also made a fortune in India bought out his siblings shares and in 1805 John commissioned Samuel to design a scheme for building a new house around the original house. Samuel Cockerill had the benefit of the assistance of Thomas Daniell, the Indian topographical artist who had perhaps a greater knowledge of Indian architecture than any other European of his day. Humphrey Repton was also consulted about the house and park.

The main block of the house is a rectangular two-storey building of orange-stained ashlar limestone (apparently from Barrington quarry) with a slate roof and is dominated by a large onion dome of turquoise copper and a great conservatory sweeping up to an arc to terminate in an hexagonal aviary. Mogul and Hindu elements of architecture are combined in the

design, including octagonal corner minarets with copper domes etc. Nicholas Kingsley in his book *The Country Houses of Gloucestershire* comments “The pungent orientalism of Sezincote remains, however a dress with which a late Georgian Classical house has been clothed” The interior of the house is not Indian but classical in style and has the main reception rooms on the first floor with the family living rooms below.

Work started on the remodelling in 1805 and Edward Clarke of Crawley near Witney gave an estimate of just under £6,000 for the main building work. In 1813, he received £6,789, and his refusal to give up the surplus led to a lawsuit. Work on the interior continued until about 1820.

The Indian theme of Sezincote is continued in the gardens, where Thomas Daniell’s design incorporates a Temple Pool, small Indian shrine, a bridge which has a balustrade surmounted by cast-iron Brahmin bulls, a row of three grottoes and other features of Indian architecture. The parkland and lake to the south of the house were designed by Humphrey Repton. He was so enthused by the potential of Indian Architecture that he prevailed upon the Prince of Wales to visit Sezincote in 1807, which was the catalyst for the project to remodel the Brighton Pavilion. Ironically for Repton, this was carried out to the design of John Nash.

The Cockerill association with Sezincote came to a sad end. Sir



Charles died in 1837 and was succeeded by his son Charles who changed his name to Rushout in the expectation of inheriting the nearby Northwick Park Estate through his mother. Unfortunately, a drafting error in Lord Northwick’s will meant that the estate passed instead to George Spencer-Churchill and Sir Charles Rushout lost everything in unsuccessful legal actions to gain possession. Sezincote was sold in 1888 to James Dugdale, whose family sold the estate in 1944 to Sir Cyril and Lady Kleinwort, who restored the house and gardens. Their family continue to own and run the estate.

The poet John Betjeman, used to visit Sezincote House when he was at Oxford University and refers to it in his verse autobiography *Summoned by Bells*, below is an extract from several pages that describe the house and 1920’s country house parties :-

“And there they burst on us, the onion domes
Chajjahs and *Chattris* made of amber stone:
Home of the Oaks, exotic Sezincote!
Stately and strange it stood, the nabob’s house,
Indian without and coolest Greek within,
Looking from Gloucestershire to Oxfordshire”

Robert Young

Correction for May Hill and Valley

On page 21 of the April edition there was an error in the Article on Sudeley

Castle- line 9 of the second paragraph should have referred to the death of **Edward VI**, not Edward IV (typo??).

National Biscuit Day

National Biscuit Day – 29th May

Did you know that Britain is the country with the highest biscuit consumption in the world?

According to industry research, we each eat about 500 biscuits a year. And the great biscuit dunking debate - over which biscuit holds up best when dipped in tea – can spark surprisingly passionate discussion.

Biscuits have been part of our daily lives for centuries. Their dose of sweet, tasty comfort is loved by 2-year-olds and 90-year-olds, and every age in between.

And so National Biscuit Day is held each year to honour this beloved snack. Our national favourite seems to be the chocolate digestive, followed by shortbread and chocolate fingers. But don't underestimate the appeal of custard creams, hobnobs, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies!

The McVitie's Digestive, first produced in 1892, is one of the most iconic biscuits in British history. Today, it remains a bestseller alongside other classics like the Rich Tea, the Bourbon, and the Jammie Dodger.

The word 'biscuit' comes from the Latin *panis biscotus*, meaning 'twice-cooked bread'. In Roman times, flour-based provisions were baked twice, to remove moisture, making them durable enough for long journeys. Ancient Egyptian sailors and Roman soldiers relied on these early biscuits as a portable, long-lasting food source.

The transformation from practical sustenance to sweet treat began around the seventh century, when Persian bakers added eggs, butter, cream, and eventually sugar and honey to their recipes, creating some of the earliest cookies in history. By the Middle Ages, biscuits had spread across Europe, with each region developing its own favourite.

The Industrial Revolution brought mass production to the biscuit world. British firms like McVitie's, Huntley and Palmers, and Carr's produced biscuits on an unprecedented scale. In 1831, Huntley and Palmers even invented the decorative biscuit tin, which not only kept biscuits fresh but also made them an attractive gift item.



A minister habitually told his congregation to drop a note in the offering plate if they needed a pastoral visit. One evening after the services he discovered a note that said: "I am one of your loneliest members and heaviest contributors. May I have a visit tomorrow evening?"

It was signed by his wife.

RHS lifts its ban on gnomes for Chelsea

RHS lifts its ban on gnomes for Chelsea

Good news for the gnomes of Britain: they are welcome at the Chelsea Flower Show this year. (19th to 23rd May)

It is only the second time in the history of the world's most famous gardening event that the RHS has allowed gnomes to appear at the show.

The reason is that the gnomes can help raise money for the next generation of gardeners.

The RHS is inviting celebrities to decorate gnomes to feature at the 2026 show, which will then be auctioned off

to raise funds for its flagship 'Campaign for School Gardening'. The campaign inspires school children to learn through gardening. The hope is to boost their wellbeing, skills and environmental awareness.

So, if you visit Chelsea Flower Show this year, look out for The RHS and the King's Foundation Curious Garden. It encourages everyone (even gnomes) to be curious and have fun gardening. The appearance of a gnome or two in the Curious Garden (and elsewhere at the show) will reflect and celebrate a tradition at Highgrove, The King's residence in Gloucestershire, where a gnome is often to be found in the Stumpery.



**The Pop-up cafe
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every Monday morning,
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friends & neighbours
(and always
a warm welcome).**

Come and see us!

Rendcomb Surgery Newsletter

Welcome to our May update. As we move into spring, we're focusing on mental wellbeing, seasonal health, and keeping you informed about services available at the practice.

May is Mental Health Awareness

Month - A time to raise awareness and support those experiencing mental health difficulties.

Looking after your mental health is just as important as your physical health. Many people experience challenges such as stress, anxiety, low mood, or feeling overwhelmed — and support is available. You are not alone.

At Rendcomb Surgery, we are committed to supporting your wellbeing. If you are struggling, please do reach out — early support can make a real difference.

Local Support Services

- Let's Talk Gloucestershire (Talking Therapies) – Free NHS support for anxiety, depression, and stress
- NHS 111 (press option 2) – For urgent mental health support, available 24/7
- Samaritans – 116 123 – Free, confidential listening service, 24/7

If you would like support or help accessing any of these services, please speak to our reception team who will be happy to assist you.

Spring Health Reminders

- Check if you are up to date with screening appointments (cervical, bowel, breast)
- Keep on top of long-term condition reviews
- Order your prescriptions in good time ahead of bank holidays

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.

Veteran Friendly Practice

We are proud to support our veterans.

If you have served in the Armed Forces, please let us know so we can ensure you receive the appropriate support and care.

Patient Feedback

Your feedback helps us improve.

You can:

- Speak to reception
- Submit feedback via our website

Thank you for your continued support.

Rendcomb Surgery

Providing safe, supportive care for our community

Not expecting this

The young minister took his wife to the Maternity Hospital and was told it would be a long labour. So, he agreed to ring at lunchtime for news. But when he phoned, he dialled the wrong number and got the County Cricket Ground. He said: "I brought my wife to your place early this morning. Is there any news?"

He was surprised to be told: "Yes, there are seven out and the last two were ducks."

Mistake

A mistake is proof that someone was at least trying to accomplish something.

Whose job is it?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that

because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.



This is No Wild Goose Chase Here

In Celtic Christianity, the symbol for the Holy Spirit is the wild goose. By flying in a V-formation, as each bird flaps its wings the whole flock adds 70% more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they want to go more quickly and easily because they are all travelling on the thrust generated by all.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation it quickly gets back so that it can continue to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

When the lead goose gets tired, it moves back into the formation and

another goose flies at the point position.

It pays to take turns at doing the hard tasks-sharing leadership and maintaining interdependence.

The geese in formation 'honk' from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

We need to be sure that our 'honking from behind' is an encouragement to those who lead us.

When a goose gets sick, or wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow the one to help and protect it. They stay until it is able to fly again or dies.

In our fellowship as Christian people, we stand by each other in all circumstances.

Margaret Bevis



Uncle Eustace

On dealing with summer fetes

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are beginning to plan your first Summer Fete in your new parish. That you appear to be looking forward to it shows how little you know about them.

Parishes hold Summer Fetes so that their clergy can preach more meaningfully on purgatory. Their ostensible purpose is to raise money for the church - which is wholly illogical. The parish could double the money raised if the Fete were dropped, none of the endless preparations made, if everyone spent a pleasant afternoon in their own gardens and each person simply donated £20 to the church instead. But we still feel obliged to go to endless trouble, making ourselves miserable so we can show each other what a good time we are having. That it generally pours seems to make the entire event even more grimly satisfying.

No, the real reasons for a Summer Fete are twofold. First, it gives the entire parish the chance to inspect the Rector's garden. Whatever state it is in, it will cause disapproval. If it is poorly kept, then I am clearly being ungrateful for having three acres of lawn to enjoy. Mowing it each week should be one of my delights; what else would I do with a whole day off each week anyway? The hand mower, kindly given by Colonel French is assumed to be quite adequate - and rumour has it that I need to lose weight anyway. The mower



was presented to me when the Colonel bought his own gardener a sit-on motor mower - which is of a size and opulence that makes me assume it has a drinks cabinet and satellite navigation.

The second reason for a Fete comes as a special perk for the organisers. It gives them a chance to inspect the inside of the Rectory. Under the pretence of looking for a little more sugar, they can systematically inspect all the kitchen cupboards and comment on their contents. By the end of the day, the whole parish will know what marmalade I spread on my toast, that I use unnecessarily expensive washing powder, and where I have unsuccessfully tried to hide the gin.

The details of what then happens while the Fete is in progress must wait until my next letter, when we will have had our own. It is now time for Evensong, drinks with Major Mallet and his wife, and then a quiet evening with a good book, while I toy with other possible hiding places for the gin this year.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace





"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, 'So far, so good...'?"

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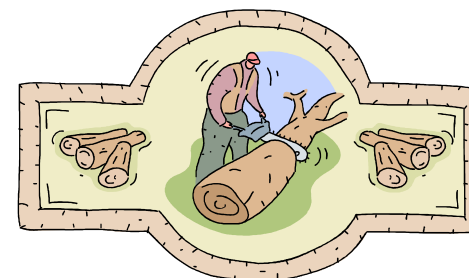
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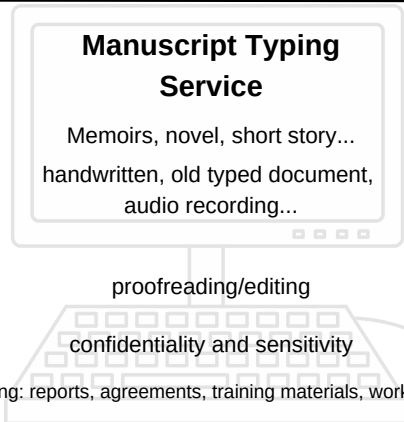
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