

**CRADLEY**

**MATHON**

**STORRIDGE**

# NEWSLETTER



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**June 2021**

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Interested? Please call Tim Barnes, General Manager on 01531 635339 or email [tim@caledbury.org.uk](mailto:tim@caledbury.org.uk)

**"It's incredibly rewarding"**

# Cradley Mathon Storrige Newsletter

£8.00 for 12 issues (or £1.00 per copy)

JUNE 2021

## LIVING IN TWO WORLDS

I remember as a child being taken to see the dolphins at Flamingo Park Zoo, in East Yorkshire- sometimes as a family, sometimes on trips from the local primary school. Performing animals may no longer be seen as appropriate, but in those days the dolphins performed their routine several times a day, as did the chimpanzees at tea time: and as far as we could tell, they took joy in it. I remember them now because our lives, as we emerge from the hardest months of the Covid pandemic, seem rather like the lives of those dolphins, their backs arching sometimes above the water, shining and brilliant, leaping and diving; sometimes walking on their tails on the surface of the water, seeming to laugh and chortle at us, and presumably expending huge amounts of energy, existing simultaneously in both dimensions, above and below the waterline.

We seem to me to be like those dolphins. On the one hand we're elated and rejoicing at the possibilities of release, of returning to a more joyous life, largely due in this country to a successful vaccine roll-out. On the other, we're aware of the need for caution, if we're to avoid another resurgence of the virus, especially with the rise of this so-called Indian variant. And on top of all that, I sense in many people a great sense of tiredness and of strain, doubtless arising from the unaccustomed stresses of the last sixteen months.

Again, we need to be kind to one another, to exercise patience, to make allowances for one another's very different perceptions and experiences in recent times. In church life and in other walks of life, many of us have been sustained and upheld to a degree by the services we've been able to provide and to access online.

I've been heartened by the regular congregations of seventy to eighty people who have joined us on Sunday mornings, week after week, at the same time being aware of those for whom that hasn't been possible, and who may have felt excluded.

Tensions undoubtedly arise now, with a return to partial normality, as we try to sustain that provision, whilst at the same time trying to hold onto a quality of experience for those actually gathering, increasingly, in our church buildings. Much as we would like to continue that online provision from our churches indefinitely, it's becoming clear that the limitations of the broadband signal in our part of the world, and of the equipment we have, will probably prevent that.

To return to the image we began with: the symbol of the dolphin, joyously showing its back above the element it lives in, has long been a symbol of those who live the Resurrection life: those who live in two elements, two dimensions, at once: this world, and the world that's yet to come. May the grace and strength of God sustain us now, as we seek to do the same!

Your Rector,

ROBERT WARD

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Jackie White, telephone 01886 833802

**Cover photo this month taken by Bill Crouch**



## *Church Services in June 2021*

**N.B.: Whilst we plan to continue live-streaming MOST SUNDAY MORNINGS FROM CRADLEY AT 10.45 a.m., the service ON THE FIRST SUNDAY, 6 June, will be live-streamed FROM MATHON, AT 9.30 a.m.**

<b>FIRST SUNDAY</b>	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion (CW)	<b>Live Streamed</b>	Mathon
<b>June 6</b>	10.45 a.m.	Family Service		Cradley
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	6.00 p.m.	Evensong (said if restrictions remain)		Storrige
Wednesday 9	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW) said		Cradley
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (said)	<b>Live Streamed</b>	Mathon
<b>SECOND SUNDAY</b>	9.30 a.m.	Mattins		Storrige
<b>June 13</b>	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion (CW)	<b>Live Streamed</b>	Cradley
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	6.00 p.m.	Evensong (said if restrictions remain)		Mathon
Wednesday 16	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW) (said)		Cradley
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (said)	<b>Live Streamed</b>	Mathon
<b>THIRD SUNDAY</b>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)		Storrige
<b>June 20</b>	9.30 a.m.	Mattins- Lay led		Mathon
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	10.45 a.m.	Morning Service – Lay led	<b>Live Streamed</b>	Cradley
Wednesday 23	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW) (said)		Cradley
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (said)	<b>Live Streamed</b>	Mathon
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY</b>	9.30 a.m.	Mattins – Shorter Mattins		Mathon
<b>June 27</b>	9.30 a.m.	Mattins -Lay led		Storrige
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	10.45 a.m.	Family Communion (CW)	<b>Live Streamed</b>	Cradley
Wednesday 30	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW) (said)		Cradley
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (said)	<b>Live Streamed</b>	Mathon

## *Church Services July 2021*

<b>FIRST SUNDAY</b>	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion (BCP)		Mathon
<b>July 4</b>	10.45 a.m.	Family Service		Cradley
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Trinity</b>	6.00 p.m.	Evensong (said if restrictions remain)		Storrige



## MATHON CHURCH

### READERS

6 June	Mr Crouch	Mr Walker
13 June	Mrs Crouch	Mrs Cutler
20 June	Mrs Seymour	Mrs Pugh
27 June	Mr Vivian	Mrs Armitage
4 July	Mrs Seymour	Mr Crouch

### SIDESMEN

6 June	Mr Crouch
13 June	Mr McKerracher
20 June	Mrs Pugh
27 June	Mrs Cutler
4 July	Mr Crouch

The Speaker on June 20<sup>th</sup> is Mr David Armitage

K.B.S.



## MATHON CHURCH MATTERS

Once again it was not possible to hold the usual Benefice Rogation Sunday procession round the village on 9 May due to Covid regulations, but a service was held in the church.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting will be held in the church on Monday, 14 June at 7.00 p.m., subject to Covid regulations, which will not be known until that time.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Kevin Brewer for his dedication and expertise in enabling the streaming of church services over the past year. Virtual services have been of great benefit to the many who have been unable to attend church due to Covid regulations. We are also indebted to Rev. Nicholas Menon who has volunteered to take services in the church whenever possible throughout the year.

Services will continue to take place in Mathon Church following the normal pattern.

SP

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## STORRIDGE CHURCH FLOWERS

6 June	Mrs L Coomber
13 June	Mrs L Coomber
20 June	Mrs A Moseley
27 June	Mrs A Moseley

## CRADLEY MATHON AND STORRIDGE SUPPORT GROUP

This group of local volunteers was created in March 2020 to support those in need of help during the Coronavirus pandemic. Recently we have had very few requests for help and as the rules relaxed on 17 May 2021, we have decided to stop offering the drug delivery service and disband the group on that day.

Since the group's inception in March last year, over 45 volunteers have delivered 601 items. This is a huge achievement, and we would like to thank all of those who have offered their time. The volunteers of all ages have been so generous, often driving many miles to remote parts of the locality. They have made an enormous difference to people's lives during this difficult time.

BRUCE AND SARAH HERRIOT

## CRADLEY CHAPEL

(Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion)



Services each Sunday at  
10.30 a.m.

~~~~~  
Communion Service  
on the first Sunday of each month

~~~~~  
*A very warm welcome awaits you.*

## DON'T FORGET!

Hard copies of advertisements and articles should be placed in the post box attached to the left hand side wall of the former butchery,  
**Bosbury Road, Cradley.**

## NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Send articles and enquiries to  
**Editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk**  
Send advertisements and notices to  
**Adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk**

## **CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL**

### **BOOKINGS**

**Hire our picturesque 15<sup>th</sup>-century venue  
for your event**

Cradley, Mathon and Storridge  
Residents/Organizations      £7 per hour

For those outside  
the three villages              £35 per hour

For further details and bookings contact  
Jeff White on **01886 880000**  
or book online at [cradleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://cradleyvillagehall.org.uk)

### **HERITAGE COLLECTION**

**EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON  
2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

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EXPLORE LOCAL HISTORY  
LOOK AT OLD MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS  
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THURSDAY AFTERNOONS  
1.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.**

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[www.cradleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.cradleyvillagehall.org.uk)**

## **THE SUMMER NIGHT SKY**

With the rapidly decreasing numbers of hours of darkness approaching summer, you may give little attention to the night sky, but there is plenty to be seen with binoculars still; especially as the Milky Way in the east is rising higher each evening.

The first picture is of the Owl nebula, near overhead



this month, in our own Milky Way galaxy at 2000 light years, and about one light year across. It is an expanding cloud bubble of hydrogen and helium mixed with heavier elements that were created in the final explosion of a star long ago. Oxygen that was created in the later stages before its explosion is in the expanding bubble cloud travelling at thousands of kilometres per second, and the ultraviolet light from the star causes it to fluoresce green. The boundary impacting interstellar space causes the red emission from hydrogen. The second picture is the ring nebula, with the same process, which is very bright and easily seen with binoculars between the bottom two stars of Lyra.



CHRIS BADDILEY

## CRADLEY SURGERY NEWSLETTER

Dr Patsy Dye  
Dr Chris Spruce  
April 2021



Slow changes are afoot at the Surgery along with Government loosening of the Covid lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that, although there is a degree of relaxation and optimism, the year-long experience of this pandemic has included some inappropriate complacency and a few false starts.

We are a bit different from a pub or restaurant or your kitchen. We still have a duty to protect our vulnerable patients and our staff.

Just this morning there has been an announcement that the opening up timetable is not yet secure.

There is no government or NHS guidance at the time of writing for general practices. We continue to space appointments to avoid people waiting, and to allow time to clean in between patients, wear masks, and limit appointments to those where there is a clinical need for face-to-face assessment or intervention.

We started planning a change in how we offer appointments in May and this has required a lot of thought and planning. It will take some time for reception and our clinicians to adjust. Your patience has been admirable so far and please be tolerant.

Our doctors at the surgery now have extra work managing patients who are on waiting lists. Those who are waiting longer for specialist care or follow-up are coming to us to manage symptoms.

There is good news. Hospital consultants and clinics are now doing more remote (phone) consultations. This avoids a trip to the hospital in many cases and saves everyone time. The doctors are good at deciding when a patient's issue can be handled in this way and when you need to be seen. Communication and feedback to the hospital is key in managing this.

Even better news! Our nurses are delighted with our new ECG machine purchased with funds from community donations to our Medical Equipment Fund. We are secretly pleased that it is more up to date than anyone else's (for now)

Stay well

DR PATSY DYE

**NEWSLETTER  
COPY DEADLINE DATES**  
Advertisements/notices: 12<sup>th</sup> of the month  
(Except December: 9<sup>th</sup> of the month)  
Articles: 16<sup>th</sup> of the month  
(Except December: 12<sup>th</sup> of the month)

Like so many other churches, organisations, and clubs, we have been relying on Zoom and personal contact to keep things going. We have had three Zoom meetings over the last three months. The first one in February we had a guest speaker being Rev. Helen Robertson who spoke on "Waking up: it is time to be moving on after Covid". It was a real eye opener.

In March we had Andy Worthington, Head of Church Relations for Open Doors. This organisation is very actively involved in work with our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters around the world and are publishers of the World Watch list which shares details of those countries where being a Christian is extremely difficult and dangerous.

In April, Chris Roberts, the Group Scout Leader from 1<sup>st</sup> Cradley, spoke about his scouting experiences and how that had interacted with his faith. For May, Mike Vockins, whom many of you will remember played a leading role in St. James' Church here in Cradley before retiring to the South-West, will be speaking and leading Communion.

Like so many, we were hoping to have a face-to-face meeting in June, but with things as they are at the moment, and as it would be only four days after the planned easing of lockdown, we have decided to hold another Zoom meeting instead. If you would like to join us on Zoom for the 29 June meeting, please contact Roy Smallwood on 01886 880858, and he will add you to the list of invitees.

For those of you who do not know about Christians Together in Cradley, we are a group of Christians of varying ages, and from different denominations, who come from Cradley and the surrounding villages. Our meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month, except for Christmas and Lent. Before Covid, meetings typically took place in various members' houses, usually with 15 or more people joining in.

What do we do? You will see from the above that we try to get different speakers each month; testimonies, a quiz, or a bible study, followed by refreshments. From time to time, social events such as a BBQ, supper, and a Christmas party/meal in January are held to add to the times of Christian fellowship we enjoy together.

Anyone is welcome, and if transport is required this can be arranged. Do please join us if you would like to; we would love to extend a very warm welcome to you.

For more details contact: - Alan & Angela Jameison  
01684 592600.

**CROWCROFT MARKET @ The Yard**

**VISIT US SUNDAYS:**  
April 18th, May 16th, June 27th, July 18th,  
August 15th, September 19th  
**10.30AM – 2.30PM**

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- Fresh, locally sourced products
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Post lockdown, a new run of markets for 2021 has been planned by Rachael and Andy from Wykeham Gardens.

We offer a full Farmers' and Crafts Market, we will also have bouncy castles, dog agility and fun dog show, blacksmith demonstrations and have-a-go sessions, pygmy ponies & Guernsey goats plus owls & birds of prey. Participatory activities will be back as soon as we are allowed under Covid regulations.

Do come along and browse round the stalls and drop in to Wykeham Gardens Plant Centre as well. At the Plant Centre we have expanded, with a new 'Pot Store', greater range in the shop area and many new and beautiful plants.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Crowcroft Market.

**MATHON PARISH HALL**



**EXERCISE CLASS**

**MONDAYS**  
**12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m.**

Do join us at our friendly exercise class: a tutored routine designed for the mature individual, covering the whole body and focusing on stretching.

You'll feel more flexible rather than exhausted!

£4.00 per session

For further information ring Sue on  
**01886 880541.**

**Flashed Light.**

Hands outstretched he hovers  
dragon resting on the wing.  
Caught in the beams of morning  
hanging still below high clouds.  
Sunlight warm upon his colours  
he wakes, then spinning dives.  
A tail thrash into shadow  
where light so seldom shines,  
deep down in quiet darkness  
crest high above proud spine.  
A secret blaze of glory,  
swift shining amber glow.

The vision of another world  
a king in his domain  
once seen rejoicingly recalled.  
A brightest flash of memory,  
The newt in silent flight

*Jonathan Clay*

# TAX HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

April 2021

## Allowed and Clear

Tax allowances enable us to keep more of our income than if everything was taxed. Here we look at the most common allowances so you can check you're making the most of what's available.

The figures below are for the 2021/22 tax year.

## Personal Allowance

The most flexible and best known of all tax allowances, it means most people receive the first £12,570 of taxable income without paying tax. It's generally used for income from work or pensions (including State Pension) and allocated via the tax code system which determines "at-source" PAYE tax deductions. It can, however, be used as a tax allowance against most types of income. But if you are lucky enough to have taxable income over £100,000 you'll find your Personal Allowance is reduced, and if income exceeds £125,140 you get none at all.

## Blind Person's Allowance (BPA)

BPA gives an additional £2,520 of tax free income, which means a tax saving of up to £504 for a basic rate taxpayer. It is transferable to a spouse or civil partner if the claimant is a non-taxpayer.

You don't have to be completely blind. In England, BPA is available to anyone registered as Severely Sight Impaired and in Scotland and Northern Ireland, to anyone unable to undertake any work for which eyesight is essential. HMRC offers a dedicated helpline for BPA claims and enquiries on 0300 200 3301.

## Married Couples Allowance (MCA)

MCA applies for marriages and civil partnerships where at least one of the couple was born before 6<sup>th</sup> April 1935. You generally need to be living together, but if separated through circumstance rather than a decision to formally separate it can still be claimed. Although the MCA is £9,125 it is only given at 10% so is best viewed as a simple tax reduction of up to £912.50. It can be transferred between the individuals or shared if that works better. It is reduced proportionately for those on incomes above £30,400, but cannot reduce below the minimum allowance which is £3,530 for 2021/22.

## Marriage Allowance (MA)

If you're too young for MCA you may qualify for MA (you can't have both, though). MA allows the transfer of 10% of the Personal Allowance from one spouse or civil partner, who is unable to use it, to the other. This usually means that one of the individuals in the marriage or civil partnership will have an income below the personal allowance and the other will be a basic rate tax payer (higher rate taxpayers can't have it). The transferable amount of £1,260 can save up to £252 in tax. It was introduced 6 years ago but still goes unclaimed by some who would qualify, but new

claims can be backdated for up to 4 years if appropriate.

## Allowances for Savings Interest

Interest payments from or credited to ISAs are not taxable and don't count towards any of the allowances mentioned below. Individuals can put up to £20,000 into ISAs each year.

The Personal Savings Allowance (PSA) permits £1,000 of taxable savings interest to be received tax free by anyone who pays no more than basic rate tax. The PSA for higher rate taxpayers is £500.

For those on modest incomes the "Starting Rate for Savings", currently 0%, may be relevant and if general income is very low then some unused Personal Allowance may also be available. The upshot is that if your total taxable income for the year (including savings interest outside ISAs) comes to less than £18,570 then any part which is interest should be tax free.

## Dividend Allowance

Dividends payments from or credited to ISAs are not taxable and don't count towards the separate Dividend Allowance which permits £2,000 of non-ISA dividend income before any tax is due on it. If any Personal Allowance is unused by other incomes the spare could be used to cover further dividend income.

## Property Allowance and Trading Allowance

These are separate allowances of £1,000 each which work in a similar way. The allowance means that income up to £1,000 from a property business (rental income) is tax free. Similarly, income up to £1000 from self-employment (trading income) is tax free. Where income is over £1,000 the taxable figure is calculated by deducting either actual expenses or a flat £1,000, whichever produces the best result.

**Note:** Some of these allowances are allocated automatically – for example, banks and building societies now don't generally deduct tax at-source from interest as most people will be eligible to receive it tax free, but HMRC is sent reports on interest payments which it uses to check if tax might be due. However, some allowances are only given to those who claim them – Marriage Allowance being a prime example. So, if you think you are eligible for a tax allowance that you aren't getting it could be that it's one you need to actively claim from HMRC, either on-line or by ringing 0300 200 3300.

Alternatively, if you are on a low income and you would like some assistance with any of the above, call Tax Help for Older People on 01308 488066.

This article is by Tax Help for Older People Registered Charity no 1102276 (Scotland no SC045819), offering free tax advice to older people on a low income who cannot afford professional help.

# Cradley Open Gardens 2021

Sat July 3rd  
Sun July 4th

12 noon-5pm

come and enjoy

12

interesting gardens  
(and stalls)

programmes

£6

Entry programmes  
available soon from:

Red Lion,  
Waterworks,  
Crompton Hill  
farm shop



look for the logo

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
**LEGION**



## CAPTAIN TOM 100 CHALLENGE FOR ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

My grateful thanks to all who sponsored me, thereby donating to the Royal British Legion's Fundraising Appeal.

I succeeded in completing my 100 circuits of a 1km route round Cradley in just over four days and the total raised to date is a magnificent £1,250.

Donations are still being accepted at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/julia-maclagans-captain-tom-100-challenge](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/julia-maclagans-captain-tom-100-challenge)

Thank you everyone.

JULIA MACLAGAN.

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
**LEGION**



### THE 3 VILLAGES VISITING GROUP

#### ARE YOU, OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO FEELS LONELY?



The Visiting Group is made up of a small number of volunteers who offer visits to anyone who may appreciate some company, whether it be for a catch up and a chat or maybe to share reading a book or just sit, whilst a partner goes out

Or perhaps you would enjoy the opportunity to share time together, by playing scrabble, chess, cards, including a hand of cribbage or doing crossword puzzles or any other games

If you, or anyone you know, might appreciate a visit, please let us know

#### Contact:

**Sue Ronan** on 01886 884646

Email: [sue@ronan.me.uk](mailto:sue@ronan.me.uk)

**Ros Rowberry** on 01886 880758



## KNIFE ANGEL VISIT TO HEREFORD CATHEDRAL – 14 JUNE TO 12 JULY



The Knife Angel will be situated outside the West End of Hereford Cathedral from 14 June to 12 July. The sculpture is 27ft tall, it weighs 3.5 ton and is made out of 100,000 confiscated knives received from 43 Police Forces across the UK. It originated from The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry and took sculptor Alfie Bradley over two years to construct. It has been on tour round the UK and has become a national monument against violence and aggression in all its forms. Not only does the Angel act as a catalyst for turning the tide on violent and aggressive behaviour, but it is also acts as a beautiful memorial designed to celebrate those lives who have been lost through these violent and thoughtless actions.

The team responsible for bringing the Knife Angel to Hereford is headed by Alison Davies and Meryl Cain. Alison lost her son Mark to knife crime in 2018. The team want to raise awareness of the catastrophic impact violent crime has on individuals, families and communities.

Inside both the cathedral and Hereford Library, there will be boards displaying work carried out in response to the Knife Angel by children and young people. The project team will also share work via social media. Hereford City Youth Council have also arranged a series of workshop events throughout the month including creative arts and self-defence coaching.

The knife angel creators would like as many young people as possible to become anti-violence champions and have created an anti-violence certificate as a thank you to all young people who stand up to violence. There will be printed copies of the certificate available at the Knife Angel for those who visit.

For more information please visit the Knife Angel Hereford website: [www.knifeangelhereford.co.uk](http://www.knifeangelhereford.co.uk).

# CRADLEY SCHOOL

## Red Nose Day

There was certainly some crazy hair in school on 19 March as everyone got in the spirit of fun for Red Nose Day! We raised an amazing £152 for such a great cause.



## Thrive Zone

On 23 March we opened our new Thrive Zone on the playground. This was to support National Reflection Day, exactly a year since we began Lockdown One. The children can use the area for a quiet prayer or reflection. They also enjoyed colouring positive message cards and posters, or just having some time to chat quietly



## Forest School

All of the children have been enjoying their Forest School sessions this term. Year 6 have enjoyed some cadet style training whilst Year 2 have been making carnival vehicles. There's been lots of den building and having fun in the sunshine too!

Photos of Forest School activities



Recycling & Food Bank Reminder



Just a reminder that we have four recycling bins in the school foyer for recycling crisp packets, foil, bottle tops and reading glasses. Please make sure items are separated into the correct bins. The food bank collection box is also in the foyer ready for your kind donations to the Ledbury Food Bank during these challenging times. Your continued support is much appreciated.



Fundraising

With fundraising during a pandemic being incredibly difficult, schools are reliant on other forms of fundraising to help raise vital funds.

One easy way of doing this is to use the Easy Fundraising app or visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) before doing any online shopping. It's so simple to use - all you have to do is sign up and search for Friends of Cradley School. Then you select the retailer you would like to shop with, do your usual online shopping and raise free donations for the school.

There are over 4,100 retailers to choose from including Just Eat, eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Amazon, Argos and many more. You can even go through Easy Fundraising to book holidays, and sort your car insurance! Please sign up today:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofcradleyschool/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=s-f2](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofcradleyschool/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-f2)

We also have our School Lottery, where you can win weekly prizes and be in with a chance to win up to £25,000! To sign up please visit

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk>

and search for Cradley. Thank you for your support. (See separate notice.)

## WHAT IS A SENAGER?

I am a Senager (Senior teenager).

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.

I don't have to go to school or work.

I am paid an allowance every month.

I have my own pad.

I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's licence and my own car.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and I don't have acne. Life is great!

I changed my car horn to gunshot sound. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers; now they drink like their fathers.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and re-named it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Old age is coming at a really bad time....

When I was a child I thought that "nap time" was a punishment; now it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."

I don't have grey hair; I have "wisdom highlights" - I'm just very wise!

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators; we haven't met yet.

Of course I talk to myself; sometimes I need expert advice.

At my age, "getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why I went in there.

I have more friends I should send this to but right now I can't remember their names. Now I'm wondering....did I send this to you or did you send it to me?

Now you can smile. Have a good day!

CONTRIBUTED BY CHRIS ORFORD

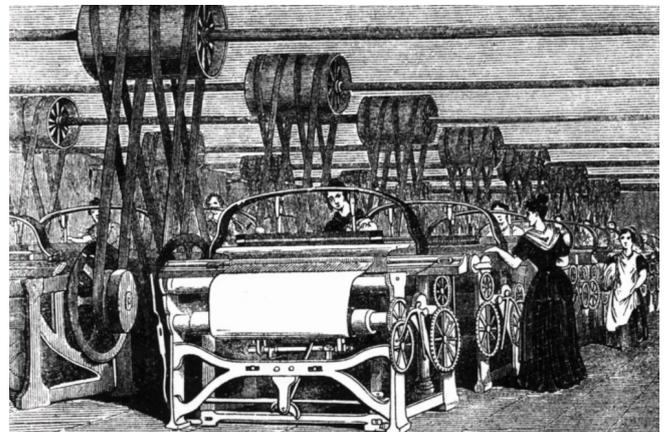


## EXCERPTS FROM PARISH MAGAZINES

We do not have a complete set of all Cradley Parish Magazines for 1897. As well as parish news, the magazines contained articles of various sorts – a series entitled 'Well prepared meals', tales of animals, other countries and science, as well as missionary work and other religious items. There is not a June edition for 1897 so in its absence here is a selection from the above.

**Animals:** under the title 'Our Dumb Dependents' from June 1896, there is an article about Charles Kingsley. 'Charles Kingsley seems to have loved every living creature around him. Mrs Kingsley tells how a family of runaway toads made their home in a hole in the green bank at Eversley, and the scythe was never allowed to approach their retreat. He had two little friends in a pair of sand wasps who lived in a crack of the window in the dressing-room, one of which he had saved from drowning in a basin of water. He petted the white stable cat and the black house cat and sat up with a sick dog during the last two nights of its life.'

**Science:** The Power of Sound from January 1897. 'If all the looms in a big spinning factory happen to beat together, as sometimes happens, the vibration is strong enough to bring the building down. Whenever a big mill is erected, a specialist is always consulted as to the placing of the machinery. His fee is generally



well worth the expense and trouble which an injudicious distribution of machines may cause. Part of the business of the machinery doctor consists in so arranging the distribution of looms and other machinery that their working will not endanger the stability of the factory. Few men, even with the most exhaustive training, can become experts at this business, as it requires a marvellous quickness of ear and delicate perception of sound with which few men are blessed.'

CONTRIBUTED BY JOAN PROSSER  
Member of the Heritage Group

**CRADLEY WI**

May's meeting was yet again virtual; May is our resolutions meeting and this year was no exception when we heard about and discussed this year's resolution: 'To raise the awareness of the subtle signs of Ovarian Cancer'. Joy gave the NFWI presentation and we watched two videos about ladies who had experienced the disease or lost someone to the disease. We were delighted that Cradley GP, Dr Patsy, joined us and we were able to have some thoughtful and useful discussions about the topic.

The Herefordshire Annual Meeting was again virtual, well organised and with some inspirational speakers. As restrictions are lifted, we are starting to plan the remainder of the year's programme, month by month.

Weather permitting, the book club in May will have been a garden discussion towards the end of May, and we have organised a real lunch club outing for June at Staplow, at last to raise a glass with friends.

Our June meeting will still be by Zoom, when the Herefordshire ambassador for Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), Shirley Edgar, will talk to us about this charity and how we can continue to support it.

Herefordshire's programme of Zoom events continues, with many of our members joining in, in particular the weekly craft sessions where we see crafts demonstrated and try out our skills at new things.

Also in June will be the National Federation of WI's Annual Meeting, sadly virtual, instead of the Albert Hall, but no doubt the singing of 'Jerusalem' will be real from the far corners of the country.

Joy continues to collect food donations, but now for Ledbury Food Bank as its satellite food bank at Bosbury has closed; donations can still be left in her porch (1 Huntingdon). Thank you, Joy, for continuing this.

Despite the wet start to May, we are all looking forward to the rest of the summer. I, (fighting weeds and rabbits), am preparing my garden for Herefordshire Federation's open garden scheme, in August; details will follow nearer the time.

Cradley WI offers a warm welcome to new members and if you would like more information please contact me.

MAUREEN SULLIVAN  
President Cradley WI  
01886 881045  
[Maureensullivan60@gmail.com](mailto:Maureensullivan60@gmail.com)

**BOSBURY FOOD BANK**

Bosbury Food Bank has closed, but we are still operating at St Katherine's Hall, Ledbury, on Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 12. As there are fridges and more storage space there, we are able to offer a wider selection to our increasing client base.

We would like to thank the W.I. for their continuing support

JANE IRELAND



**CRADLEY AND STORRIDGE DEFIBRILLATORS**

**Volunteer Emergency Telephone System (VETS)**

**1) Phone 999**  
and you will be told if a defibrillator is needed

**2) Phone 01886 878404**  
3 defibrillators, one number

A volunteer will bring the defibrillator to the patient.

Make a note of the number ... keep it by your phone ... add it as a contact in your phones.

**VETS is here to help you save lives**

*VETS SCHEME POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE*



**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**



**Cradley CE  
Primary School**

 **TOGETHER**   
**WE WILL**   
**GET THROUGH THIS** 



**PLEASE**  
**SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY**  
We need you now more than ever

- Help raise valuable funds
- Tickets cost just £1 each
- Win up to £25,000

To start supporting, visit:

**[yourschoollottery.co.uk](https://yourschoollottery.co.uk)**

and search for: Cradley

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.

**Cradley Mathon & Storridge  
TEENY TOTS  
play group**



welcomes parents or carers and little ones  
(age 0-5) to stay and play.

**Thursdays at Storridge Village Hall  
10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon.  
(£2 per family, includes a snack)**

Occasionally meets at Cradley School.

**Come and join in!**  
For information please contact:  
Rachel: 07790890183  
Annie: 01886 880964

**EVERGREEN CATCH-UP**

Well, here we are again. I can't believe it's been a month since I last "rambled on".

After so much really pleasant weather in April, (except for the cold winds and frost of course), we seem to have been plunged back into autumn. So many frosts and cold nights! Now, do I plant out my runner beans, which seem to have taken so long to grow in the greenhouse, or wait another week? Up here we battle with rabbits. Our bean patch is like Fort Knox!! It worked last year so let's hope it works again this year – or have they worked out a new plan of attack?

We have just had quite a heavy rain storm with thunder and lightning, but now the sun is shining again. I couldn't believe what happened last Tuesday: rain, snow, wind and hail, which deposited about four of five inches of hailstones on the yard which took a couple of days to go - unbelievable!

Anyway, I'm really looking forward to being able to meet friends and give them a hug in a few days. Who would have thought that in the year 2021 we would have to wait for permission to hug someone!

Well, the signs are looking good for life getting back to some sort of normality. So, hopefully, EVERGREEN could be resumed in the very near future. Until then I suppose I shall have to keep "rambling". I think about you all often and really miss the lovely times we had together. So let's be positive and hope it will all be happening again very soon.

Until then let's do lots of hugging and smiling and think of the good things ahead.

Something I saw in a friend's bathroom – "My aim is to keep this bathroom clean; your aim will help".

Speak soon, lots of love to you all

CHRIS ORFORD  
Club leader  
01886 880387





**WELL BEING**  
Relaxation Class



Gentle Stretching  
Breathing Exercises  
Tai Chi  
Zen Practice



**WEDNESDAY**  
12-1pm

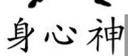
**£7 Per Session**  
(O.A.P £5)

@  
Cradley Village Hall  
Rectory Lane  
Malvern





NO Booking Required  
For Further Details  
Call Kev 07725161178





# 16th ANNUAL CRADLEY PRODUCE SHOW 2021



Saturday 18th September  
Cradley Village Hall

## SHOW SCHEDULE S

now available:

Cradley Village Hall:

Christmas Cottage

Clematus Cottage:

download from: [cradleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://cradleyvillagehall.org.uk)

or phone 01886 880 952



## NEWS FROM MATHON PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING

5 MAY 2021 At 7.30 p.m.

**Herefordshire Councillor** – Co Cllr Tony Johnson reported that a new Chief Executive, Paul Walker, had been appointed. Mr Walker had a good record in safeguarding/social care. This was especially relevant as Herefordshire Council's social/child care service was under investigation. There were still one or two Covid spikes in the County. An additional 3,000 people had been added to the At Risk register. 93% of the County was now connected to the Faster Fibre Broadband network, but there were still a few remote areas to be covered.

**PCSO/Police** - PCSO Nick Ashby reported that there had been a marked increase in the theft of catalytic converters around Herefordshire.

**Parish Hall** - Cllr Sam Harte reported that the Parish Hall Committee had been made Covid secure for the Police & Crime Commissioner elections on 6 May.

**Parish Map** - Cllr N Walker reported that the Parish Map still remained in Cradley in the care of Jeffrey White. As and when Covid restrictions were lifted, it would be re-instated in the hall.

**Appointments** – Cllr Sam Harte was re-appointed as the Council's representative on the Parish Hall Committee. It was noted that Mr David Baldwin's appointment on the Malvern Hills Trust Board had been extended in 2019 to run until 2023.

**Year End Accounts/Audit** – the Council approved the year end Accounts to 31 March 2021 (which had been internally audited). These were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk, together with the Statement of Exemption, Annual Governance & Annual Accounting statements.

**Next Meeting Date**—Wednesday 14 July at 7.30 p.m.

DIANA TAYLOR (MRS)  
Clerk to Mathon PC  
Tel: 01684 569430

E-Mail: [dtaylormathonclerk235@gmail.com](mailto:dtaylormathonclerk235@gmail.com)  
9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern, Worcs WR14 1NL  
Website: [www.mathonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.mathonparishcouncil.co.uk)



## STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

The winners of the April 100 Club draw were:

Daphne Beard	£25
Jane Batstone	£15
Don and Pamela Hurle	£10
Brenda Anne Bye	£5

The winners of the May 100 Club draw were:

Jim Harrington	£25
Catherine Best	£15
Robin Levy	£10
Lewis Refell	£5

The management committee are pleased to announce that, with effect from Monday, 17 May, the Village Hall opened its doors to bookings. Any booking will be subject to compliance with the Government's guidelines regarding the number of people and the type of activity permitted. The Covid risk assessments and health and safety measures are in place.

Due to the lockdown the Annual Meeting was not held in March, but it is hoped to hold it as soon as restrictions on numbers meeting indoors are lifted. I will advertise the date in the Newsletter and hope that as many people as possible will attend. Generous grants from Herefordshire Council have allowed the committee to undertake essential maintenance work such as damp-proofing the main room as well as ordering new double glazing and a new, lower ceiling, items that were on the 'wish list'.

New members on the committee are always welcome: user groups should according to the constitution nominate a representative, but individuals with an interest in keeping the valuable village resource operational will be most welcome. If you would like to join the committee, do please get in contact with me.

JACKIE WHITE

Secretary

01886 833802

[jackie.white@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jackie.white@hotmail.co.uk)



# MATHON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7.00 p.m. on 5 May 2021  
(via ZOOM)

The Chairman, Cllr Sam Harte, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr K Perkins and Mr David Baldwin (MHT).

## Chairman's Annual Report to 31 March 2021

This was the first Annual Parish Meeting since 2019 as both the Annual Parish and Annual Council Meetings were unable to be held in 2020 due to the Coronavirus restrictions in place. Parish Council meetings continued to be held via Zoom throughout the year but this would be coming to an end after 6 May 2021.

**Covid 19** - A Covid outbreak occurred in Mathon during 2020, but this was dealt with by Herefordshire Council and brought under control.

**Planning** - This year the Council considered twelve planning applications, including a re-application from the owner of the Cliffe Arms, which had to be held virtually via Zoom (unlike the first application held in the Parish Hall which attracted a large number of parishioners, all of whom objected to the application and signed a petition). Despite the limitations of the meeting, parishioners were made aware of the situation and over 85 objections were lodged with Herefordshire Planning. The application was refused for the second time. No Appeal has been made against this refusal.

A contentious agricultural planning development for a proposed agricultural building, which effectively created a barn over a previously approved manege was brought to the notice of the Council by concerned parishioners. The Council queried the use of this building, but it was approved by Herefordshire Planning for the storage of fodder and agricultural machinery. A planning application for a new manege site was subsequently submitted to the Council.

**Precept** - In November 2020 the Council set a precept for 2021/22 of £7,998.00 (the same level as 2020/21) as the Council was holding sufficient reserves for any future spending.

As Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty no longer offer a grant for footpaths maintenance, this has now become the responsibility of landowners. BB/HC will supply stiles/gates etc. but they have to be fitted by the landowner concerned, with Neil James the Locality Steward being the contact for this. Mrs Samantha James retired from her role as Footpaths Officer, but this has now been taken up by Cllr Kate Perkins. Our thanks to both Sam and Kate for their footpath work.

Thanks are also due to Ron Hadley who has maintained our open spaces and village green throughout the year.

Finally, thanks to all Councillors who have attended our Zoom meetings and to our Clerk, Diana Taylor, for steering us through Zoom during the pandemic year.

**Public Question Time** - No questions raised.

Cllr Nick Walker thanked the Chairman for guiding the Council through difficult times.

**Close of Meeting** – the Chairman thanked all those present and closed the meeting.

DIANE TAYLOR

Website: [www.mathonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.mathonparishcouncil.co.uk)

## WANT TO CONTACT A NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTOR?

Perhaps you would like an extra copy,  
or have had a problem with the delivery?

Then please ring:

Lin Brighton for Cradley East and North:  
01886 880425

Judith Aldridge for Cradley West: 01886 880953

Joy Perkins for Mathon : 01886 880301  
Mary McQueen for Storridge : 01886 884063

## Mathon Parish Hall

Every Friday

Mathon Parish Hall is open as:

**'Chat Coffee Stop'**  
10.30 a.m. until 12.00 noon

A place to relax, put your feet up from a hard morning's shopping, or from the rigours of a hard week, and relax for a little while with a **FREE** cup of tea or coffee, and biscuits.

Why not arrange to meet your friends here?

Hopefully meet new ones?

Come and chat, exchange ideas and views on Mathon and anything else that takes your fancy!

## ON THIS DAY

**June 1 1495:** The first written record of Scotch whisky appeared in the *Rolls of the Exchequer*. The distiller was Friar John Cor.

**June 7 2020:** In Bristol a statue of Edward Colston was pulled off its plinth and dumped in the harbour during a "Black Lives Matter" demonstration. Four people face charges including criminal damage. Their cases will be heard in the Crown Court in December 2021.

**June 7 1982:** Graceland opened to the public. In 1957 Elvis Presley bought the mansion, located on a 13.8 acre site just outside Memphis for \$102,500. After his death in 1977 ownership passed to his daughter Lisa Marie Presley. Graceland is the second most visited house in the USA with over 650,000 visitors annually. Only the White House has more visitors.

**June 9 1822:** In New York a patent was granted to Charles Graham for porcelain false teeth.

**June 10 1845:** The funeral of US President Andrew Jackson was interrupted by his African grey parrot, Poll, which swore so long and loud that it had to be removed from the service. It is assumed that Poll learned his vocabulary from his late owner who was known for his colourful and robust use of language. [*Sadly my sources do not reveal any of what Poll actually said.*]

**June 11 2009:** The 9 year old son of Texan Kimberly Krone saved her life by dialling 911 to call for help when she was struck by lightning inside her home. The lightning came into her kitchen through a light fitting, bounced off a saucepan she was drying then hit her chest and exited through her little toe. She was allowed home after 3 days in hospital.

**June 12 2015:** Zimbabwe adopted the US Dollar as its currency in place of the Zimbabwe Dollar. At the official exchange rate 1 US Dollar was worth 35 Quadrillion Zimbabwe Dollars.

**June 16 2016:** In a referendum the people of Switzerland rejected by about three to one majority a proposal for each citizen to receive a guaranteed minimum income of SF2500 per month whether they worked or not.

**June 19 2005:** The US Formula 1 Grand Prix took place at Indianapolis with only 6 of the normal 20 car field competing, all fitted with Bridgestone tyres. The Michelin tyres fitted to the other 14 cars suffered structural failures in practice with the result that the cars were withdrawn on safety grounds.

**June 23 1942:** Luftwaffe pilot Armin Faber landed his FW190 fighter intact at Pembrey in South Wales having made a serious navigational error, mistaking the Bristol Channel for the English Channel. He was

low on fuel and landed at the first opportunity. The RAF had been desperate to get their hands on an FW190 because in many ways it outperformed the Spitfire. The capture of this example enabled them to identify its weaknesses and learn lessons to improve RAF aircraft.

**June 23 2020:** Pakistan International Airlines grounded 125 of its pilots. It had been found that they had either cheated in their exams or were holding fake pilots licences.

**June 27 1743:** The Battle of Dettingen was fought between the French army and an alliance of the British, Hanoverians and Austrians. The outcome of the battle was somewhat inconclusive, described as a happy escape for the British forces rather than a great victory. Most notable was the fact that this was the last occasion on which a British monarch - George II - led his troops in combat.

**June 28 2009:** Stephen Hawking hosted a party for time travellers. He sent out the invitations, detailing the precise time and location of the party, the day after it was due to have taken place. His guests all failed to arrive which led him to conclude that none of them was then capable of time travel but he did not rule out the possibility that time travel might be possible at some point in the future.

**June 30 1980:** The sixpence was withdrawn from circulation. It was first minted in 1551, when it was made of pure silver. The silver content was reduced over time and then from 1947 onward they were made from cupronickel. The last sixpences were minted in 1970.

IAN THOMPSON

### **STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL** **is available for hire by residents and non-residents of the parish**

There are three rooms available, one large, suitable for up to eighty people. Both smaller rooms are suitable for meetings or use as an occasional office. A well equipped kitchen for the use of hirers is included in the hire charge. **All** rooms have a hearing loop.

#### **CHARGES**

£7.00 per hour  
Use of car park, without hall £10.00 minimum  
(£1.00 per car if more than 10 cars.)

**Further information/bookings please contact our Bookings Secretary, Liz Kabani:**

**Phone: 07518 328435**  
**E-mail: [svhbookings@fastmail.co.uk](mailto:svhbookings@fastmail.co.uk)**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - CAR CRIME

**PROTECT YOUR CAR,  
LEAVE IT:**

**1. LOCKED**  
LOCK YOUR CAR WHEN YOU LEAVE IT

**2. LIT**  
PARK IN A WELL-LIT AREA

**3. EMPTY**  
HIDE ANY ITEMS ON SHOW

**SHARE THESE 3 STEPS  
WITH 3 FRIENDS**



[www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349

Car crime is a real problem in the UK. Alarming, **one car is stolen every ten minutes**. With Covid-19 and the recent lockdowns, many people aren't driving or checking on their cars as much as they used to. At Neighbourhood Watch, we need your help to remind car owners to remain vigilant about where and how they park their cars, in order to keep them safe.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network, says,

"Most car crimes happen because cars are left unlocked. There is a misconception that some cars are auto-locking and lock themselves if left unattended after a period of time. This isn't always correct. Another misconception is that your car is too old and no one will bother stealing it. This is also incorrect – both new and old cars are at risk. Having a car stolen or broken into is more than simply a hassle, it can impact on people's livelihoods. The good news is that there are simple steps everyone can take to help reduce the risk to their car. With only a 46% recovery rate we're reminding everyone to leave your car **locked, lit and empty**."

**Remember - Leave your car:**

- **1. Locked** A simple mistake that can prove calamitous: **44%** of cars are broken into via an unlocked door.

- **2. Lit** **80%** of car crime occurs during the evening or at night. Parking near street lamps or in a busy area can deter thieves.
- **3. Empty (or with no items on show)**. Owners often forget that personal belongings within the car are at as much risk of being stolen as the car itself.

John Hayward-Cripps continues, "Car thieves are opportunists. Leaving items on a car seat or forgetting to lock your car can act as an invitation for crime. We want to instil the habit of double-checking where and how you've parked with our three simple steps: **leave it locked, lit and empty**. As a local charity with a trusted voice in the community, we're asking everyone to proactively support their neighbours and friends by sharing our three steps with three others. By spreading the word, we're confident we can crack down on car crime which can be deeply distressing and debilitating for its victims."

Neighbourhood Watch Network (the national umbrella charity for Neighbourhood Watches across England and Wales)

CONTRIBUTED BY BARBARA DAVIES

# ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH, CRADLEY

## OPEN GARDENS

Please see separate notice regarding Open Gardens on 3 and 4 July.

There will be a variety of stalls at some of the gardens, including Plants, Books and CD's, Gifts, Cakes, Teas, and a Raffle.

If any of you can donate items for these stalls that will be much appreciated. Also if you are able to help at any time over the two days, that would also be much appreciated.

Please contact Ian on 01886 884682.

## CRADLEY CHURCH 200 CLUB

This month's 200 Club winners are

- 1<sup>st</sup> Matthew Bailey,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Foord,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jen Dunford.

IAN BAILEY

## MATHON BELL RINGERS

Happily life is returning to some sort of normality, although our lives will never be quite the same post Covid19.

Since lockdown last year, church bell ringers have been unable to ring for services, practices and special occasions.

At St John the Baptist, Mathon, we have tried to fulfil all the constraints put upon us by the government in an effort to keep us all safe. Now that lockdown restrictions are easing we are able to return to some ringing.

Between 17 May and 21 June (depending upon government rulings) we shall be ringing three bells for Sunday services and not practising.

If all goes well we shall return to six bell ringing for Sunday services and practice nights after 21 June.

As a band we hope that the village will appreciate and enjoy hearing the sound of the bells once again providing a background to village life. The sound of bells is as much part of the English soundscape as a skylark in summer or a fox calling at night.

If you are interested in seeing what we do, hidden away in the top of the tower, get in touch and we will show you.

Best wishes from Jenny, Sarah, Colin, Rob and Tim

JENNY LAWRENCE  
Email southyde@gmail.com

### Mathon Parish Hall Management Committee

## Hire Rates Mathon Parish Hall

\*\* Minimum booking two hours

	Per Hour**	Per Day
Mathon Residents/ Organizations	£7	£55
Cradley or Storridge Residents/Organizations	£8	£65
For those outside the three villages	£9	£75

Commercial bookings by negotiation

The fully centrally heated hall with disabled access consists of a large well equipped kitchen, a spacious hall with a seating capacity for ninety, toilets including disabled toilet, and a large easily accessed car park for approximately thirty cars.

Linen service (additional charge).

Tables and chairs available to hire out.

To check availability and make a provisional booking, please contact the Booking Secretary on 01886 880824

or email [mar.ainsco@btinternet.com](mailto:mar.ainsco@btinternet.com)



## CRADLEY, MATHON & STORRIDGE WEB SITES



## THE GEOMETRY OF SPACE TIME AS WE SEE IT

Last month, I explained the basic concepts of special relativity, the speed of light relating space and time uniquely, into what we observe as HERE and NOW, which have no meaning except for the observer. Our concepts of distance, time, speed, mass, or anything else we observe are not absolute, but purely relative to the observer. An example is the mass of any object moving at speed with respect to the observer as in a particle accelerator; more and more energy in excess is required to accelerate it faster and faster, so this is perceived as increasing mass. The true absolutes are the physical constants of nature, including the speed of light, the electronic unit of charge, the constants that scale the forces of nature, and Plank's constant that relates energy to time, (for future discussion).

Here I will describe the effect of mass and gravity on the geometry of space-time. This is general relativity and also affects everything around us and what we perceive.

If we accelerate, say in a car, we feel the force from the change in speed pressing us back into the seat. The engine has to generate power to do so. That acceleration is absolute, and not dependent on the speed with respect to anything else. One can have acceleration even when the speed is zero momentarily with respect to something else. The reverse process is deceleration but still we experience the force. What we mean by a force is that which causes a change in speed or departure from a linear motion.

Similarly, standing on earth, we experience the gravitational force of the action of the mass of the earth acting on our own mass, that we call weight. We would have no weight in the absence of the earth but still have our same mass, experienced as inertia. To escape earth's gravity ( $g$ ), we have to accelerate off the surface as in a rocket with acceleration greater than that of the earth's gravity (typically  $3g$ ). The gravitational acceleration decreases inversely as the square of distance from the attracting mass, as was determined by Isaac Newton from considering the orbit of the Moon.

In free fall, in the absence of the atmosphere, from infinite distance, we would accelerate to the earth's surface impacting at about 12 kilometres per second. That is the speed that we would have to leave the earth's surface to be free of its gravitational field at infinite distance. For the free fall, gravitational energy at a distance is reduced by converting into kinetic energy in its approach. If the force hence the energy at infinite distance is zero then it must be negative when nearer. All binding forces are negative in energy.

Orbiting satellites are in a continual state of falling towards the earth, but for low orbits, just above the atmosphere, they are made to travel at 8 kilometres per second parallel to the surface. At that speed, they fall at the same rate as the horizon dips, and so maintain their altitude. The Moon does the same,

taking 27 days to go around the earth once with respect to the stars, and the earth taking a year to go around the sun once. The same process applies to all planets with respect to their stars, and stars with respect to the galaxy etc. The departure from a straight line is the acceleration.

Imagine that we were in a closed container attached to a rocket and had a laser beam directed from one side to the other. If we accelerated in the rocket, the laser beam spot on the far side would become lower as the light beam is being left behind in the time it takes to travel from side to side. The same applies if we are resting on the earth and experiencing gravity. One cannot distinguish between acceleration and gravity. So the path of light would have been bent by the presence of gravity in accordance to its strength. It is actually space-time that is no longer flat.

This was Einstein's realisation, and it is the basis of general relativity. It explains the gradual precession of the orbit of mercury which could not be explained by simple Newtonian physics.

Light itself has an energy which is Plank's constant multiplied by its frequency. Shining a beam up into the sky then the light has to climb up the difference in gravitational energy in the form of losing some of its energy, hence lowering its frequency with altitude. That also implies time is changing with altitude as well. If you had two clocks, one on the earth and one taken by a plane or a balloon at altitude, that one would be running at a slightly faster rate in the weaker gravitational field, even if not moving relative to the earth. Returning to the earth, the rates would then be the same but the difference accumulated is permanent.

This has been demonstrated many times with very accurate clocks and is also the case right across the universe. This was most accurately measured with the Voyager probe now leaving the solar system, as the radio frequency transmission is measurably shifted when the radio beam nearly lines up with the sun. It was first demonstrated at a solar eclipse by Arthur Eddington where light curvature from stars passing the limb of the sun as looking back as if it were in a straight line, was seen to bend very slightly away from it as a magnifying effect.

The gravitational distortion from mass makes everything look as if it is on a curved surface, so distances and travel times are longer than for a flat surface, and triangles would have more than  $180^\circ$  between the three angles. (I am using a two-dimensional curved surface analogy, rather than our unimaginable three dimensional curvature). The distance to time ratio is always the same, the speed of light. In a non-expanding universe from its mass of alone, space-time is no longer flat but distances are curved in just the same way, with the ratio still being the speed of light. Einstein's model of general relativity is proven accurate to high precision, after 100 years of measurements.

This method of looking for a magnifying effect in the pattern of later or density variation is used on the early universe mapping to see if the universe is flat or curved by its own gravity. It would be curved if it were not expanding, but the expansion rate exactly matches the curvature, making it appear flat.

Another example is time travel. If a person accelerates in a spaceship to a distant star for half the journey and decelerates the rest, he would see time compressed for the journey in the direction of the star and time back from earth running slower. For the return journey, the direction of travel and associated effects swop over but even so it is cumulative. For a roundtrip with 1 gravity acceleration and deceleration and then acceleration and deceleration back for a 2500 light year trip each way, the round-trip time for the traveller would be 32 years, that is, 16 years each way, by their clock, while generations of observers on earth not experiencing the acceleration / deceleration would find it was 5,032 years! Hence travelling into the future but never being able to come back in time. Gravity and acceleration have the same effect.

We carry the equations in our mobile phones to correct for the time signals from the GPS satellites orbiting the earth at a distance which are in a weaker gravitational field than on the earth's surface and that makes them run at a slightly faster rate. If it wasn't for that, our satnav systems, would instruct us to turn left and right in the wrong places. Everything is relative to the observer - space, time, apparent mass, etc. - or just a perception; only the physical constants of nature are absolute.

CHRIS BADDILEY

### A FEW 'ELEMENTARY' ANAGRAMS

nit  
deal  
none  
livers  
no orb  
adorn  
no crab  
groan  
in coils  
my curer  
I rumba  
iron flue  
um senile  
umber lily  
nerdy hog



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in Herefordshire & Worcestershire

## OIL BUYING GROUP

### A bit of background

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More details can be found at [www.comfirst.org.uk](http://www.comfirst.org.uk)

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To avoid clashes of dates and venues, please remember to check the diary at the back of this *Newsletter*

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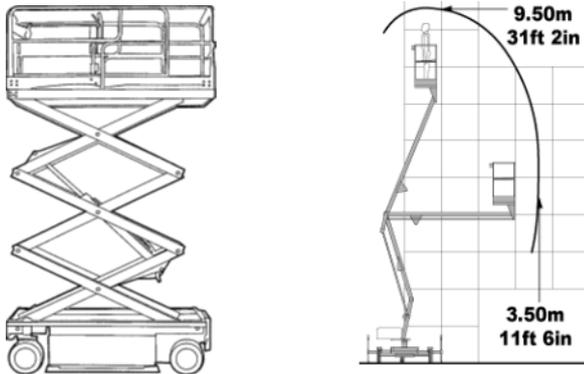
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Wednesday	9am – 4pm
Thursday	CLOSED
Friday	9am – 4pm
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[ceciliahalldance@live.co.uk](mailto:ceciliahalldance@live.co.uk)

### ADULT DANCE AND FITNESS CLASSES

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	1.20 p.m.	Tap Dance
	2.30 p.m.	Ballet
<b>Tuesdays</b>	10.30 a.m.	Tap Dance
	11.30 a.m.	'FitSteps Fab'
	1.45 p.m.	Silver Swans Ballet (over 55's)
	3.00 p.m.	Belly Dance
<b>Wednesdays</b>	9.30 a.m.	Modern Jazz Dance
	10.35 a.m.	Ballet
	11.45 a.m.	'FitSteps'
	12.50 p.m.	Flamenco
	2.00 p.m.	Ballet
<b>Thursdays</b>	10.00 a.m.	'FitSteps Fab'
	11.15 a.m.	Silver Swans Ballet (over 55's)
	12.15 p.m.	Ballet
	2.00 p.m.	Silver Swans Ballet (over 55's)
<b>Fridays</b>	10.30 a.m.	Silver Swans Ballet (over 55's)
	11.45 a.m.	'FitSteps'
<b>Sundays</b>	10.00 a.m.	'FitSteps'

NEW PILATES CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS COMMENCE IN MARCH 'Hopefully'. Some early mornings plus Tuesday at 9.20 a.m. and Wednesday at 3.00 p.m.

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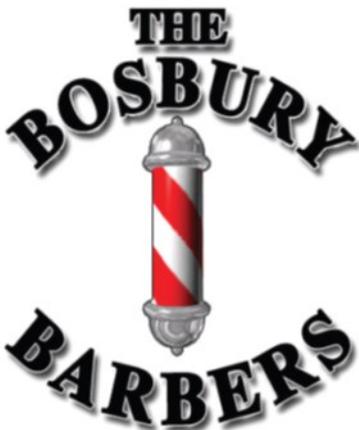
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The Parish Council have recently launched a 'Small Donations Scheme' allowing YOU to apply for amounts between **£25 & £100** for matters YOU feel will be for the enhancement or benefit, of the area or its residents.

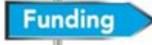
You can apply as an individual or as a member of a not-for-profit organisation

There are no specific areas that are excluded, but generally applications can be:

- Individuals or groups, enhancing a publicly seen area
- Groups wishing to add 'something extra'
- Mainly or fully housebound parishioners







For further details along with guidance:  
Contact Councillor Wynne Harries - [wynneharries@gmail.com](mailto:wynneharries@gmail.com)  
Visit the website and download the application form, or fill in the online form

[www.cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)



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## THREE VILLAGES DIARY OF EVENTS for 2021

In view of the current situation, resulting in the cancellation of many events in the upcoming Diary, we have not included the Diary. Please let us know if you are holding an event or resuming your activities and we will put them in.

### JUNE

Sat	12	12.30 p.m.	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> for copy of event notices and new advertisements to The Butchery, Bosbury Road, Cradley.
Wed	16	12.30 p.m.	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> for articles and diary entries to The Butchery, Bosbury Road, Cradley.
Sun	27	10.30 a.m.	Crowcroft Market, until 2.30 p.m.

### JULY

Sat – Sun 3 - 4 12 noon Cradley Open Gardens, until 5.00 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

Sat 18 TBA 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Cradley Produce Show

Please keep your articles coming in. During the lockdown the Newsletter will be online only at [cmsnewsletter.org.uk](http://cmsnewsletter.org.uk). We will resume the printing and delivery of the printed version as soon as circumstances allow. Please, whenever possible, email articles, event notices and diary entries to the editorial team at: [cmsnewsletter2018@gmail.com](mailto:cmsnewsletter2018@gmail.com)  
Please send all advertising bookings and enquiries to the advertising team at: [adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk)

Documents emailed to the team should be in Word or JPEG format.

Hard copies can be left in the *Newsletter's* mailbox fixed to the wall of The Butchery, Bosbury Road, Cradley.

Every effort is made to verify the authenticity of statements made in the *Newsletter*, but neither the Editor nor anyone connected with its production and distribution can accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies, or for the opinions expressed within it. Neither do they guarantee or endorse the services and products advertised.

The *Cradley, Mathon & Storrige Newsletter* uses personal data for the purpose of managing the *Newsletter*, its subscriptions, distribution and advertising, the contributions submitted and its finances. Data may be retained for up to 7 years for accounts and tax purposes and for longer where required by law. If you would like to find out more about how we use your personal data or want to see a copy of the information about you that we hold please contact the *Newsletter* team on [cmsnewsletter2018@gmail.com](mailto:cmsnewsletter2018@gmail.com).

Editorial Team: Robert Colledge, Antonia Musgrove, Ian Thompson  
The editor of July issue will be Robert Colledge

Compilation Team: Barbara Davies, Pauline Diplock, Jackie White

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