

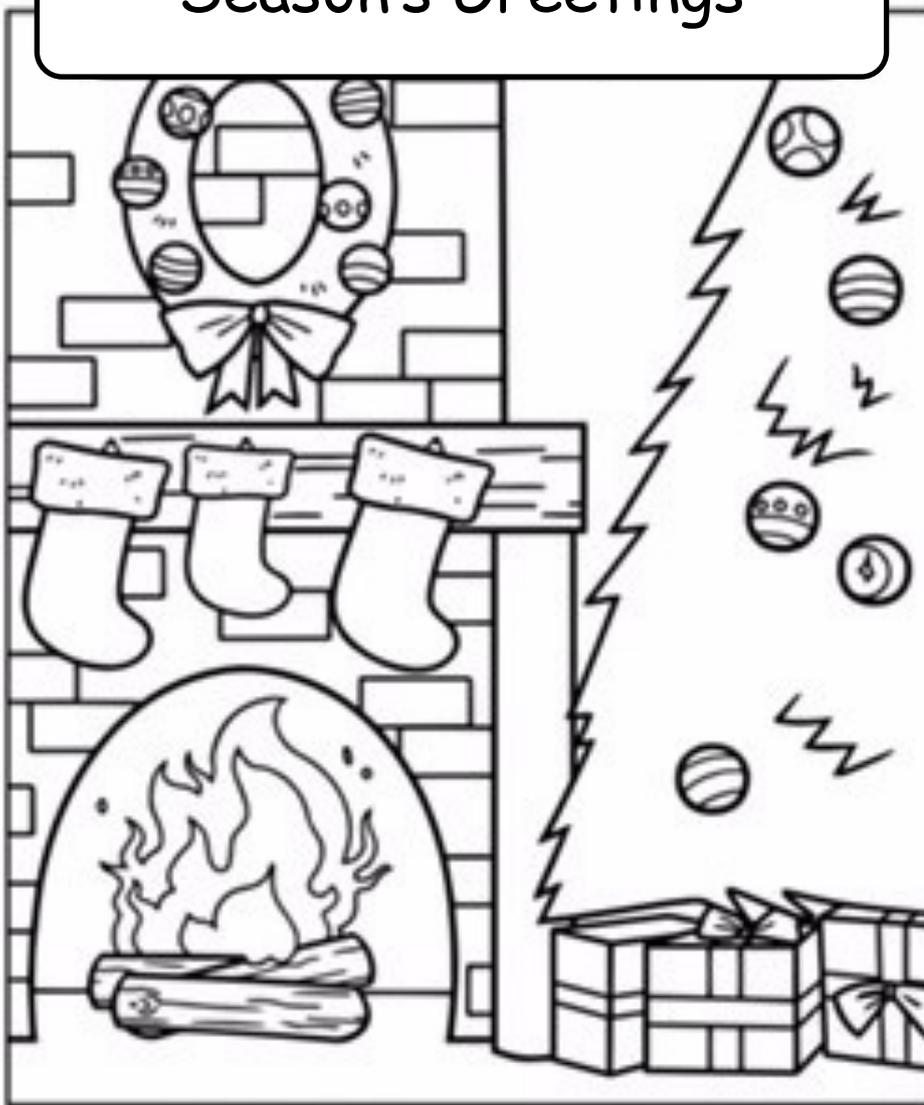
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MATHON

STORRIDGE

NEWSLETTER

Season's Greetings



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December 2020

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December 2020

A VERY BRITISH CHRISTMAS

Is this a piece about Brexit? You might think so, from the title; and given the timing, some might think it ought to be – but no, actually, it isn't!

The stories the British typically tell about themselves – about the spirit of the Blitz, about the Battle of Trafalgar, about Drake and the Spanish Armada, to name but three – tend to be about strength of spirit in times of adversity. This year, it's been the battle with Covid-19 and this year, because of Covid, I suspect we shall have a very *British* Christmas. Remember how we waded through the mud and braved the wind and the storms at Mathon to celebrate the Royal Jubilee (whilst the Royal family and a fleet of boats went sailing merrily down the Thames)? Or when we held 'Carols in the Barn' at Heath Mill, regardless of the threat of flooding – or in the fields near Pemberton Cottage, come rain, come frost? This year, as we rethink our Christmas traditions in the beneficence to deal with the Covid restrictions, I suspect something of the same spirit will be called upon.

So if we can't sing carols together in our churches, we'll gather together outside. If Cradley's Christmas Eve service can't be the ever-popular Christingle service in aid of the Children's Society, we'll do something different, out in the churchyard, and take a retiring collection for the Children's Society instead (that is, a collection as people leave). The Trinity Singers, an offshoot of the Cradley Singers, are already in discussion about providing a carol service for us in Cradley Church on the Saturday before Christmas, even if, sadly, the congregation are unable to join in with the singing. If Mathon Church can't hold their 'Carols by Candlelight' in church, we'll gather outside with torches and lanterns. And at Storridge, where we have established the tradition of an annual Literary Festival...what about 'A Very Literary Christmas'? The weather might be challenging, but we've dealt with that before. If the British can't manage when the weather is bad and times are hard, who can?

Christmas, at its base, is all about light in the darkness. About a promise of life renewed. About the coming of 'the dayspring from on high' to visit us, to carry all God's children into a whole new dimension of life and light and hope.

In spite of rumours to the contrary, Christmas - the true and real Christmas - is definitely *not* cancelled. How could it be? We wish you, in the face of all the difficulties, a very, very happy Christmas: and one deeply blessed.

Your Rector,

ROBERT WARD

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Cover picture for little (or big) ones to colour in

Source: <https://www.superteacherworksheets.com/christmas-coloring-pages.html>

You will find more to colour in towards the back of this edition

Church Services in December 2020

Special Christmas services are highlighted in bold. All service details are liable to change, depending on the situation regarding the Covid virus. Please check for updates on the three parish websites, on our pew sheets, our e-news and our church notice boards. In general, services at Cradley follow the Church of England's modern language rites, those at Mathon and Storridge, the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

FIRST SUNDAY	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion	Mathon
December 6	10.45 a.m.	Family Service Live Streamed	Cradley
Advent 2	6.00 p.m.	Evensong (said, if restrictions remain)	Storridge
Wednesday 9	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (said) Live Streamed	Cradley
SECOND SUNDAY	9.30 a.m.	Mattins	Storridge
December 13	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion Live Streamed	Cradley
Advent 3	6.00 p.m.	Evensong (said, if restrictions remain)	Mathon
Wednesday 16	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (said) Live Streamed	Cradley
Saturday 19	4.00 p.m.	A Service of Christmas Music and Readings (Live-Streamed, if possible)	Cradley
THIRD SUNDAY	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Storridge
December 20	10.45 a.m.	Morning Service – Lay led Live Streamed	Cradley
Advent 4	6.00 p.m.	Christmas by Torchlight	Mathon
Tuesday 22	5.00 p.m.	A Storridge Literary Christmas	Storridge
Wednesday 23	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (said) Live Streamed	Mathon
Thursday December 24	3.00 p.m.	Carols in the Churchyard Live Streamed	Cradley
CHRISTMAS EVE	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass Live Streamed	Cradley
CHRISTMAS DAY			
Friday December 25	9.30 a.m.	Family Service followed by shortened Communion	Mathon
	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Communion	Storridge
	10.45 a.m.	Christmas Communion	Cradley
FOURTH SUNDAY			
December 27	9.30 a.m.	Benefice Communion	Storridge
St. John the Evangelist			
Wednesday 30	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (said) Live Streamed	Cradley

Church Services in January 2021

FIRST SUNDAY	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion	Mathon
January 3	10.45 a.m.	Family Service Live Streamed	Cradley
Christmas 2	4.00 p.m.	Evensong	Storridge



From the Registers

Funerals
9 November

Henry John Owen

Hereford Crematorium

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.



MATHON CHURCH MATTERS

At the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on Wednesday 28th October Karen Seymour and Nick Walker were thanked for all their hard work as Churchwardens during the last year and both were re-elected for the ensuing year.

There is much concern regarding the loss of income due to cancelled services and lack of fund-raising activities because of the virus crisis. It is most gratifying that a number of people have already made donations in this respect and it is hoped that others may follow.

It is not yet possible to forecast how regulations will affect December and Christmas services. It is therefore suggested that you check the web page www.mathonchurch.org.uk/index.

Weekly services continue to be live streamed from Cradley at 10.45 a.m. on Sunday mornings and Evening Prayer (said) from Mathon on Wednesday evenings at 6.30 p.m. Connection details are also available on our website.

SP

MATHON CHURCH

READERS

6 December	Mrs Cutler, Mr Walker
13 December	Mr Vivian, Mrs Pugh
20 December	Carol Service
25 December	Mr Walker, Mrs Seymour
27 December	Service Storridge

SIDESMEN

6 December	Mr McKerracher
13 December	Mrs Pugh
20 December	Mr Crouch
25 December	Mrs Seymour
27 December	Service Storridge

K.B.S.



What a Year it has been, some say how quickly time has passed but for others it has been a complete trial. We have heard of so many celebrations, anniversaries, special holidays that have all been cancelled. For us it was our 50th Wedding anniversary so the celebration in April with the family and our best man and bridesmaids was cancelled as was our anniversary cruise (now rebooked for 2021?)

It seems such a long time ago that we were able to get together, last time was in February. Roy and I tried to put together an afternoon tea party but the rule of 6 meant that could not happen. We will, if we are permitted, try to arrange our usual Christmas/New Year dinner in January 2021, so keep a look out for the email or telephone call, later this month.

Do have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, circumstances permitting. In the meantime, Stay Safe.

God's blessings to you all.

ALAN & ANGELA JAMEISON
01886 880687

EXCERPTS FROM PARISH MAGAZINES

CRADLEY PARISH MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 1896 continued

Dairy Class: Cradley Parish Council contacted Hereford County Council with a view to having a course of instruction in the making of butter. A class was formed and met on each day from Monday, 12th October to Friday, 16th under the instruction of Miss Wyer. It would be difficult to find a more effective teacher.

She knew her subject thoroughly and had a most easy way of explaining the many details connected with butter-making. We wished more had availed themselves of the opportunity, for everyone who did was delighted with the course. English women have it in their power, by careful attention to every detail of the work, to make butter with which no foreigner can compete and by doing which they will put a vast amount of money into English pockets which now goes into those foreigners'. On the last day of the course, there was a competition amongst those who had attended throughout. Mr Joseph, of Malvern Link, the well-known judge of butter making, having been asked to adjudicate, pronouncing the class to be a very even one adjudged the first three to be: Mrs Mercer, Miss F Clews, and Miss A Perrige, to whom prizes were consequently awarded by the Parish Council in the proportion of 10s, 5s and 2s 6d.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Parish Council more particularly to Messrs P Holt, Ledgard, and G Smith for the great pains they had taken to make it a success and to Miss Wyer and Mr Joseph for their valuable service.

Baptisms:

September 27th Lilian Hannah daughter of Charles and Lily Allen
October 18th Ethel May daughter of Thomas William and Mary Archer

Marriage:

September 24th Richard Prince and Laura Gibbs

Burial:

October 15th James Clarke, aged 56 years

CONTRIBUTED BY JOAN PROSSER
Member of Heritage Group



DEFIBRILLATORS

We have received enquiries about the operation of the Cradley and Storrige defibrillators being temporarily suspended. The Clerk of Cradley and Storrige Parish Council tells us that the reason for this is that the Volunteer Emergency Telephone System (VETS) is not in operation at present due we understand to the Covid-19 restrictions, but the actual defibrillators (which the Parish Council pay to maintain) are in full working order. We hope that normal service will resume before too long. In the meantime call 999 in an emergency.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE CRADLEY MATHON AND STORRIDGE NEWSLETTER

Covid-19 lockdowns since March meant that we were not allowed nor technically able to provide a printed copy for several months earlier this year. Whilst we were able to produce a very effective online edition (and we provided printed copies of each issue for those with no access to it) we accept that our regular readers were deprived of their printed copy. From a financial viewpoint, we have been adversely affected. The Covid-19 pandemic had a deleterious effect on some of our advertisers' businesses, and we took the decision to waive advertising fees during the months we were unable to print the *Newsletter*, a move which was well received by all

Against this background an increase in the subscription rate (currently £1 per issue and £8 for the year's 12 issues) might well have been justified, but we have decided to keep the printed edition subscription rate for 2021 at the existing level.

Subscribers should pay their annual subscription as they have done in the past, but to protect our distributors we are asking for the money to be placed in an envelope, either including the form to be found on page 5 or the name and address of the subscriber, and the sealed envelope handed to the deliverer. We are developing the means to receive the annual subscription either through our online edition using PayPal, or permitting subscribers to pay our Bank direct by BACS and we will provide details to those who contact the Newsletter requesting our bank details.

We are also receiving subscriptions for digital only editions of the Newsletter. At present the website contains downloadable copies of the previous three issues but not the current issue. Online subscribers will have access to the current issue as soon as it is published.

We are of course immensely grateful to all our loyal readers; and we hope that should the world begin to return to pre Covid normality we shall soon have much pleasure in reporting on the resumption of all those village events and activities which sadly aren't occurring at the moment.

ROBERT COLLEDGE
EDITOR DECEMBER EDITION

The Oak Inn Staplow
presents
**Charity Pub Quiz
Night!**

When: Sunday 6 December

Where: The Oak Inn, HR8
1NP

Arrive by 7pm

Teams of 2-6

To reserve your team,
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snack at half time)



Help us support our chosen charity
'Cradley Church'

Our quiz and raffle fund will be
donated to the charity on the
evening

Our quiz master will host a fun
filled quiz to include current
affairs, geography, music and
other exciting rounds.

Prize: drinks vouchers!

CRADLEY CHURCH 100 CLUB

The November winners were:

- 1st Jen Dunford
- 2nd Maurice Taylor
- 3rd Ann Howe.

IAN BAILEY
01886 884682

(HENRY) JOHN OWEN

Sylvia and family send heartfelt thank yous for all the cards, kind messages and flowers received on the recent death of John.

**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

Ros Rowberry on 01886 880758

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The internet is a fantastic resource for people searching for that special something for friends, family and loved ones in the run up to Christmas, but it also presents opportunities for fraudsters to set up scams. Every year there is a spike in financial loss as a result of cybercrime around the festive period due to an increase in people shopping online.

- 1) **Don't Transfer Money** – Always pay for items you buy online by card on a secure payment page, by cheque or by cash, in person. However desperate you are to secure an item, never transfer money into the seller's account, as you may never see the goods or your money ever again.
- 2) **Check that Payment Pages are Secure** – Before you enter your card details on a payment page, make sure it is secure by checking that the address starts with 'https' (the 's' stands for 'secure') and there's a padlock or unbroken key symbol in the browser window.
- 3) **Use a Credit Card** – Still talking about payments, remember that you have more chance of getting your money back in the event of problems if you pay by credit card rather than debit card. Some sellers may charge a premium, but it could well be worth the extra for your peace of mind.
- 4) **Use Auction Sites Safely** – At Christmas time, many of us buy from online auction sites. Always use trusted and well-known payment methods instead of paying sellers directly. Read the site and seller's conditions. And for your personal safety if you're collecting in person, take someone with you or let people know where you're going.

- 5) **Check Out Bargains With Care** – If you find or are emailed about an item that seems just too much of a bargain, it could be a scam, fake goods or it doesn't match the description. Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- 6) **Use Social Networks Safely** – Social networks are a popular medium for scams – and are becoming increasingly so. If you see a post promising something free of charge, free entry to a Christmas competition with a fantastic prize, or perhaps an offer that seems just too good to be true, consider very carefully before following it up.
- 7) **Look After That New Smartphone or Tablet** – If you're buying or get bought a new smartphone or tablet, protect it by downloading a reputable internet security app, and make sure it's safeguarded with a PIN. Install parental control software on kids' mobile devices, and chat to them about how to use the internet safely.
- 8) **Check Bank Statements** – Check your bank and credit card accounts regularly for irregular or unauthorised transactions. If you spot any entries you don't recognise, contact your bank without delay. Make sure your bank has your up-to-date contact details so they can alert you if they spot anything unusual.

If you think you have been a victim of fraud: Report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk/



Mathon Parish Hall

Every Friday
Mathon Parish Hall is open as:

'Chit 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!

THE NIGHT SKY - IS THERE LIFE OUT THERE?

Carrying on from my article of November, first an update on the likely discovery of phosphene in the upper atmosphere of Venus through spectral analysis. The groundbreaking critical reviewed paper announced by the press, has been disputed by some organisations then some critical comments retracted; but those papers have yet to be peer reviewed, so the jury is still out. A definite test will be when SOFIA, NASA's 747 jet carrying far infrared telescope facility, which makes stratospheric flights above much of our infrared absorbing atmosphere to look at distant star forming nebula regions, can be rescheduled to do so to make far infrared spectral observations of Venus. Archive data from past satellites passing or orbiting Venus will also be re-analysed looking for signatures of phosphene for possible verification. The certainty required for most discoveries is very high.

In the next few years there are several rovers to Mars to be launched looking for any form of carbon based former embryonic life, this will include drilling under the surface. Jupiter icy moons orbital mission JUICE is soon to be launched for its ten years voyage to the Jupiter moons system, to radar scan under the sheets of Europa and Ganymede. Then years ahead, there is the now planned Dragonfly mission to land a robotic helicopter to hop around in the nitrogen atmosphere of Saturn's Moon Titan with its incredibly cold methane lakes. The tiny Moon Enceladus, known to have a region of geysers of water vapour was investigated by the Cassini probe before it was running out of fuel and so was crashed into Saturn.

This December, Jupiter and Saturn are in the closest angular alignment they have been for hundreds of years, but set in the West very early. It is still worthwhile looking out for the bright pink planet Mars now have just past its closest to us, between south and southwest, and then again Venus as a morning star in the east showing as a crescent in binoculars.

It should be worth looking out for the Geminid meteor shower around December 17, favourable this year because it will be dark as it is New Moon. Gemini is east in the early evening above a little least of Orion, but if by chance it is clear the meteor shower of several per hour bright streaks should be visible anywhere across the sky. Best to wrap up, just using your eyes in a chair or deckchair, and get dark adapted for at least 10 minutes.

From December through January we have a lot of celestial objects worthy of viewing by binoculars. A celestial map is here, select December. <https://astronomynow.com/uk-sky-chart/>

In the early December evening the constellation of Pegasus, the square, is still favourably placed to the south to South-West.



Diagonally from bottom right is a beautiful globular cluster of many stars M15, gravitationally bound together, a nice binocular object. It has recently been found that it

has a large black hole within it. More on black holes later and next month.



Almost due west above the horizon is the constellation Cygnus, the Northern Cross, with its beautiful binocular double star at the bottom, Albireo of blue and gold; and below that,

the constellation of Aquila, above which is a relic of an exploded star, the dumbbell nebula Messier 27. A little further round half way between the bottom two stars of Lyra, (which looks like a skewed trapezium), there is another called the ring nebula M57 which is easily seen with binoculars. These are the expanding ejected envelopes of formerly massive stars.

Stars are born from collapsing interstellar clouds of hydrogen and helium called diffuse nebulae, the gas was formed one minute after the big bang of the creation of the universe, 13.8 billion years ago. There are many interstellar clouds in every galaxy of over 100,000 million stars. Some collapse breaking up to form individual groups of proto-stars. The density of a proto-star builds up until the core temperature reaches $15,000,000^{\circ}$ where the nucleus of hydrogen atoms at their huge collision speeds occasionally fuse to form helium. The mass difference between the constituent hydrogen and the resultant helium is given off as radiating energy, gamma rays. They take up to 30,000 years to get to the surface of the new star and to appear as visible light, sustaining them for most of their life time, as in the sun. The larger the star the shorter its lifetime by a very large factor. The sun is 4.7 billion years old, halfway through its life. At the end with no more hydrogen in the core, it will expand taking out the inner planets and gradually shrink. Most stars at the end of their life become fast spinning very dense white dwarfs about the size of the earth.

Very massive stars do not stop evolving when running out of hydrogen in their core, the core collapse can get to $150,000,000^{\circ}$ and then helium can fuse into carbon, emitting more energy and then a synthesis sequence of heavier elements up to iron. At that point the core completely collapses absorbing rather than giving out energy and the outer layers bounce off as a supernova which can briefly be as bright as a whole galaxy. The ejected shell expands rapidly into interstellar space mostly emitting a green light from excited oxygen atoms. These are the planetary nebulae. The hurtling shock front compressing the surrounding interstellar gas, emits hydrogen alpha red light. For the dumbbell nebula, the inner conical shape is because the white dwarf remaining star at the centre is spinning rapidly with its magnetic field inclined to the spin axis.

For a supernova, all the heavier elements are formed in that moment and blasted into interstellar space throughout the galaxy. That mixes with the hydrogen and helium interstellar clouds to enrich them with these heavier elements to form next generations of

stars. The sun has possibly up to 20 generations of material within it; it cannot generate them itself. It is the heavier elements left over that form the planets of the inner solar system, of which we are made. The lighter weight elements got blown off from the planets closest to the sun, but the outer planets are still made of hydrogen helium. We now know of at least 3000 planet systems around our nearby stars. All very different from our own.

Some massive stars in their final collapse go beyond the white dwarf stage of compression, where compacted electrons in the core still can't support them. Then the electrons combine with the nuclear protons into electrically neutral neutrons which can be compacted far greater having no electric charge repulsion. A neutron star will have the mass of the typical star but only a few kilometres across and spinning at up to 1000 times a second. If this cannot support the star then it collapses into a black hole. Black holes have an outer boundary called the event horizon within which not even light can escape. The basic properties of a black hole are mass, electrical charge considered zero, and spin rate. There has been much modelling and discussion as to what happens to normally traceable information on to that oblivion. One would never see the actual final collapse as time slows down to zero on the point of no return, the event horizon.

There is roughly one supernova per galaxy every 400 years, so astronomers only have to image 400 galaxies a year to see one. A certain type results from hydrogen gas being gradually drawn off a binary companion star which builds the up to a critical level to a nuclear explosion and so always go to the same illumination level, as bright as a whole galaxy. These are standard candle beacons across the universe, and form an effective method of determining the size and scale of the universe.

Moving back to the square of Pegasus to the top left star then diagonally two stars up and then right-angle two up, is the great andromeda spiral galaxy Messier 31, a huge fuzzy blob in binoculars several degrees across. It is the furthest thing that can be seen by the human eye alone at about 1.5 million light years distance. A spiral galaxy of over 300,000 million stars, very similar to the Milky Way and by chance heading towards us. Thousands of millions years to come it will pass through our Milky Way galaxy and then come back and eventually merge. There is so much space between the stars there won't be any collisions. My image of M31 was taken with a long focal length lens camera using the telescope drive and autoguider camera to compensate for the Earth's rotation during the long exposure.



Later in the evening and viewing south we can see the constellation of Orion, the red star Betelgeuse top left, is a super-giant star with a diameter about half that of the solar system, some 500 light years away; the only star after the sun where it's disc can be resolved. Orion is easily recognised for its mid diagonal belt of three stars. Below that with binoculars there is a huge bright diffuse nebula of hydrogen and helium gas, the great Orion nebula M42, 1000 light years away.



My image if viewing online; shows mostly red from the emission of hydrogen alpha light. That is because the electrons around the nuclei of the hydrogen atoms in the nebulae have been kicked out by ultraviolet light from the newly born stars, then returning, jumping down the hydrogen atom energy levels and finally between third and second level which gives off the energy as deep red photons of light. It is a typical birthplace of new stars. The density of these nebulae is just a few atoms per cubic metre and the temperature near -270° C, typical of outer space. There are huge numbers of diffuse nebulae across the galaxy and I have imaged many.

About one new star is formed in the galaxy every year. The Milky Way galaxy is over 100,000 light years across, with over 300,000 million stars of all sizes. We only see the nearer ones, up to a few 1000 light years that are very bright, far brighter than the sun. The sun at even 100 light years would not be visible.

I will conclude this article in the January issue where I will talk about super massive black holes and the nature of space time and the universe itself.

CHRIS BADDILEY

WANT TO CONTACT A NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTOR?

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

Then please ring:

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR
A CHRISTMAS SERVICE
of
LESSONS AND CAROLS
to be led by
TRINITY SINGERS
at
ST JAMES' CHURCH, CRADLEY
ON
SATURDAY
19th DECEMBER
AT 4 p.m.

(government guidelines permitting)

**THE SERVICE WILL ALSO BE LIVE-STREAMED
IF POSSIBLE**

at

http://www.cradleychurch.org.uk/services_m.php

A collection to support the work of Cradley church will be held as normal in the church and online:

http://www.cradleychurch.org.uk/donate_m.php

Please give generously

Please book your place in the church by phoning
Pauline Diplock on 01886 880078
as numbers have to be restricted

HOW TO KEEP YOUR VEHICLE SAFE AND SOUND



Having your car broken into and losing your things to thieves can be very distressing. Here are a few simple steps you can take to keep your vehicle, and what's in it, safe.

- 1) **Always lock it.** Fuelling up or popping back into your house to get something are perfect examples of how easy it is to turn your back for a moment and forget your vehicle is unsecured. So get into the habit of locking your vehicle even if you're only going to be away from it for a moment.
- 2) **Close windows and the sun roof to prevent 'fishing'.** Leaving windows and the sunroof open invites fishing for items through the gap by hand or with, say, a bent coat hanger, which could also be used to unlock a door for them to get in. Thieves can be ingenious. Don't give them the opportunity.
- 3) **Secure your number plates with tamper-resistant screws.** The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or avoid speeding tickets and parking tickets is to fit stolen number plates. Using security screws to attach your vehicle's number plates makes it harder for thieves to get your number.
- 4) **Take it with you or hide it.** Your mobile phone, coins for the car park, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash are irresistible to the opportunist thief. Remember, the cost of replacing a window is often much more than that of what's stolen. And it should go without saying that wallets, handbags, purses and credit cards should never be left in an unattended vehicle.
- 5) **Hide electrical items and leave no clues.** Leaving sat Nav mounts, suction cup marks on windows or cables on view gives it away that you have left a Sat Nav, smartphone or other device in your car. Even if they can't see the Sat Nav or iPad they might still break in to see if it's stored in the car, out of sight.
- 6) **Tool theft from vans.** Vans are often targeted by thieves for the tools stored inside. If you have to leave tools in a van overnight, it's a good idea to mark them clearly with your name / company name and address using paint pens and seal with a clear lacquer spray. Alternatively, you can use a variety of other property marking systems. Items that are clearly marked are less desirable and more difficult to sell on. Consider using a lockable cabinet within your van to store tools – a number of security rated products are available. Small cameras are also designed to record inside vehicles. You can also take photographs of items of value, make a note of

the serial numbers and consider registering them online at a property register site.

- 7) **Park in well-lit and busier areas.** It can take less than 30 seconds to break into a vehicle. Parking in well-lit areas and busy streets increases the chances of a thief being seen, so they'll probably steer clear.
- 8) **Take your documents with you.** Having a vehicle's registration and insurance documents could let a thief pretend to be the owner. Which means they could sell it on quite easily. So, never leave any documents in the vehicle.
- 9) **Catalytic converter theft.** The precious metal in catalytic converters has led to an increase in their theft. To keep yours safe, ask your car dealer if they can give you any advice on locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer. Alternatively, try to make sure your vehicle is parked in a garage overnight, or if you have a commercial vehicle park it in a secure compound. If this isn't possible, park in an area that's well-lit and overlooked and try to park so that the convertor can't be easily reached by potential thieves. Vehicles that sit high above the road are particularly vulnerable. You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of.

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

JESSICA'S DREAM

Jessica was in detention again. Her last detention had lasted for a whole day – it seemed like months - and who knew how long they were going to be stuck indoors this time? So she couldn't go to play netball with her mates and she certainly couldn't go out shopping. The cafe would have to close early – so it would be shut by the time she was let out. It was even more annoying because she hadn't done anything wrong. But lots of other people in her year had broken the rules so she had to suffer along with them. The headmaster was a buffoon who desperately needed a proper haircut. He and his staff really didn't seem to be able to do anything properly. And the other teachers only stayed in the job as long as they agreed with the head. They just made up the rules as they went along. Some people had to follow the rules and others didn't – it just depended on who your mates were. They couldn't even mark the spelling and arithmetic tests properly and they had totally lost track of how many people were supposed to be in detention. So half the kids who should have been there didn't show up and no one did anything about it.

Still, it could have been worse. She might have had to go to the bigger school on the other side of town. The head teacher there was even more unbelievably stupid, sported a fake tan and an even worse haircut. No one could understand how he'd got the job in the first place. He had to face a governor's meeting soon to try to justify his position. Would he get away with murder again or would they sack him?

But at last the school bell rang – Jessica was free to go. But that wasn't the school bell - she left school more years ago than she cared to remember. It was the alarm clock. So had all that had been just a really bad dream? Was it back to reality now, at the beginning of April 2021? She was 47 years old and worked as Marketing Director in a fast growing hi-tech company. It was a great job, challenging, but no two days were the same and it paid very well. So life would go on as usual and everything was going to be just fine. After some extraordinary events on both sides of the Atlantic, Boris Johnson had been forced to resign in disgrace and Trump had been soundly beaten in the US presidential election. In Number 10 the leader of a national coalition government had worked hard to cancel Brexit, get the virus under control and come up with an economic recovery plan. In Washington the new President had united the nation to combat racism, introduce stricter gun controls and build a more tolerant society.

Nicola Sturgeon and Kamala Harris - dream team, nightmare or April fools?

IAN THOMPSON



PREDATORY BIRD MONITORING SCHEME

This autumn we have been surprised to find three dead young Buzzards and a dead Tawny Owl when out walking in the Parish. Having never come across so many dead birds before, we contacted an organisation who do post-mortems on the birds to try and establish the cause of death. Sadly, the birds we found were too decomposed to be of use to them but if anyone finds a newly dead owl or buzzard then please put it in a sealed bag and pop it in the freezer. You then contact the Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme who will send you a postage pre-paid box to return the dead bird to them. Their number is 01524 595830 or use the contact page on www.pbms.ceh.ac.uk

BRUCE AND SARAH HERRIOT

Cradley Mathon & Storridge TEENY TOTS play group



POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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

DEADLINE DATE FOR PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Payment and advertisement to be received by
12th of the month prior to insertion.

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

A virtual Zoom meeting was held at 7.30 p.m. on 4th November 2020.

County Cllr—Co Cllr Tony Johnson reported that the present Chief Executive would be leaving the County Council in April 2021, as well as the Director of Public Health. Both had done an outstanding job, with the Covid levels for Herefordshire being the 8th lowest in the country. Co Cllr Johnson will be writing to the Minister regarding charging points for electric cars. Charging points at the moment were not run by one organisation, which will cause problems in the future when electric cars will be more commonly used. He was also writing to North Herefordshire MP Bill Wiggin regarding the access to a proposed development for 625 houses in Ledbury. Only one access to the site on the Bosbury/Ledbury road was proposed, which would cause significant traffic problems not only to Ledbury but also to Bosbury, Wellington Heath, Coddington, Mathon and Colwall. Virtually all residents of these villages would be affected. The Clerk was asked to send a supporting letter from Mathon Parish Council to Bill Wiggin.

Parish Hall—Cllr Sam Harte confirmed that the Parish Hall still remained closed, as the amount of Covid related work required to open it was still quite onerous. A meeting of the Parish Hall Committee would be held on 11th November.

Parish Map—Cllr N Walker reported that Jeffrey White had prepared four backing sections, and would be putting the map together at home. The map would then be transported to the Parish Hall for putting into place on the wall.

Website Accessibility Regulations—The Council approved the Public Accessibility statement to be posted onto the Parish Council website.

The Cliffe Arms—The Clerk confirmed that planning applications Nos 201982/201983 had been Refused by Herefordshire Planning. The applicant has six months in which to appeal against this decision.

Date of next Meeting - 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 6th January 2021

DIANA TAYLOR (MRS)
Clerk to Mathon PC
01684 569430

E-Mail: dtaylormathonclerk235@gmail.com
9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern, Worcs WR14 1NL
Website: www.mathonparishcouncil.co.uk

NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE DATES

Advertisements/notices: 12th of the month
(Except December: 9th of the month)
Articles: 16th of the month
(Except December: 12th of the month)

CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL

BOOKINGS

**Hire our picturesque 15th-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

HERITAGE COLLECTION

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

SUSPENDED AT PRESENT

FREE COMPUTER USE AND SUPPORT FOR ALL

**MONDAY MORNINGS
10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

SUSPENDED AT PRESENT

POST OFFICE

**BUSINESS AS USUAL AT TIME OF PUB-
LICATION. SEE VILLAGE HALL NOTICE-
BOARDS OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
ANY CHANGES**

**MONDAY MORNINGS
9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
1.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.**

CRADLEY 'LIBRARY'

FREE BOOK EXCHANGE, OR TAKE AWAY
FOR A SMALL DONATION TO HALL FUNDS.
HARDBACKS, PAPERBACKS,
DVDS AND CDS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS

**You can book the Hall,
buy tickets for events,
and sign up for email notification of
up and coming events online at
www.cradleyvillagehall.org.uk**

ON THIS DAY

December 1st 1135: King Henry I died - he fell ill after eating too many lampreys the previous week and never recovered.

December 3rd 1984: At a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, owned by the Union Carbide Company, one of the world's biggest industrial accidents occurred. A storage tank ruptured with the result that a cloud of poisonous gas spread through the city. Official figures show that over 3000 people died and more than 500,000 were injured. However it is widely believed that the real figures were much higher. In 1989, after prolonged litigation, the company paid \$470 million in compensation.

December 9th 1991: It was revealed that at least £420 million was missing from company pension schemes controlled by Robert Maxwell who had died in mysterious circumstances the previous month.

December 12th 1982: At Greenham Common in Berkshire more than 20,000 women linked arms, encircling the airbase, in protest at a plan to site US Cruise missiles with nuclear warheads there the following year. The missiles were removed in 1991 but the protests continued until the year 2000.

December 14th 1926: Agatha Christie, who had disappeared from her home in Surrey on December 3rd, was found in a hotel in Harrogate where she had registered under an assumed name. The reasons behind her disappearance and her whereabouts in the meantime remain a mystery.

December 16th 1988: Edwina Currie, a junior health minister in Margaret Thatcher's government, was forced to resign after claiming that most British eggs are infected with salmonella. Egg sales slumped and producers demanded compensation.

December 17th 1538: Pope Paul III excommunicated Henry VIII. In 1530 Henry had already been threatened with excommunication by the previous Pope, Clement VII, who declared his annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon unlawful and his subsequent marriage to Anne Boleyn null and void.

December 18th 1737: Antonio Stradivari died at his home in Cremona, Italy. He designed and made violins, cellos and violas which were then, and still are today, widely acknowledged as the best the world has ever seen.

December 19th 2018: Gatwick airport was paralyzed by reports of drone sightings close to the runway. The runway was closed for 33 hours and about 1,000 flights were cancelled or delayed. The police suspect that the person or persons responsible for the illegal drone activity had an inside knowledge of airport operations but no one has been brought to court. However substantial damages were paid to a couple who claimed to have been wrongfully arrested.

December 21st 1978: Chancellor Denis Healey brushed off an attack on his policies by Geoffrey Howe as "like being savaged by a dead sheep".

December 25th 1741: Anders Celsius introduced his new temperature scale. According to the original version of the scale water would freeze at 100° and boil at 0°.

December 28th 1963: The satirical BBC television programme *That Was The Week That Was* aired for the last time. Politicians were nervous about the idea of David Frost and his team discussing their policies and proposals in an election year. For a while the BBC had already been instructed to remove from the show any mention of sensitive issues such as sex, religion, royalty and politics.

December 29th 1860: The Royal Navy's first ironclad warship, HMS Warrior was launched. At 9201 tons she was the largest, fastest and most powerful warship of her day, armed with 40 guns and manned by a crew of over 750 sailors.

December 30th 1916: Grigory Rasputin was murdered in St Petersburg. His behaviour had scandalised Russian society but the royal family persistently defended him against all accusations. A member of parliament and a nephew of the Tsar first tried to poison him. When this method failed they shot him and then threw him into a river where he eventually died by drowning.

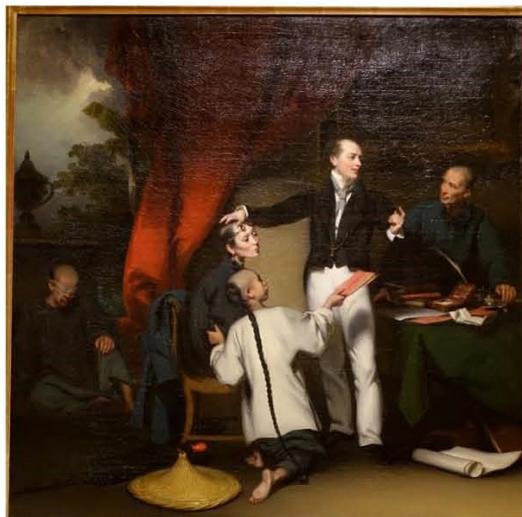
December 31st 1891: The new immigration center on Ellis Island, New York, was ready to be opened in the New Year. It would be more suitable for dealing with large numbers of immigrants than the old facilities at the Battery on Manhattan Island.

IAN THOMPSON



Medicine and Mission

The Life and Interesting Times of a
Nineteenth Century Pioneering
Doctor



Aspect Design, publishers, of Malvern are very pleased to announce the publication of a new work by Malvern based author, Robert Colledge: *Medicine and Mission*

(Aspect Design ISBN 978-912078-48-6 £14.99).

The book is available from www.aspect-design.net, can be ordered on their website (click and collect), or by post and also on amazon.co.uk. Search under author's name. More details about the book on www.medicineandmission.com

Also available from Malvern Book Cooperative, 2 St Ann's Road, Malvern – Telephone 01684 564788 to order before visiting the shop

This biography of Thomas Richardson Colledge, written by his great-great-grandson Robert Colledge, tells of Thomas's education at Rugby School, his medical training at St Thomas's Hospital Southwark, and his employment by the East India Company as Company's Surgeon at the British Factory in Guangzhou, China. He founded an ophthalmic hospital undertaking free treatment of indigenous Chinese patients; and the Medical Missionary Society. He returned to Britain in 1838, obtained further qualifications in Scotland, and practised in Cheltenham, until his death in 1889.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Dear all

As the days draw in and we approach the turning point of the year, I really do hope that we are approaching a turning point in the Covid pandemic. As I write, we've just had the very welcome news of progress on a vaccine – perhaps by the time this newsletter is published we will be closer to rolling it out, to the most vulnerable first. I do hope so!

But in the meantime, there will be many more months in which our best defence against the virus is still our own behaviour. Washing **hands**, wearing a **face** covering, making **space** through social distancing ... these measures are vital to protect ourselves and each other.

Although Herefordshire has not been as hard hit as many other places, every life lost to Covid is a tragedy so it's essential that we keep our guard up. It seems that the highest risks of all are in social settings – including in workplace interactions between colleagues – so please, everyone, do be careful!

Clearly Christmas won't be the same this year, but I do hope that for all of us there will be a chance to reconnect with loved ones in some way – and to rest, reflect, and find new energy for the new year. I hope 2021 will be an opportunity to rebuild in a better way, especially for those whose lives and livelihoods have been most disrupted by the pandemic.

For the council, as for families and businesses, 2020 has been a challenging year. Council staff worked their socks off back in the spring to support the community in the first lockdown (housing the homeless, delivering care and support to those shielding, disbursing grants to businesses in record time) – and they've geared up to do it again this autumn. Doubtless there will be more challenges to come through the winter, but I am just so grateful to all of the council staff – and the community volunteers – who have pulled together and gone way above and beyond the call of duty to serve everyone in Herefordshire.

As usual at this time of year, the council will soon be consulting on the budget. Frustratingly, central government has not yet told local authorities how much money they will be giving us next year – and they have not fully reimbursed us for all the additional costs and financial impacts of dealing with Covid. So as things stand we are facing some very difficult decisions.

Tax is the way that we pay collectively for things that we cannot do individually. Our biggest costs as a council are social care, especially looking after the most vulnerable children and elderly residents. Many residents don't have direct contact with these parts of our work, and perhaps might simply assume that the

main role of the council is dealing with planning, roads and bins.

But it's key to remember that the core statutory duties of the council relate to looking after the most vulnerable in our community – and if central government won't fund this properly, we will face very difficult financial decisions. So as a council we are reviewing our budgets for next year to ensure we're spending every penny as effectively as possible. I hope that those of us who can afford to pay a little extra council tax to support fellow residents will be glad to do so, while the council also puts in place additional support for those that would struggle to pay. Please keep an eye out for the budget consultation here: <https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations>, and do share your views.

There will also be another key consultation coming up soon, on the Waste strategy, so please keep an eye out for that too!

There's also an opportunity to make your voice heard on the future of Hereford city. The Stronger Hereford survey will feed into the independent Town Board's work developing an Investment Plan. More info here: <https://www.strongerhereford.co.uk/>

Moving on now to local ward issues:

First, road safety. As you probably know this is a top priority for me & I've recently been working with residents in Cradley, Fromes Hill and Munderfield to try to make progress. There have been delays this year to the regular schedule of speed monitoring by the Road Safety Partnership (due to lockdown) but I'm chasing this in all three locations. I'm also very much encouraging the Parish Councils to apply to install Speed Indicator Devices. And I arranged for a Herefordshire Council officer to brief the Cradley & Storrige and Bishops Frome parish councils in October on the 'Section 106' funds that are available to invest in transport-related measures like this. I'm hopeful that we'll see some progress soon.

In Cradley specifically:

- I'm chasing BBLP (Balfour Beatty Living Places) regularly for the major engineering works needed to alleviate the flooding by Cradley surgery, which is a serious hazard. I have been told this is near the top of the priority list now and am pushing for it to be done ASAP.
- Similarly I'm chasing on the options appraisal for Ridgeway Cross, which was promised over a year ago in response to road safety concerns there. This is another project where traffic monitoring data collection has been delayed by Covid I'm afraid, but I haven't forgotten it...

- I've supported local residents who've been campaigning for the closure to traffic of the one-way lane next to Pixiefields and I'm glad the parish council have submitted the formal request for this.
- And I've been supporting the many local residents north of Cradley who've been very concerned about the serious disturbance caused by Motocross events. I hope that we will have a resolution to this situation soon. The situation there highlights the need for us all to be considerate of our neighbours.

Today I saw a newspaper poster saying 'Lockdown begins: let's be kind'. It's good advice, I think! Whether in lockdown or not, one of the things I have learned from 2020 is the timeless importance of kindness and good neighbours.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas with your loved ones, and a better, brighter 2021.

ELLIE

Please feel free to contact me about any local issues (see all my contact details below)

To report a problem to the council (e.g. potholes): <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-it>, or telephone: 01432 261800.

Dr Ellie Chowns
Herefordshire Council
Ward Councillor for Bishops Frome and Cradley Ward
Leader of the Green Group
Cabinet Member for Environment, Economy and Skills
Tel: 07950 714947/01531 670729
Email: ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/CllrEllieChowns/>



CRUMPTON HILL FARM SHOP

Firstly, we would like to thank our customers for their continued support.

We've started to have questions about our opening hours around Christmas and queries about placing orders. So that we can plan, we would welcome orders for Christmas as early as possible. Please email them to:

contact@crumptonhillfarmshop.com

with your name, contact details and an ideal date that you'd like to collect your order.

We will be prioritising slots in the week leading up to Christmas Day to our regular customers but where possible we will try and fit everyone in.

If you have Facebook, please like our page 'Crumpton Hill Farm Shop' for updates on our opening times and any useful information that will be put up nearer the time.

Please note a change in our opening time for Tuesdays. In order to allow us to get the fresh fruit and vegetables stocked up in time, we will now be open at 10.00 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays will remain 9.00 a.m. until 4.00 p.m.

So, just as a reminder:

- Mondays - Closed
- Tuesdays - 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
- Wednesdays - Orders only
- Thursdays - Orders only
- Fridays - 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
- Saturdays - 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.



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.

CRADLEY W I

November is usually Cradley WI annual meeting month, but slightly different this year as it was held by Zoom. 16 members 'attended' the meeting. Prior to the meeting every member was sent a copy of last year's annual meeting minutes, the 2020 accounts and budget statement until March 2021, the annual report and the president's report. Members were asked to return a form to approve (or not) the reports. 25 members responded and all the reports were agreed. The ladies volunteering to be on the committee were also approved and Maureen Sullivan was voted as president for the next year. Because of the uncertainty of COVID regulations a range of interesting Zoom speakers have been planned for the monthly meetings until March. This includes an extra meeting in January when we do not usually have a formal meeting but an open tea and cake afternoon. We'll all be making our own tea and cakes for our meetings until March, but at least we don't have to turn out to walk down a dark Rectory lane in the cold. It still isn't the same as meeting each other face to face in our lovely Village Hall, and we look forward to 'resuming normal service' as soon as possible.

All members will be sent the programme of speakers and book club choices planned. The committee will keep the COVID guidance under review and replan the programme a few months at a time.

After the annual meeting concluded, members were given some information about free zoom events Herefordshire Federation is organising. Then our treasurer Joy gave a really interesting presentation about her trip to Sri Lanka last year taking in among other things, World Heritage Sites and tasting local foods. In fact, the trip was all about locally prepared dishes and the warm hospitality of the Sri Lankan people was obvious.

The 2020 WI membership has been extended until March 2021, but new members are most welcome to join under the 'Try the WI' scheme where it is only £10.75 to join from now until the end of March 2021. Any ladies interested please contact our secretary Sue Hyson 01886 880541 for an application form. You will be most welcome.

A big thank you to everyone who continues to leave donations for the Bosbury food bank at Joy's - 1 Huntingdon, and to Joy for taking it to Bosbury. As Christmas approaches it is suggested some extra Christmas treats such as chocolates and biscuits would be appreciated by the food bank.

Sending warm Christmas wishes to not only all WI members but also to everyone reading this and hoping 2021 will be happy and healthier for us all.

MAUREEN SULLIVAN
President Cradley WI



CRADLEY SURGERY

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from everyone at the surgery. Coronavirus continues to dominate our lives, and attention to all our physical and mental health needs has never been more important.

Our patients are waiting longer for hospital appointments and treatments and there are varying opinions about remote consultations at general practice and hospital levels. Some patients appreciate the convenience and safety of not having to travel, but some (on both sides) miss the personal and direct communication.

Let's pay tribute to our scientists working around the clock on a vaccine. More than ever we need the cool, level-headed systematic approach of science over kneejerk tweets and social media theories.

Our sincere apologies for any anxiety and inconvenience caused by the closure of the surgery in November mandated by Public Health England with immediate (minutes) notice, because of coronavirus cases amongst the non-clinical staff.

Dr Patsy would like to give personal praise to the surgery staff who have carried on working every day with resilience and good humour despite the immense pressure.

We are here to help. Your health needs are important even if you worry about 'bothering' us right now. Please discuss any concerns with us at any time.

Enjoy the festive season, however it might look. 2021 will be a better year. Stay well



CHRISTMAS HUMOUR

True Stories

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get “no room” answers, a little voice called from the back “You should have booked!” bringing the house down.



As the little girl climbed onto Santa’s lap, Santa asked the usual, “And what would you like for Christmas?”

The child stared at him opened mouthed and horrified for a moment, then gasped: “didn’t you get my email?”



At Sunday school the younger children were drawing pictures illustrating biblical stories. The teacher walked past and noticed one little boy was drawing an aeroplane! “Oh, what Bible story are you drawing?” She asked. “This is the flight into Egypt,” the little boy answered. “See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this” he said, pointing to the front of the plane, “is Pontius, he’s the pilot”.



Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents’ house the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers. The younger one began praying at the top of his lungs:

“I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...”

“I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO...”

His older brother leaned over, nudged him and said, “Why are you shouting? God isn’t deaf.” To which the little brother replied, “No, but grandma is!”

CHRIS ORFORD

CRADLEY CHURCH TREASURE TRAIL

Thank you to all those who purchased a Treasure Trail Entry Form.

Not all of the forms were returned but I hope you all enjoyed the challenge, even if you didn’t complete the whole tour.

Three entries scored 28 points out of 33, namely Di & Colin Merker, Ian & Sue Hyson, and Catherine Fuller. Well done to them all!

Due to there being no church services due to Covid restrictions the draw took place at Cradley School and the winner of the £50.00 is Catherine Fuller.

The answers we were looking for are:

- 1) Morgan Cars. Wheels! (Peter Morgan’s Memorial stone)
- 2) 1887 (Sundial)
- 3) Rev Preb Renn Hampden (Son of Bishop of Hereford)
- 4) Glastonbury Thorn (North churchyard)
- 5) Friends & Family of Geoff Pereira Price (East churchyard gates)
- 6) AID (located on the building adjacent to the Carpark) or School House
- 7) Roses (above porch)
- 8) Mud Scraper
- 9) Two (On statue)
- 10) Scott (West Gate Plaque)
- 11) Johnathan Bevan or Rachel Alison King (On Gravestones)
- 12) West Country Cars (Trading estate location board)
- 13) Walton’s (Memorial Bench by Clock Tower) Goodnight John Boy, Goodnight Mama, etc!
- 14) Bank Chambers (Family Ski)
- 15) Dame Laura Knight (Plaque at Hotel)
- 16) 01684 540846/01684 540416 (Morso Café Telephone Numbers)
- 17) 9 (1899 – 1890)
- 18) 20 (On Malvern Hills Notice Board)
- 19) 1895 (Drainpipes)
- 20) 1989
- 21) Jane Eleanor Lowe (Plaque on church.)
- 22) Mary Heywood & George Sumner (Mother’s Union Founder)
- 23) Daytime (Fishponds)
- 24) Churchwarden (On three gates)
- 25) 23 (Heads)
- 26) Portaloo
- 27) Green IGA Cover (Over gas valve)
- 28) 2017 (Bosbury Bards)
- 29) 53 (On side of village hall)
- 30) Old Police House
- 31) Adam Buchanan (On War Memorial)
- 32) 9 (Animal Heads)
- 33) C of E School or Old Grammar School.

IAN BAILEY



CRADLEY AND STORRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL (CSPC)

The parish council met on 10 November. This is the time of year when the council sets its precept (which forms part of the council tax charge along with payments to the county council and other authorities) for the following year starting on 1 April. It seems very likely that the parish will not spend all its income in the current year, largely due to the effects of the coronavirus restrictions, which means that the council will carry forward a surplus into next year. At the moment, the council is minded to leave the precept unchanged.

As the number of households in the parish has increased, an unchanged precept would probably mean that each household would pay slightly less in council tax for the parish council.

The council will make its final decision on what precept to set for next year at its January meeting, but in the meantime, we would very much appreciate comments and opinions from parishioners about what should be done.

Draft accounts will be published on the parish council website along with some options. We'd particularly like thoughts on these alternatives:

- The council could purchase speed indication devices (the flashing signs activated by traffic exceeding the speed limit) or take other measures to help address speeding on the B4220 Bosbury Road;
- The council could improve its two open spaces at Buryfields and Chapel Lane, including buying more equipment, benches or chairs;
- We do not at present have enough volunteers to reopen all the dog waste bins, so we could change to using a commercial contractor;
- The council could reduce the precept for one year only, but it would need to be increased again at April 2022.

Any other suggestions for priorities – at least, those that are within the powers of a parish council to address! – are equally welcome. Comments can be sent to the clerk at:

clerk@cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

If anyone can't see the accounts online and would like a paper copy, please contact the clerk by email or call 07591 299749.

Apart from next year's budget, the council also discussed what could be done to make our already attractive parish even more beautiful. A number of ideas were raised, and the council will be consulting parishioners about what steps would be supported.

As reported last month, the council received a high number of comments on the proposal to close the lane between the entrance to Pixiefields and the junction with Chockbury Lane, all of which were in favour of the proposal. The council has made a formal application to Herefordshire Council to make the change and we are waiting for their formal response.

The council and our county councillor Ellie Chowns are continuing to press Herefordshire Council to prioritise work on the persistent flooding by the surgery. We're also very aware of concern about speeding through the village, and considering ways this could be addressed.

The parish council doesn't meet in December, so the next meeting will be on Tuesday 12 January 2021. The councillors would like to wish all readers a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



CRADLEY SCHOOL

It was wonderful to welcome everyone back to school after the summer holidays. The children's smiley faces made all the weeks of planning worthwhile. They have all settled back into school really well given the current restrictions in place.

The routines look different as we established our new normal but it's the people that make our school so special. The happiness and well-being of the children is our main priority.

In memory of Mrs Karen Robb

At the beginning of September, our wonderful colleague and friend, Karen Robb, tragically passed away. We are truly devastated by Karen's sudden death and the fact she has been stolen away from this earth too soon. Although Karen left Cradley Primary School at the end of the summer term, she was still a beautiful person in our school community.

Karen always worked with such enthusiasm and made a positive impression on so many lives, inspiring pupils, parents and staff alike. Karen was a teacher that children will remember when they look back on their days at primary school. They will fondly remember her boundless enthusiasm in the classroom, the creative ideas for teaching that introduced so many children to education and above all the love, care and compassion she showed to them.

Karen was a vibrant, lovely, strong and wonderful person. She held us together with a passion for singing and her love of reading to the children with silly voices. She will be sorely missed and as a school community, our thoughts and prayers are with Karen's family at this very sad time.

Hello Yellow



The children certainly brightened up our day by dressing up in yellow to help support the Young Minds mental health charity on 9th October. We are very aware of the importance of supporting mental health and well-being. Thank you for

your donations to this amazing charity, we raised a fantastic £122!

Positive Playtimes

We have recently introduced positive playtimes as a way of helping some children who were finding the rules and restrictions to Covid a bit challenging. The children have loved the opportunity



to have different toys to play with and special places to play at break and lunchtime. There are lots of games, activities and different play spaces for them to enjoy and to hopefully

have a positive impact on their day. Groups of children have also been out playing football on the field at lunchtime.

Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival looked very different this year and was held via Zoom on Thursday 22nd October. Lots of parents and grandparents joined us online to watch each class performance and the children did a wonderful job. A big thank you for everyone's donations for the Bosbury Foodbank, shown here by our School Councillors.

Daily Mile

KS2 children have started taking part in the Daily Mile which is a simple initiative for primary schools to encourage children to walk, jog or run outside in the fresh air for 15 minutes every day. It aims to improve children's fitness, concentration, and social, emotional and mental health & wellbeing.

FOCS News



The children have been busy designing Christmas cards and apple juice labels! The delicious apple juice is now for sale at £2 a bottle and is available to purchase at the butchers in Cradley. Here is a photo of our winning label designers.

Children In Need

The children came all dressed up cosy and warm in their onesies, pyjamas and own clothes on Friday 13th November, thank you for everyone's donations, we raised **£135** for this amazing charity.

We even had an extra special, surprise on-line visit from Pudsey the bear in the morning assembly which the children absolutely loved!





Forest School



We are delighted with the work completed on our Forest School area over the summer holidays. There are new covered areas, including over the fire pit, which now allows the children to enjoy the area whatever the weather. We have lots of new tools and some brand new mud kitchens, which the children have had plenty of fun playing with already. A big thank you to Neil Taylor and Mark Jones for all their

hard work.



Message from Mrs Jones

This is an incredibly stressful time for everyone including the staff, as they tackle the challenges we currently face. As key workers we will continue to do the job we do, whilst trying to keep safe and sane at the same time. Everyone's safety and well-being at this difficult time is important and the staff are dealing with their own family challenges, changes to normal working routines and with staff absence. We will of course continue to do the best we can for our children and we thank you for your support and understanding.

I recently saw a rainbow in the sky over Cradley. Rainbows are a symbol of hope and for better things to come. I pray that by doing our bit, in keeping our whole community safe, we can stop this virus spreading and begin to return to a 'normal' way of life. We can only get this virus under control if we all keep to the rules and we trust that you will do your bit, as we will, in and out of school. We may have to wait until the spring before we see any real improvements but hopefully when we come out of it we can rise to the challenges that the new, better life will bring to us all.

Stay safe and God bless,

MRS JONES

EVERGREEN CATCH-UP NEWS

November really does seem to be making quite an entrance with the wind and the rain today. Yesterday and the day before were very pleasant, with a good bit of sunshine, nice enough to walk the dog through a really thick carpet of leaves blown down a couple of days before. Walking with my friend Margaret and her Plummer terrier on Thursday along the common on the Guarford road, we encountered the huge leaves of the Russian oak, didn't even know there was such a thing. A Plummer terrier by the way, combines Jack Russell Terrier, Beagle and Red Fell Terrier blood. Deriving its name from Dr David Brian Plummer, the breed's creator, the plumber terrier was bred primarily to hunt ground vermin and serve as an all-purpose working dog. Margaret's dog Rosie was a rescue dog from The Dog's Trust, she "chose" Margaret and John but sadly our dear friend John died in March and Rosie is Margaret's affectionate, sometimes stubborn, companion, with a deep dislike for the post man and the paperboy.

16th November should have been our Evergreen meeting, and 30th November should have been our Christmas Lunch at the Royal Oak, with our final Christmas Tea Party on 14th December. We will have missed 18 meetings this year including our Spring Lunch, our Trip out, Skittles and Lunch at the Bell, Broadheath, our Harvest Lunch and our Christmas celebrations, not to mention all the lovely speakers and entertainers I had organised. It's so disappointing for everyone concerned, especially my wonderful Evergreen friends who I miss so much.

I just hope and pray that we shall once more be all together again in the New Year.

Until then if you're feeling at a loose end or feeling lonely, I'm always here to share some time with you, so keep safe and think positive, good times will return.

My good wishes to you all for Christmas and for the New Year, and remember

"Christmas is not so much about opening presents, as opening our hearts".

Speak Soon,

CHRIS ORFORD (CLUB LEADER)
01886 880387

**Merry
Christmas**

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK

SUPPORTING YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH COVID-19

We recognise that this is a challenging period for us all and even more so for vulnerable people. As Neighbourhood Watch we believe it is very important that we all take care and protect ourselves as a priority and where possible we safely carry on the great work of supporting and staying connected with our communities

In England, between **5th November and 2nd December**, national restrictions mean that:

- You should only leave home for food, medical reasons, exercise, education, or work
- You must work from home if you can
- You should avoid travel unless essential
- Schools and essential shops will remain open

There are a variety of ways however in which we can support our loved ones and communities through these restrictions.

Keeping your loved ones safe

The most valuable thing we can all do is keep ourselves and our loved safe - physically and emotionally.

- Our website signposts where you can get [accurate advice and support with your emotional wellbeing](#).
- Sign up for the FREE [Festival Of Discovery](#) running online on 20th and 21st November for lively discussions on hot topics, entertainment, things to make and do, a chance to recharge your wellbeing, and real-life community stories from across the UK.

Supporting your community

There are a variety of ways in which you can support your community depending on your individual situation. A few ideas are:

- set up a [Calling Tree](#) to support those who are not connected via social media
- join forces with a [Covid-19 Mutual Aid group](#)
- connect with your neighbours with this [Calling Card](#)
- connect with your neighbours with this [Kindness Card](#)
- If you are, or you know someone who is, facing loneliness have a look at our [Loneliness Toolkit](#)
- sign up as a [NHS Volunteer Responder](#) - recruitment now open across England

The NHS Volunteer Responders programme, set up by NHS England, is here to help people in England to stay safe during coronavirus. NHS Volunteer Responders have now completed more than a million tasks! Following an initial recruitment campaign for new volunteers in 70 local authority areas, they have now opened up recruitment across England. This is in response to the lockdown that began on 5 November and because demand for the volunteers' support is continuing to rise. It will also help to meet NHS requests for additional direct support during this winter. At the same time, they are encouraging anyone who signed up as an NHS Volunteer Responder in March but had to step down due to other commitments, to re-join the programme and give as much time as they can.

As the programme evolves it will focus on direct support to the NHS with tasks such as the delivery of equipment to monitor vulnerable COVID-19 patients in

their homes, and with stewarding people at vaccination clinics. They will also continue to support vulnerable people by delivering food and medication, and through Check In and Chat phone calls. They are not intending to replace any local volunteering activity. They aim to work collaboratively with volunteering leads in local areas.

If you are interested in joining as a volunteer you can attend an online meetings by clicking the link below at the specified time:

- Thursday 19th November, 11.30-12.30
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
- Thursday 3rd December, 11.30-12.30
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
- Thursday 17th December, 11.30-12.30
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Beware of scams and crimes

Criminals are using the COVID-19 pandemic to scam the public. To help you avoid becoming a victim, we have highlighted on our website the wide variety of [COVID-19 scams and crimes](#) which have arisen, key protection advice and guidance on how to report these scams.

Community response stories

For further inspiration on ways in which you can support your community, have a look at our [Community Response Stories](#). If you have a story you would like to share, please submit it using this [form](#).

Domestic abuse survivors

Are you or someone you know is a domestic abuse survivor, the information below may be very useful.

- [Women's Aid Network](#): Many survivors will be feeling unsafe isolating in a house with an abusive person, and isolated from their support networks. Women's Aid have put together some advice and information about support available. See [Women's Aid COVID-19 Resource Hub](#)
- [Safe Lives](#): They have put together some resources for people living with domestic abuse, and the professionals supporting them. They have also produced [guidance for friends and family](#).
- [Refuge](#): They are there for you if you, or someone you care about, is experiencing domestic abuse. Phone the **National Domestic Abuse Helpline** on **0800 2000 247**. They also have a range of digital resources available at [refuge.org.uk](#) and [nationaldahelpline.org.uk](#).
- [Neighbourhood Watch](#): We have a range of information on domestic abuse on our website including how to help, spotting the signs and more. See more in our [Domestic Abuse Toolkit](#).

Keep safe,

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK,
Central Support Team

Follow us..

Website: [ourwatch.org.uk](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/ourwatch](#)

Twitter: [twitter.com/N_watch](#)

Instagram: [neighbourhood.watch.insta](#)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/neighbourhood-watch/](#)

CHRISTMAS TREATS FROM CRADLEY VILLAGE PLAYERS

What weird times these are! As Lady Bracknell almost said, to be locked down once was bad but twice has been grim enough for those of us living in a house with a garden and even more challenging for many others, especially in towns. At the time of writing, we don't know whether Christmas will be a casualty of these events but it seems likely to be less festive than usual.



In past years, Cradley Village Players (CVP) have been on hand to add a little cheer to the winter months. Three years ago, for example, we

staged Meg Monk's lively production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in a version by Welsh-born playwright Gary Owen that added topical references to streamline and update the original for a younger audience while keeping its central story intact.

Sadly neither we nor our audience can meet (at Cradley School or elsewhere) to perform this or any other play in the flesh. But the wonders of digital technology mean you can see it again if you came last time or for the first time if not. To that end we've put a link on our website Cradleyvillageplayers.com where you can view (but for copyright reasons not download) our video recording of the production.



'A rousing family show, with belly laughs and cheering songs, that also presents the dark side of Dickens's tale with tremendous boldness' one reviewer said of the original. 'While some sections are bleak enough to make us all want to mend our ways, Owen doesn't linger over evidence of Scrooge's miserly behaviour, opting to focus on the events that made him what he is: a single-minded, workaholic entrepreneur who might make the decisions on *Dragons' Den*. A hugely likable show that melds history with our modern world'.



In our version, former Worcester Cathedral Lay Clerk Kit Williams played Jacob Marley and retired local GP Bruce Herriot was Ebenezer Scrooge with a cast of thirty talented adults and children in the roles of Tiny Tim, the three Christmas Ghosts and all of Dickens' other wonderful characters. Music and lyrics by Adrienne Quartley and Michael Cryne were accompanied by Wynne Harries.

We don't just want to re-live past glories, though. As David Tennant and Michael Sheen showed, studio or staged performances aren't the only way to create and share drama, and we plan to follow in their footsteps with one or more plays recorded by cast members in their homes and edited for 'broadcast' on our website.



They're likely to be audio projects but we haven't yet chosen the final scripts. As sound-only plays don't require line-learning or facing a live audience, this could be a chance for anyone who feels drawn to acting but hasn't had the courage to join us on stage to put a metaphorical toe in the water. If that could be you, please contact me on the email address below or speak to any member of the CVP committee.

Meanwhile some images of *Christmas Carol* to whet your appetite for a treat in store!

DAVID ROBERTSON

David@curioustechology.com



THE TROUBLE WITH CHIMNEYS

Submitted By: Miss June Marble, private eye to the elite.

Christmas is coming and the geese are not the only ones getting fat: the criminal fraternity will be gorging at the expense of the unwary. Nevertheless, I usually take a short vacation over the festive season. Not this year, though; this year I have been given a special commission by a very important person, and I will not shirk my responsibilities.

“What are your plans for Christmas Eve?” I asked my stalwart comrade-in-arms, Dr Hilda Witless, the other day – while maintaining the appropriate distance, naturally.

“A quiet night in with a bottle of single malt and a box set of classic British war films, as always. Why, are you inviting me round for a games night?”

“Not exactly; but I am requiring your assistance in bringing a felon to justice.”

“What now, Marble: the bank raid in Chipping Foghorn; the kidnapping of the Duke of Dumpshire’s prize goats?”

“No, Hilda, I solved both of those crimes yesterday afternoon,” I retorted impatiently. “This is of greater significance by far. It seems there is a notorious housebreaker at large, making full use of the prolonged periods of darkness characteristic of the season to cover his tracks.” Not your forte, Marble; more in Mr Plod’s line. Why don’t you leave it to Inspector Slick?”

“He’d be way out of his depth. Besides, he’s got the in-laws staying for the holiday and his wife won’t let him out to play.”

So, what is this burglar after: jewels; antiques; computerized gadgetry?”

“Strangely enough he removes very little; it’s the extent of his intrusions that are a cause for concern. Virtually every home in the land is targeted; indeed, I believe it must be the work of an extensive gang of villains; perhaps under the direction of Madame Rector. Have you ever noticed any signs of a break-in over the Christmas period, Hilda?”

“Funny you ask that, for years now I’ve been aware of dodgy doings in my living room at just that time of year. Not much taken, just a glass or two of Amontillado and a few mince pies; nothing to worry the constabulary over.”

“Anything else of note?” I enquired coaxingly.

“Well, not really.” She rubbed a few brain cells together, before adding. “That is, except for all those

odds and ends littering the floor under the Christmas tree.”

“Precisely, Hilda – assorted tat that nobody in their right mind would ever allow in the house, all disguised by bright and sparkly wrappings to blend in with the seasonal decorations. Fly-tipping on a massive scale – how better to dispose of noxious waste than scatter it willy-nilly about every living room in the realm.”

Hilda seemed unconvinced. “Oh, I always thought it fell out of the branches of the tree. They pick up all sorts growing out in the fields, you know.”

“Good Lord, Hilda, sometimes you are such a simpleton! This is a crime that affects virtually every household – and that includes the very highest of all.”

“You mean... not Sandringham, surely?”

“I’m sorry to say, yes. Last year it needed three large skips to dispose of the offensive deposits befouling the drawing room; and that, despite the entire brigade of guards maintaining an all-night vigil.”

She stared into my eyes, horrified. “And how about you, Marble: have you been a victim?”

“Oddly enough, no: not even when I was a girl. Of course, my parents would never have tolerated such laxity; as for myself, my security measures are virtually impenetrable.”

“Has anyone caught sight of this criminal – enough to obtain a description, that is?”

“Yes, but he was obviously wearing a disguise – clad all in red and white and wearing a false beard.”

“A striped jersey; like any common burglar!” exclaimed Hilda enthusiastically.

“Not exactly; more a red duffel coat with white fur trim and black Wellingtons.”

“Kinky,” opined Hilda, intrigued. “I wouldn’t be at all surprised if there were more to this than meets the eye.”

Adopting a stoical demeanour I prepared for an imminent outburst of emotion. “Take a tot of Earl Grey, Hilda, and brace yourself. I fear it’s a case of cruelty to helpless animals... No, I won’t go into details – it’s too horrible to contemplate. All I can say is that it involves intolerably heavy loads, the tinkling of bells and snowy rooftops.”

Poor Hilda was distraught, stuffing her mouth with custard creams in a vain attempt to stifle the sobs. However, it was in my interest to disclose all.

"I'm afraid there's more. It's... It's... we believe it's a matter of genetic modification. How else could he make those little reindeer fly?"

"Not reindeer," wailed Hilda in her anguish. "They've got such sweet eyes!"

If I was able to produce tears I might have joined with her in her misery; however, one of us was obliged to maintain a stiff upper lip.

"Hilda, with your aid I can bring this malefactor to justice. On Christmas Eve I want the two of us to lie in wait for the intruder in your living room."

She looked at me aghast. "My living room! But this sounds dangerous. Can't you get Senor Hector Parrotti to do it? Or, maybe, Count Dieter Von Flimsey would take up the cudgel."

I looked her straight in the eye, saying, "Come now, you know we're the only women for the job. Besides, we have special government dispensation to form our own bubble. Your place, ten-thirty sharp, the twenty-fourth of December: be there!"

She turned away, muttering so I could barely catch her words; but I could have sworn she said, "Huh, Christmas – the traditional season for receiving undesirables into your home;" no doubt referring to the imminent intrusion of the housebreaker.

In the New Year I'll give a report on how we fared in this perilous enterprise. Until then, be alert and keep a sharp look-out for unwanted trash coming down your chimney.



DYSON PERRINS CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

It feels a long time since I have written an update for the local parish magazines. At the point of writing, we are fast approaching October half term and I think I speak on behalf of all our school community, by saying we are ready for a break.

On the back of the most bizarre term of my career in the summer, this first half term has been full of new routines, and I am delighted with how everyone has responded. Seven months ago schools were closed as our country went into lockdown. We had two days to prepare for delivering lessons remotely and get procedures in place to ensure everyone remained safe. Contrary to some of the coverage in the media, my experience of how school staff responded was simply amazing. Dyson Perrins remained open to children of key workers and vulnerable students throughout, including staying open during the school holidays. The number of students on-site grew during the summer months and we were able to invite Year 10 and 12 students into school on a rota from the middle of June. We provided free school meals and delivered food vouchers to families, and our pastoral team were checking the well-being of students on a daily basis.

Seeing staff develop their skills and confidence in using technology for live online teaching was a real highlight. Whilst it already seems a long time ago, I think that term will stay in the memory for many years to come.

It would be remiss of me not to mention how proud we are of our Year 11 and Year 13 students who finished their time at Dysons in the summer. Their education was cut short after examinations were cancelled and they had to cope with a rollercoaster of decision making around how their grades would be issued, including changes made the evening before grades were given out in August. The final approach of Centre Assessed Grades was far from perfect, but I am confident our students received grades that were a fair reflection of their capabilities and students have been able to move on successfully.

I am delighted to share that Dysons reopened for all students in September and we have been well supported by families, with very high attendance so far. The new routines we have in place, from hand sanitising before entering every classroom to creating separate year group zones at social times, are having a positive impact. Our staff are already having conversations about what we would like to keep post-Covid, if such a time presents itself. Our new Year 7 cohort have settled quickly and there is a calm, purposeful yet relaxed atmosphere in school. It's great to be back.

I do hope your families are keeping well.

Kind regards

MIKE GUNSTON
Headteacher

THE BUSIEST SEASON

I've done the shopping and baked the bread
And everything is clean.
I've swept the corridor, polished the lamps
The brightest that they've ever been.
There's plenty of meat in the larder
And logs are piled on the hearth.
It's a hotel's busiest season
So we've brought in extra staff.

The roads are crammed, we're fully booked
But this couple need a booking.
She says that she's expecting a child -
I can tell that she is just by looking!
My husband explains that we haven't a room.
"Try the end of the town", he said.
But he thinks of the profit and has an idea -
"Do you think you could sleep in the shed?"

I wake with a start and I look outside
For I hear a cry in the night.
I need my sleep! What's happening now?
It's given me oh! such a fright!
I creep over the yard and look into the shed
All lit up by a star.
(I don't usually enter a visitor's room
But they've left the door ajar.)

The woman's exhausted and looks so forlorn,
Her husband is gentle and caring,
And there in the straw her baby's been born
In the cold; not a stitch is he wearing.
Tomorrow they'll leave, I can do without this,
They'll go as soon as they're able.
I've no time for babies, enough's to be done,
And besides that, our horse needs his stable!

I've wrapped him in linen, his fingers all curled
As he goes to his mother to feed.
What a terrible way to come into the world;
At a time such as this—all I need!

His sticky black hair like a small thorny crown,
And his eyes are so knowing and steady.
There's blood on his cheek and he hasn't a gown.
Ah!
But it seems that he knows me already!

BARBARA GILBROOK
A former resident of Cradley



COLOURING FUN



CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH



N S Q N W M H P S N U N D R T Q U W W S
 W I H O R R P W A O O Q Z B N R E A T P
 L R O I D I E E A P J B K F E H L V L Y
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- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| TREE | ELF |
| STOCKING | PINECONE |
| WREATH | NUTCRACKER |
| GARLAND | MISTLETOE |
| CANDLE | CARDS |
| FIGURINE | FIREPLACE |
| ORNAMENT | CANDY |
| TINSEL | PAPER |
| RIBBON | BOW |
| TWINKLING | NATIVITY |
| LIGHTS | SNOWFLAKE |
| BELLS | |



Answers next month

STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL 111 CLUB

Two draws were made on 17 November, for and the winners were:

November draw:
 First prize Paul Scully
 Second prize Alison Berthon
 Third prize Alison Berthon
 Fourth prize Eva Fielding

December draw:
 First prize Annie Hyde
 Second prize Frank Bye
 Third prize Jane Alfrey
 Fourth prize Jane Pilling

All winners are notified individually and the results are posted on the hall's website www.storridgevillagehall.com

The next draw will be on Tuesday, 19 January (too late I'm afraid for the results to appear in the February Newsletter).

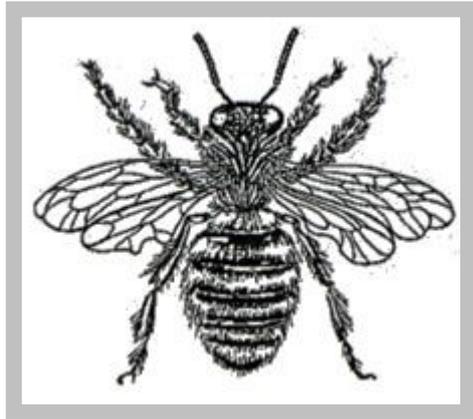
The final draw of the year—yes, we started in March—will be on Tuesday, 16 February. I will be writing to all our ticket holders about joining for another 12 months in the near future. New members will also be very welcome.

JACKIE WHITE
 Secretary, SVH Management Committee
jackie.white@hotmail.co.uk

A FEW ANAGRAMS

- (C) Christmas, (CS) Christmas Songs/No 1s
- (C) CAN ASSAULT (2 WORDS)
 - (CS) BIG LENS JELL (2)
 - (C) STREAKY TOUR (2)
 - (C) TRAVEL AND DANCE (2)
 - (CS) TILTING HENS (2)
 - (C) VICARS THEMES (2)
 - (CS) IDEALISE MOWN TENT (3)
 - (C) OFF THE SANE PEST (3)
 - (CS) HOT DYNASTY AREA (3)
 - (C) HE'S FAT, SMART, RICH (2)
 - (CS) HONESTY WARMS FONT (3)
 - (C) SPICE IN 'EM (2)
 - (CS) WEAN AGAIN MARY (4)
 - (C) I'M A POET MADMEN (2)
 - (C) DRASTIC CHARMS (2)
 - (CS) ETHICALLY SHORN MISTS (3)
 - (CS) A WICKED LESSON GONG (3)
 - (CS) CHALK SHED LET (3)
 - (CS) GALACTIC UNTWISTS A MONSOON(6)
 - (C) SCATHING MUD DRIPS (2)

Answers: 1=Santa Claus, 2=Jingle Bells, 3=Roast Turkey, 4=Advent Calendar, 5=Silent Night, 6=Christmas Eve, 7=Mistletoe and Wine, 8=Feast of Stephen, 9=Stay Another Day, 10=Father Christmas, 11=Frosty the Snowman, 12=Mince Pies, 13=Away in a Manger, 14=Pantomime Dame, 15=Christmas Card, 16=Loneley this Christmas, 17=Good King Wenceslas, 18=Deck the Halls, 19=Santa Claus is Coming to Town, 20=Christmas Pudding



Do you have a story to tell?

Let me help with your memoir

*Contact me to arrange a
home visit*

Tel: 07989 733393 / 01886 833729

Email: BeverleyM2@outlook.com



Made to measure curtains, blinds,
lampshades, cushions. Free home
visit & measure service across
Herefordshire and Worcestershire.



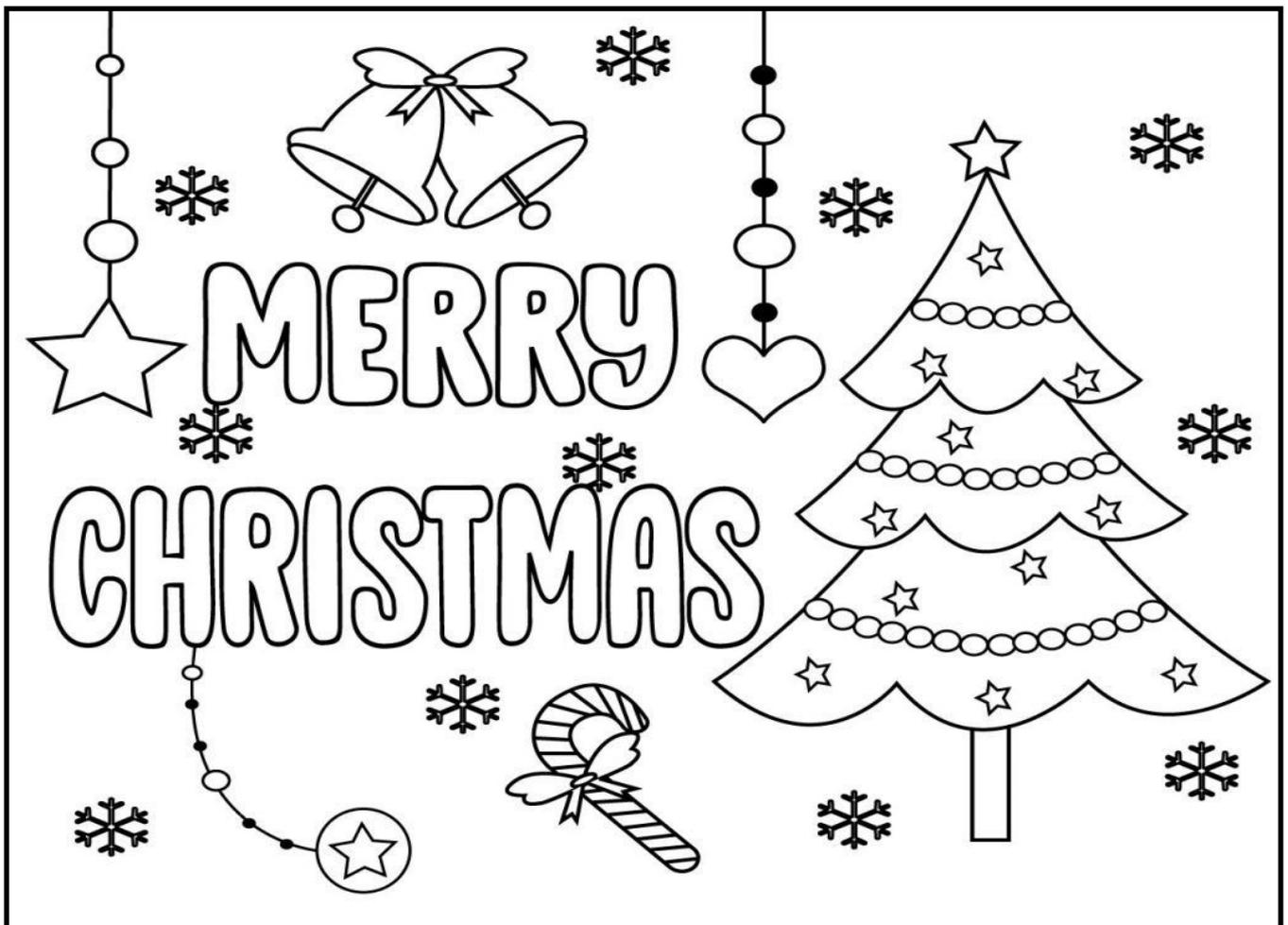
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selection of fabric books, as well as
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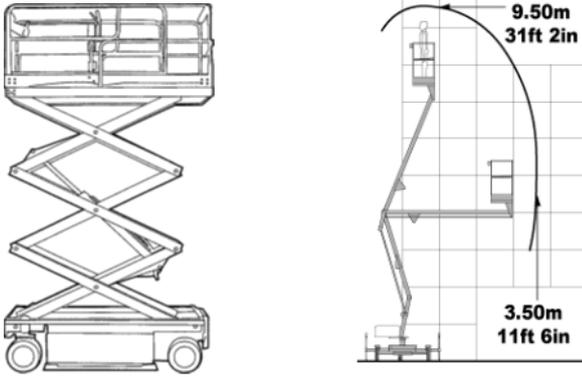
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	1.45 p.m. Silver Swans Ballet (over 55's)
Wednesdays	9.30 a.m. Modern Jazz Dance
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	12.50 p.m. Flamenco
	2.00 p.m. Ballet
Thursdays	10.00 a.m. 'FitSteps Fab'
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	12.15 p.m. Ballet
	1.40 p.m. NEW Silver Swans Ballet (over 55's Date TBC)
	2.45 p.m. Belly Dance
Fridays	10.30 a.m. Silver Swans Ballet (over 55's)
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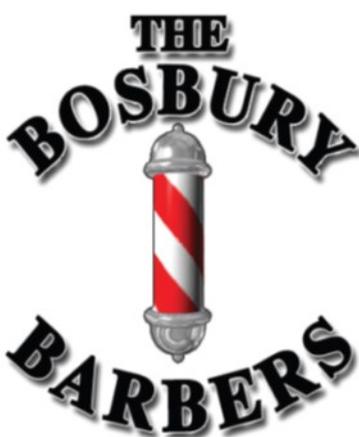
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THREE VILLAGES DIARY OF EVENTS for 2020/2021

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.

DECEMBER

Sun	6	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for copy of event notices and new advertisements to The Butchery, Bosbury Road, Cradley.
Sun	6	7.00 p.m.	Charity Quiz Night in aid of Cradley Church at The Oak, Staplow.
Sat	12	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for articles and diary entries to The Butchery, Bosbury Road, Cradley.
Sat	19	4.00 p.m.	A Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols, St James' Church, Cradley.

2021 A date for your **2021 DIARY**: Cradley Summer Fete will be **Sat 19 JUNE 2021**

Please keep your articles coming in. We're now back in print but we will also keep the Newsletter going online. Please, whenever possible, email articles, event notices and diary entries to the editorial team at:
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Please send all advertising bookings and enquiries to the advertising team at:
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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.

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

Compilation Team: Barbara Davies, Pauline Diplock, Jackie White

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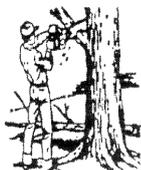


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