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**MATHON**

**STORRIDGE**

# NEWSLETTER



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**November 2021**

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November 2021

## IN MY BEGINNING IS MY END

The more literary minded among us will recognise the opening words from East Coker, the second of T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets. Also, perhaps, from Burnt Norton: 'Time present and time past are both perhaps present in time future.' Our Western view of time, influenced by Christianity, tends to see time as moving in a straight line from beginning to end, just as the Bible moves from Genesis to Revelation, from Creation to Apocalypse: and beyond, the Creation of 'a new heaven and a new earth.' Eliot in his poem draws on Eastern understandings of time as cyclical, or as all 'eternally present.' However we might choose to look at it, the season of Advent, which this year begins on the last Sunday in November, marks the beginning of a new Christian year, a new cycle of readings in churches like ours which follow a common lectionary, and officially, the season of preparation for Christmas.

These days, of course, people seem to celebrate Christmas earlier and earlier, so that the season of Advent almost disappears. That seems a shame, since it was traditionally a time of renewal, of expectation and of gathering excitement: a time of fasting, of penitence and of preparation for 'the coming of the King.'

The scheme of readings followed by most churches these days, certainly by the Church of England, the Methodists and the Roman Catholics, works through a different Gospel each year. This Advent we begin again the Gospel according to St. Luke, many people's favourite, because it contains many of the best loved stories and characters. Most of the traditional Christmas story as it comes down to us, the parable of the Sower, the story of the Good Samaritan, the story of the little man Zacchaeus who climbs a tree to see Jesus go by, and ends up entertaining him to tea: the story of the widow who loses a coin, the story of the Risen Christ on the road to Emmaus, and many more: we owe them all to St. Luke, and this is the year to hear them all again, in the context in which St. Luke hands them on to us. In the world around us, as we move towards this Advent, we also move towards the COP 26 world summit in Glasgow, aware that if ever there was a need to stop, consider how we live and press the re-set button, then this is surely such a moment. We've become all too aware of the cost to the planet and the environment of continuing to live as we have lived for the last few hundred years. There is a clear and evident need for new beginnings, and to face the fact that in all probability this is the only world that is likely to be given to us, whatever dreams some might cherish of life on other planets or in other worlds. 'We look for a new heaven and a new earth', to quote the Scriptures, 'in which righteousness dwells.' May this Advent - and this Christmas - be a season when we commit ourselves afresh to making that a reality.

Your Rector,

ROBERT WARD

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**Edition Editor:** Robert Colledge, telephone 01886 880782  
**Rector:** The Revd Robert Ward, telephone 01886 880438  
**Treasurer:** Emily Hodkin, telephone 07811 905492  
**Advertising:** Jan Dampney, telephone 01886 880316  
Jackie White, telephone 01886 833802  
**Cover photo collage this month taken by Patrick Aydon**

## ***CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2021***

|                                      |                                    |  |                                       |                             |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wednesday 3                          | 10.00 a.m.<br>6.30 p.m.            | Holy Communion<br>Evening Prayer (said)                                    | <b>Live Streamed</b>                  | Cradley                     |
| <b>FIRST SUNDAY<br/>November 7</b>   | 9.30 a.m.<br>9.30 a.m.             | Parish Communion (CW)<br>Lay led Mattins                                   | <b>Live Streamed from home</b>        | Mathon                      |
| <b>3rd SUNDAY BEFORE<br/>ADVENT</b>  | <b>10.45 a.m.<br/>6.00 p.m.</b>    | <b>Family Service<br/>Evensong</b>   |                                       | <b>Cradley<br/>Storrige</b> |
| Wednesday 10                         | 10.00 a.m.<br>6.30 p.m.            | Holy Communion<br>Evening Prayer (said)                                    | <b>Live Streamed</b>                  | Cradley                     |
| <b>SECOND SUNDAY<br/>November 14</b> | <b>*9.30 a.m.<br/>*9.30 a.m.</b>   | <b>Mattins with Act of Remembrance<br/>Mattins with Act of Remembrance</b> |                                       | <b>Storrige<br/>Mathon</b>  |
| <b>REMEMBRANCE<br/>SUNDAY</b>        | <b>*10.50 a.m.</b>                 | <b>Service of Remembrance with the Royal British Legion</b>                |                                       |                             |
| <b>2nd SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT</b>      |                                    | <b>(Act of Remembrance Live-Streamed from 10.55)</b>                       |                                       | <b>Cradley</b>              |
| Wednesday 17                         | 10.00 a.m.<br>Cradley<br>6.30 p.m. | Holy Communion (CW) (said)<br>Evening Prayer (said)                        | <b>Live Streamed</b>                  |                             |
| <b>THIRD SUNDAY<br/>November 21</b>  | 9.30 a.m.<br>9.30 a.m.             | Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Mattins- Lay led                                   |                                       | Storrige<br>Mathon          |
| <b>SUNDAY BEFORE<br/>ADVENT</b>      | 10.45 a.m.<br>11.00 a.m.           | Morning Service – Lay led<br>Morning Prayer                                | <b>Live Streamed from the Rectory</b> | Cradley                     |
| Wednesday 24                         | 10.00 a.m.<br>6.30 p.m.            | Holy Communion (C) (said)<br>Evening Prayer (said)                         | <b>Live Streamed</b>                  | Cradley                     |
| <b>FOURTH SUNDAY<br/>November 28</b> | 9.30 a.m.<br>9.30 a.m.             | Mattins – Shorter Mattins<br>Mattins – lay led                             |                                       | Mathon<br>Storrige          |
| <b>ADVENT SUNDAY</b>                 | 10.45 a.m.<br>6.00 p.m.            | Parish Communion (CW)<br>Evening Prayer                                    | <b>Live Streamed from the Rectory</b> | Cradley                     |

## ***CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2021***

|                                    |                                    |   |                                       |                     |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Wednesday 1                        | 10.00 a.m.<br>Cradley<br>6.30 p.m. | Holy Communion (CW) (said)<br>Evening Prayer (said) | <b>Live Streamed</b>                  | Mathon              |
| <b>FIRST SUNDAY<br/>5 December</b> | 9.30 a.m.<br>9.30 a.m.             | Parish Communion (BCP)<br>Holy Communion (BCP)      | <b>Live streamed from the Rectory</b> | Mathon              |
| <b>2nd IN ADVENT</b>               | 10.45 a.m.<br>6.00 p.m.            | Family Service<br>Evensong                          |                                       | Cradley<br>Storrige |

## ***FROM THE REGISTERS***

|                                    |  |   |  |          |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|----------|
| Holy Baptism<br>10 October         |  | Hallie-Grace Robinson                     |  | Cradley  |
| Holy Matrimony<br>2 October        |  | Francis Adam Edwards & Chelsea Tara Seber |  | Cradley  |
| Interment of Ashes<br>27 September |  | Pauline Short                             |  | Cradley  |
| Memorial Service<br>13 October     |  | Kathleen Snowball                         |  | Storrige |

## STORRIDGE CHURCH FLOWERS

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 7 November  | Mrs J Oseman  |
| 14 November | Mrs J Oseman  |
| 21 November | Mrs P Hawkins |
| 28 November | Mrs P Hawkins |



## MATHON CHURCH

### READERS

|             |             |              |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 7 November  | Mr Walker   | Mrs Cutler   |
| 14 November | Mrs Seymour | Mrs Pugh     |
| 21 November | Mr Vivian   | Mrs Armitage |
| 28 November | Mrs Crouch  | Mr Crouch    |
| 5 December  | Mrs Seymour | Mr Edwards   |

### SIDESMEN

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| 7 November  | Mrs Cutler     |
| 14 November | Mrs Pugh       |
| 21 November | Mr McKerracher |
| 28 November | Mr Crouch      |
| 5 December  | Mrs Seymour    |

K.B.S.

## MCS TENNIS CLUB DONATES TO MACMILLAN CANCER

MCS (Mathon, Storrige and Cradley) tennis club marked the end of their summer tournament with a finals day on September 11<sup>th</sup> where members also donated prizes for a raffle to raise money for Macmillan Cancer. As is almost compulsory at MCS tennis sessions many cakes were eaten with members making further donations for the privilege.

£150 was raised. A big thanks to Pat Pugh for organising, selling tickets and distributing the prizes which ranged from garden centre vouchers to wine and inevitably...more cake.

CHRIS MARTIN  
01684 577146

## CRADLEY CHAPEL

(Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion)



Services each Sunday at  
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Communion Service  
on the first Sunday of each month

*A very warm welcome awaits you.*

## CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS OF



## CRADLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cradley school is in urgent need of a Clerk to the Governors.

The applicant needs to be an accurate minute taker, show the ability to organise complex material and show willingness to attend evening meetings, amongst many other things. The Clerk ensures that the school works in compliance with the statutory framework and especially those parts relevant to a church school.

Full training will be given by the Diocesan Board of Education.

If interested, please contact Mrs. Jones, Headteacher at Cradley school.

[DJones@Cradley.Hereford.sch.uk](mailto:DJones@Cradley.Hereford.sch.uk)

ERYL COPP AND LARA TAYLOR

## THE DIARY PAGE IS BACK

As many groups are scheduling meetings for 2022 the *Newsletter* diary is ready to record the dates so regular sessions are seen at a glance.



If you want us to include your regular meetings in the diary, please send us a list as soon as possible to the email address below.

You are also invited to write an article about your group for inclusion in the *Newsletter*.

We look forward to hearing from you.

JACKIE WHITE  
[adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk)

## HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL A message from Dr Ellie Chowns

As I write this I'm conscious of the nights drawing in and the temperature dropping. There's lots that I love about this time of year – the autumn colours, apple harvest, the sense of cosiness – but I'm also aware that winter can be tough for some. The increase in fuel prices and the cuts in Universal Credit are worrying for many people, I know.

So if you or anyone you know are worried about keeping warm this winter, I really encourage you to get in touch with Keep Herefordshire Warm (website <https://keepherefordshirewarm.co.uk/>, tel 0800 677 1432, email [khw@severnwye.org.uk](mailto:khw@severnwye.org.uk)). They have friendly advisers who are funded by the council to provide free home energy advice, and can help match you up with any available government grants.

As we all know, tackling cold homes and fuel poverty is good for both people and planet. It's a major part of what we need to do to tackle the climate crisis – and it's a win-win since it helps people keep healthy and save money at the same time – plus it creates lots of jobs! Here in Herefordshire we're commissioning a 'Retrofit Strategy' to help identify what needs to be done to fix the problem locally. There are some things we can do ourselves, but ultimately it does need proper long-term government funding.

The independent national Committee on Climate Change has criticised the UK for 'uncertainty and delay' and 'missing the mark' on climate action – and have pointed out that 2021 is a defining year on climate, with the big COP26 climate conference happening in Glasgow in November. I'll be going to Glasgow myself (by train of course) to add my voice to those calling for the serious national and international action we need.

Closer to home, I'm continuing to press for more action on road safety. In September, council officers came to the Bishops Frome Parish Council meeting and heard passionate pleas for action to tackle the speeding problem on the A4103 in Fromes Hill. It's frustrating that the council doesn't have the ability to place speed cameras there (that's in the hands of the police) but I do really hope that the Parish Council and Herefordshire Council working together can now come up with a plan for measures to reduce speeding through the village – and of course I will do everything I can to support them. Many of you may have seen the recent changes in Stretton Grandison and Ashperton on the A417, designed to curb speeding, so I hope we can learn from their experiences too.

And while I am on the subject of cars – if anyone is interested in setting up a community car share scheme locally, please do let me know. The council has recently been able to fund the establishment of several new car pool schemes across the county which is very exciting. I'm personally a real enthusiast since I got rid of my own car nearly 2 years ago and

just use my local car pool instead. It works brilliantly! Do get in touch if you'd like to know more.

And finally – I have restarted monthly drop-in ward surgeries in Cradley. It's lovely to see people in person! So please feel free to pop in and see me if there's anything you'd like to discuss. The Cradley surgery is in Cradley Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month from 2-4pm, and the next ones are 21<sup>st</sup> October, 18<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December. My surgery coincides with the fun and friendly board games club which I recommend – they have delicious cake!

And, as always, please get in touch if there's anything you'd like my help with. Landline: 01531 670729, Mobile: 07950 714947, Email: [Ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk). I'm always happy to hear from you. Until next month, take care and keep warm!

Ellie

DR ELLIE CHOWNS  
Herefordshire Council  
Councillor for Bishops Frome and Cradley Ward  
Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy  
Leader of the Green Group  
Tel: 07950 714947 / 01531 670729

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### CRADLEY CHURCH 200 CLUB

October Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Sue Madsen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Moira Starkey  
3<sup>rd</sup> John Rowe

If you would like to join, contact Ian on 01886 884682 or see Cradley Church website.

Only £1.00 per share per month!

IAN BAILEY

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**\* \* LATE NEWS \* \***

### CRADLEY CHURCH FUNDRAISING

The Quiz Night on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December at The Oak Staplow is in aid of Cradley Church. (time unknown at time of publishing).

Teams upto 6 are most welcome! Contact me on 01886 884682.

IAN BAILEY



## WELCOME TO NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

*Find out what's really happening in your area and keep in touch with West Mercia Police through our free messaging service.*

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what we're doing in your community.

You're invited to sign up and become a registered recipient of messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone.

Don't worry, we won't bombard you with every incident. You can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive.

We'd really like to hear from you so why not ask your family, friends and colleagues to register too? Let's get talking!

Please note – This service is not for reporting crimes or incidents – to report these please contact West Mercia Police on 101, via the West Mercia Police website or 999 in an emergency.

***Register online for free at [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)***





# St. Richard's Hospice

CARING FOR LIFE

Hundreds of twinkling lights will be lit in memory and celebration of loved ones this festive season, in the annual St Richard's Hospice Lights of Love campaign.

There will be two moving and uplifting St Richard's Lights of Love services at Worcester Cathedral at 2.30p.m. and 7.00 p.m. on Friday, 19th November. The choir from Kings Hawford will sing during the afternoon service and the RGS Senior School Choir will feature in the evening event.

The evening service will be followed by a procession to St Andrew's Spire, where a Christmas tree will be illuminated, full of dedicated Lights of Love, against a backdrop of music from The Salvation Army.

St Richard's has held Lights of Love services and events in Worcestershire for almost two decades, except last year due to the Covid pandemic. Anyone is welcome to dedicate a light in memory or celebration of a loved one, not only those who have a connection with St Richard's.

Hospice Fundraiser Alison Parkes said, "The festive season is a time when many reflect on the wonderful people who have touched our lives, particularly those who are loved and no longer with us. We are really looking forward to celebrating and remembering loved ones together once again after Covid restrictions kept us apart last year."

Mrs Parkes added, "Unfortunately, due to the challenges of holding face-to-face events during the pandemic, we are only holding services at Worcester Cathedral this year and not at other venues. The Cathedral events are free and open to all, however, due to Covid restrictions we need to know how many people will be attending so please book tickets in advance online."

The dedicated names will be displayed around St Andrew's Spire and in a Book of Remembrance at Worcester Cathedral.

You can dedicate a light online at

<https://www.strichards.org.uk/lights-of-love-2021/>

or call the Fundraising Team on 01905 958262.

Supporters who dedicate and donate online will have the added benefit of their personal message being displayed on the St Richard's online Christmas tree.

Money raised from Lights of Love donations will help support the hospice's specialist care for people living with a serious progressive illness, their families and bereaved people across Worcestershire.

Lights of Love is kindly sponsored by Fisher German.

St Richard's Hospice cares for adults with a serious progressive illness, improving their quality of life from diagnosis, during treatment and to their last days. It

also supports their loved ones.

Each year the hospice team supports more than 2,900 patients, family members and bereaved people in Worcestershire.

St Richard's is an independent charity and relies on donations and gifts in Wills for the majority of its income with the remainder funded by the NHS.

For more information about St Richard's Hospice visit [www.strichards.org.uk](http://www.strichards.org.uk)

HELEN GRIFFEE,  
Communications Manager

St Richard's Hospice,

Wildwood Drive, Worcester, WR5 2QT

Telephone: 01905 763963/Direct Line: 01905 958164

Website: [www.strichards.org.uk](http://www.strichards.org.uk)

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## CRADLEY COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

It was so good to see the Church Lawn thronged with people again on the last Saturday in September. The sun shone, the barbecue sold out of food, the bar ran out of beer and someone ate the last piece of cake in the Church: in short, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

On behalf of the organisers, I'd like to thank all the local clubs and organisations who put their time and effort into making their stalls so attractive and interesting. I think it's amazing that our area has so many diverse opportunities to enjoy ourselves and meet like-minded people at the same time. It makes our community special.

A big thank you to everyone involved. I look forward to seeing you all again at the next village event.

JAN DAMPNEY  
ON BEHALF OF THE EVENT ORGANISERS

Participating organisations and groups:

Beacon Camera Club, CMS Art Group, CMS Newsletter, Cradley Church, Cradley Players, Cradley Village Hall, Cradley Walkers, Cradley WI, Cradley and Storridge Parish Council, Cubs and Beavers, FOCS, Heritage Group, Keep Fit for the over 50s, MCS Tennis Club, Malvern Dowzers, Malvern Martial Arts, Mothers Union, Royal British Legion, Tai Chi/Wellbeing, Three Villages Visiting Group, Teeny Tots, Scouting Group



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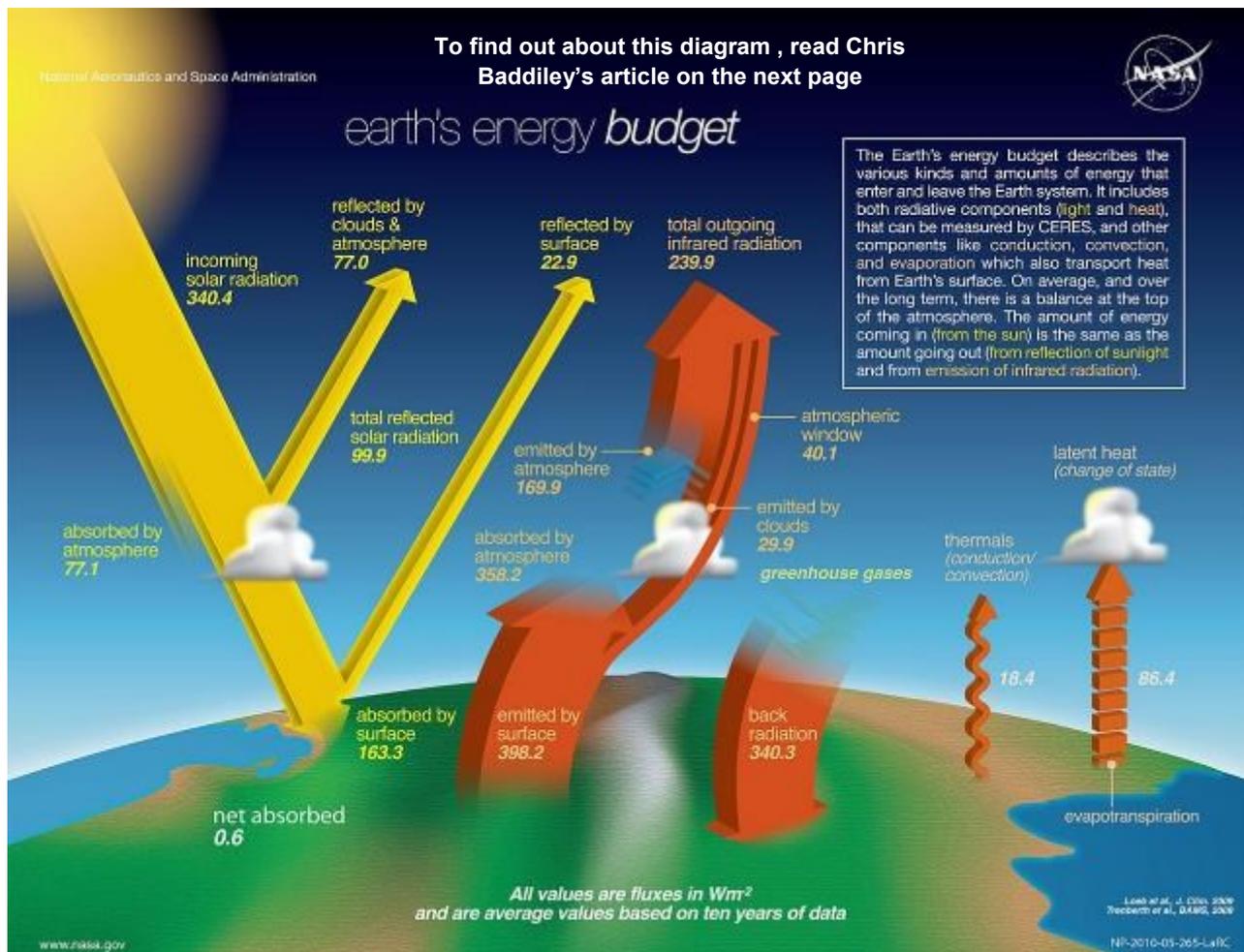
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## THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERIC ENERGY BALANCE AND OUR WEATHER CHANGING CRISIS.



The picture is of a sporadic bright meteor, not associated with any shower, taken on September 29 by my automatic meteor camera, remotely controlled over the UK meteor network, pointing East in the direction of the North Sea. Meteors are little particles of dust previously ejected from comets in regular orbits around the Sun. When we pass through the particle stream each year, they hit the atmosphere at about 40 km/sec. and burn up at about 70km altitude. The next major shower is the Leonids (radiant Leo), peaking Nov.17-18; from the tail of comet Tempel-Tuttle, once every 33 years we go through the most intense part when they are spectacular.

Prior to COP26, my theme is the Earth's energy balance which leads us to the dire climate change crisis that is upon us.

The Earth's average temperature is determined by comparing the total energy received from the Sun with the energy radiated back to space; these have to balance long-term and that determines the atmospheric temperature. It is true for all planets with atmospheres. The Earth's total energy input from the Sun is on the Earth's projected face to the Sun, at any one time; it is least towards the poles due to the horizon inclination towards it, and it is proportional to the Earth's surface area. Most planets spin on their inclined axis with respect to the Sun and of course also orbit it. The face towards the Sun is constantly changing (ours is the 24-hour cycle). The energy radiated to space is from the whole surface area, which is four times as great.

The Earth's distance from the Sun is absolutely critical, slightly nearer and the Earth would become a hothouse like Venus, slightly further and it would be permanently frozen like Mars. The Earth's orbit is very slightly elliptical, we are closest to the Sun in early January by just a few percent, but that moves through all the months of a year over 24,000 years. Even this has a big effect on the weather long-term, producing regular ice ages. I will explain this next time, as well as how our weak magnetic field is also critical.

The Sun, at a surface temperature of 5700°, radiates over the entire spectral range of all possible wavelengths, not just the visible. It is by far the main source of energy at the earth. It is many millions of

times brighter in the visible than any other wavelength so the infrared components beyond the red end of the visible spectrum have very little effect, while the infrared radiation from warming the Earth back to space is the dominant factor setting the temperature for the Earth's energy balance.

When we put our hand out in Sunshine, we feel it heating up. This is NOT from the radiated heat of the Sun. It is mostly from the visible light and very near infrared rays being absorbed by our skin, causing the molecules to vibrate, which we sense as heat, and not the sunlight directly. To maintain a balance, our own temperature is controlled through radiation and convection out, or by sweat evaporation, which is a cooling process.

Here I describe the key factors of the Earth's self-control of the energy balance. For those interested, please see the NASA website <https://ceres.larc.nasa.gov/science/>.

Our atmosphere is mostly transparent to incoming sunlight, but not to outgoing thermal infrared radiation from the warmed ground. The critically asymmetric molecules of natural water vapour, nitrous oxide, methane, and less than 1% natural content of carbon dioxide, absorb the infrared radiation from the heated ground increasing Earth's temperature by 33° of which water vapour is by far the largest factor. Without this, our planet would be mostly frozen. The temperature rises until the thermal emission radiated to space balances that received in the visible from the Sun. This is the greenhouse effect, that applies naturally. The vastly dominant symmetric molecules of oxygen and nitrogen do not have a part in this.

The largest natural component of achieving self-regulating thermal balance is from water vapour, maintaining a limited range of temperature variation for many tens of millions of years. The heat transfer from the lower atmosphere is mostly convective to higher levels, while that from the upper atmosphere is radiated into space. If the temperature on the Earth rises, this results in more convection of the warm air from the surface into the lower atmosphere to higher levels where it cools and condenses as more clouds, causing the upper atmosphere to cool. The clouds reflect the Sunlight back into space, so reducing the Sunlight reaching the ground, and so cooling the ground.

Natural vegetation takes in the carbon from the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere for plant growth; the energy required for this reaction comes from Sunlight, through photosynthesis. This releases oxygen into the atmosphere and is the main source of oxygen. This is where all our oxygen came from. If suspected on other planets elsewhere, then it is a sure sign of life on them. It is not possible to detect

*Continued on next page*

Continued from previous page

oxygen directly, but it can be inferred from the asymmetric molecule ozone which is produced from oxygen molecules reacting with ultraviolet light.

The carbon is trapped in the vegetation on, and under, the ground after it dies, then, over a period of time it becomes coal, oil and natural gas. We release it by burning these fossil fuels, putting carbon dioxide back in the atmosphere, resulting in our human contribution to greenhouse gases. Man's contribution is actually very small, 1.5° since the start of the industrial era, largely due to putting back carbon dioxide and methane back to the atmosphere, but it's enough to make the difference, and we are at tipping point, beyond regulation, that is compared with 33° in total that forms the balance.

I will continue next time with how the atmosphere has changed over a long time, only supporting life currently, as well as more on glaciation, the atmospheres of other solar system planets, the detection of extra solar planets, and the question of life elsewhere.

CHRIS BADDILEY

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### DON'T FORGET!

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

## MUSIC AT CRADLEY CHURCH

Yes, we are singing again, and it will soon be the annual run-up to Christmas, and Cradley Church Choir is now beginning to put plans in place for the festive season. The big event for the choir will be the **Cradley Church Carol Service on 19<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00 p.m.** so please put that in your diaries now. As ever, there will be a mixture of very well-known carols for the whole congregation to sing, and items from the choir. Even if you don't normally sing in the choir, but have done some singing, you might like to consider joining us for this special occasion? So, please don't be shy, and, if you're interested, let us know; we shall help with as much support as we can. We have already arranged Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> + 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am for rehearsals but there may be others too.

In the meantime the church choir will feature in other services coming up at Cradley:

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 4.00 p.m.  
Commemoration of the Departed (All Souls)

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 10.45 a.m.  
Annual Service of Remembrance, and

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 10.45 a.m.  
Service for Advent Sunday.

We look forward to hearing from you if you wish to join in the Christmas Carol Service, or to see you at any of the above events – a warm welcome awaits.

WYNNE HARRIES  
(01886 880 976)  
wynneharrises@gmail.com

JULIA MACLAGAN  
(01886 880 402)  
julia.maclagan@btinternet.com

## 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!

## MEMORIES OF MUM – MARY SKINNER - 60 YEARS IN CRADLEY

Mum and Dad – Mary and Frank Skinner - moved to Cradley from Croesyceiliog, South Wales in the Winter of 1962. They moved into a small caravan with their brood of 4 small daughters, dog and cats on the site of their new bungalow being built by local builder Bert Walters. Mum often said she was the happiest she'd ever been despite it being one of the harshest winters – living in that small caravan, washing clothes in a boiler outside, listening to the birds and the quiet of the countryside. At weekends we'd all decamp and squat in a condemned cottage (now gone) where we could have a bath and cook in a proper kitchen. Mum used to walk along the Hereford/Worcester road with dog, pram and 3 little kids trailing behind – can't imagine doing that safely now, but then ----! However it didn't go on for long – we were soon denounced and evicted as Squatters!

Dad was away for long hours with his work as a Plant Health Inspector with the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food: his patch stretched all across Worcestershire and Herefordshire to the Black Mountains. Mum didn't drive so walked all over the village with us all – I remember going to buy meat from Jerry Fincher (Fincher's Corner) and Tustin's (recently known as Pete the Meat's) and buying sweets at Warner's shop and also from Mr and Mrs Wallis at the P.O. We'd walk to Tom Brooks's at Ridgeway Cross and spend a happy hour rummaging through his sheds of re-usable junk. I loved it there and still love junk shops to this day!

Mum was an extremely kind and generous person and our home was always an open house with Mum dishing out slice after slice of cheese-on-toast and homemade cakes. My 2 older attractive sisters were a lure to the Young Bloods of the village who used to climb an overhanging tree to gaze into our garden and tempt them out. Hot summer days would often end in one of the raucous Skinner water fights, Mum standing by the open kitchen window laughing and passing out refill after refill of water-filled Fairy Liquid bottles but she couldn't resist coming out and joining in – she was such fun! Dad would usually be found at the dining room table calmly carrying on with his paperwork as if nothing was going on – a little smile on his face!

Every year we used to go blackcurrant picking and I remember once when we needed to go to the loo, instead of going behind a bush like other pickers, Mum marched up to the Farmer, mortified chicks in tow and instead of telling us to clear off he led us all into his very posh house where we all used his smart private bathroom. She had such cheek!

After my youngest sister started at Cradley School, Mum did too as Dinner Lady with Lil Phillips, Dossie Wood and Mrs Rawle. Many remember Mum from that time and the poem opposite is written by one of her beloved Carers who knew her then.

Towards the end of her life Mum needed more help and care from her family and team of wonderful Carers. She remained welcoming and hospitable always and insisted on buying chocolate biscuits and sweets so any visitors and especially Carers could help themselves. We still made cakes and biscuits together and it was impossible for anyone to leave without sustenance for the journey.

Mum sadly died on 15<sup>th</sup> August and we love and miss her very much. Many thanks to all of you who have sent such lovely cards and messages of sympathy which have been such a comfort to us. Many thanks also to everyone at Cradley Surgery who gave such unfailing care to Mum.

GILLIAN LOWDER

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### MY LOVELY MRS SKINNER

I have happy memories of Cradley School,  
I believe that Frank helped to build the pool,  
I'd go in the hall to get my dinner,  
And see my lovely Mrs Skinner.

The years passed by and she needed care,  
"There's a call in Cradley, the daughter will meet you there",  
And there she was, older and thinner,  
But still my lovely Mrs Skinner.

A 7am call to get out of bed,  
Her morning songs are still in my head,  
She'd ask if she could stay there 'till dinner,  
My naughty, lovely Mrs Skinner.

Her days were spent in the nosy chair,  
She'd press the wrong button and end up in the air,  
If you topped up the fat balls you were onto a winner,  
She loved her birds, my lovely Mrs Skinner.

I will miss dear Mary more than words can say,  
Caring for her was the highlight of my day,  
Even at the end when she no longer had it in her,  
It was an honour to be with my lovely Mrs Skinner.

Her gartons, servants and forgettery,  
Will always remain in my memory,  
There was so much compassion and love within her,  
My beautiful, lovely Mrs Skinner.

ABBY THOMPSON

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

### CRADLEY WI

Cradley WI met on October 7th, when we welcomed Malcolm Penny to our meeting. Some of you might remember Malcolm from a previous talk, he had worked for many years for the Granada TV programme Survival and his excellent talk about his work as a wildlife photographer was very well received at the time.

Malcolm now volunteers at the Brockhampton Estate and he gave us a most interesting and engaging presentation, enthusing us all with his knowledge. It is fascinating to hear how historians discover these important snippets of our history, some of them are very personal memories when a previously undiscovered painting, letter or book is found, and I know that when I next visit Brockhampton it will be through new eyes.

We welcomed two new members to our meeting, Sue and Josephine, and one visitor, Jen, who we hope will join us too. They were treated to a rare glimpse of our WI banner circa 1941 which usually resides in the Heritage Room at the village hall. It will make the occasional appearance at our meetings as it deserves to be seen by us all. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful item in our keeping.

The recent WI Day at Withington was so successful it has already been booked for next year, So keep September 16th 2022 in your diaries as we hope to have a stall there. The recent Cradley Community Day was a great success too, with lots of interest expressed in the WI. As we told you all on the day, a warm welcome awaits.

Our Lunch Club for this month is at the Plough and Harrow, Guarford, on October 14th. Sally has all the details. Sign-ups are going well for our two trips to the Bath Christmas Markets and Tyntesfield. Book Club will be at my house (1, Huntingdon) on November 11th when we will discuss Small Island by Andrea Levy. We have booked Monday July 4th 2022 for the Group Meeting. Save the date!

HFWI Calendars, complete with photos of this beautiful county of ours, and WI diaries are now available to order priced at £4.50 and £5.50 respectively. Non WI members can purchase these should they wish, please contact me if you wish to do so.

Members were given details about the forthcoming Christmas Fair, always such a lovely event, and the rota for help on the day is already filling up.

Finally, I am delighted to say that the Linus quilt was

won by Cradley WI member Margaret Crouch. In addition to the quilt we raffled a second prize last night, a tote bag from Brockhampton to tie in with our meeting, and this was won by a local lady from Cradley, Jill Howard, who has been notified and has received her bag. Well done, ladies. Cradley WI raised £76 for Acorns Children's Hospice so thank you to everyone who bought a ticket.

Cradley WI meets again on Thursday November 4th at the earlier time of 10:00 am, when Mo Flint will be giving a hands-on Craft Session, with plenty of inspiration for Christmas. You are all warmly welcome to join us.

With best wishes,

JOY EDWARDS,  
President, Cradley WI  
joyedwardswi@yahoo.com

**CRADLEY CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**Cradley Village Hall  
Saturday 4th December**

**WANTED**

**Donations of:**

|                  |                               |                |
|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| unwanted gifts   | jewellery                     | bric-a-brac    |
| children's books | children's toys               | tombola prizes |
| accessories      | recently published paperbacks |                |

**ONLY ITEMS IN SALEABLE CONDITION, NO JUMBLE PLEASE!**

**Donations of cakes gratefully accepted at the Hall on the day**

**I CAN COLLECT FROM YOU** 

**Contact Jan:**  
☎ 01886 880316  
✉ [jan@dampney.plus.com](mailto:jan@dampney.plus.com)

## ON THIS DAY

**November 1<sup>st</sup> 1848:** WH Smith opened their first bookstall at Euston station.

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1959:** The first stretch of the M1 motorway was opened to traffic, from what is now junction 5 to junction 18. Before the 70 mph speed limit was introduced a number of car companies used the new motorway to test their racing cars. In June 1964 Jack Sears reached 185 mph on the M1 while testing an AC Cobra in preparation for the Le Mans 24 hour race.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1957:** The Russians launched a satellite carrying Laika, the first dog to be sent into space. Sadly Laika did not survive the trip. After more than 2500 orbits of the earth the satellite burnt up re-entering the earth's atmosphere.

**November 8<sup>th</sup> 1974:** Scotland Yard enlisted the help of Interpol in their search for Lord Lucan. The previous day his wife, suffering from serious head injuries, staggered into a local pub for help after finding the nanny had been murdered. Despite reported sightings from countries around the world no trace of Lord Lucan has ever been found.

**November 10<sup>th</sup> 2020:** Collins Dictionary announced that its word of the year was "Lockdown".

**November 2001:** Kabul fell to the Northern Alliance. The alliance, backed by US and UK forces, was fighting to rid Afghanistan of the Taliban.

**November 14<sup>th</sup> 1952:** The first UK pop chart appeared in the *New Musical Express*, based on a telephone survey of sales at 20 record shops up and down the country. Al Martino was at number 1 with *Here in my heart* – he stayed at number 1 for 9 weeks. Max Bygraves was at number 11 with the *Cowpuncher's Cantata*. Vera Lynn had 3 entries in the top 12.

**November 14<sup>th</sup> 1896:** The first London to Brighton run was organised to celebrate the raising of the speed limit from 4 to 14 mph and the removal of a requirement for a man with a red flag to walk in front of a car. The first to finish was Léon Bollée, driving a car of his own design, who reached Brighton in just under 3 hours 45 minutes.

**November 18<sup>th</sup> 1963:** The first (west) Dartford tunnel opened to traffic. Previously the nearest alternative routes across the Thames were the Blackwall tunnel and the Woolwich ferry. Work had originally started on the construction of the tunnel in 1936 but it was interrupted by the war and only restarted in 1959. The east tunnel was opened in 1980 and the QE2 Bridge opened in 1991.

**November 20<sup>th</sup> 1979:** Anthony Blunt was stripped of his knighthood after confessing to being a spy for the Russians. He was a celebrated art historian and "Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures" from 1945 until

1972. He had been knighted in 1956. He was never prosecuted having been offered immunity if he confessed.

**November 21<sup>st</sup> 1953:** The so-called Piltdown man was exposed as a fraud. In 1912 Charles Dawson claimed to have discovered the fossilised remains of an early human - the missing link between the apes and man. Although there were always some doubts about the origins of the discovery it took 41 years for the truth of the matter to emerge.

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1955:** Sam Phillips of Sun Records, which was close to insolvency at the time, sold Elvis Presley's recording contract to RCA Records for \$35,000, with Elvis himself receiving a bonus of \$5000. The first single Elvis released for his new label was *Heartbreak Hotel*. It topped the charts in the USA for 7 weeks and was his first million-seller. In November 1957 Elvis had no less than 8 records in the UK top 30.

**November 27<sup>th</sup> 2017:** 8 donkeys were released after spending 4 days in prison in the city of Orai in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. They had been jailed for eating plants.

**November 29<sup>th</sup> 2001:** The death of former Beatle George Harrison was announced. He had been suffering from cancer.

IAN THOMPSON

### CRADLEY, MATHON & STORRIDGE WEB SITES





*AN OPPORTUNITY  
FOR THE COMMUNITY TO MEET*

*CHRISTMAS FAIR  
ON  
SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
10.30 A.M. UNTIL NOON  
MATHON PARISH HALL*

*Cakes, Plants, New Items, Bric-a-brac, Books  
as well as Tombola, Raffle*

*Refreshments  
Coffee, tea and soft drinks*

*Cakes*



*WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU*



*In aid of Mathon Church Funds*

## FRIENDS OF CRADLEY SCHOOL

Friends of Cradley School (FoCS) are the fundraising bit of the school PTA and we are always looking for fun and interesting ways to raise money for the school, so that the children can enjoy a few extras, as well as the essentials.

Thank you to those who visited and supported our stall at the Cradley Village Community Day in September. We had a lot of fun, and it was really good to be part of the wider community while raising a little extra for school. A shout out to our additional helpers and friends from Teeny Tots -Cradley Mathon & Storridge toddler group on the next stand, and to Jan Dampney for making us so welcome.

We have had a busy start to the school year, having picked enough apples to produce 205 bottles of Cradley School apple juice to sell. The children have designed 154 Christmas Cards (1 each) which really made us smile! We have foot print reindeer, camel handprints, potato and fingerprint elves, fingerprint Christmas trees, and some great Christmas scenes, cartwheeling elves, snow globes and chimneys.

We had a Rags to Riches collection of quality used clothes in exchange for £42. There were far fewer bags than we usually collect, so please think of us when you're next having a sort out, or clearing out wearable clothes and I'll get the date of our next one published!

We held our AGM in October and are very thankful to the parents who have taken on official roles in FoCS. We now have 2 Co-chairs, Emma and Kitty: a Secretary, Annie; and a Treasurer, Edwina. We also welcomed new and old committee members. We have agreed to help towards the transport costs for class trips again this year, and are really excited to be helping school raise funds for a new improved playground.

We are holding Marshmallow Fridays on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> – which involves hot chocolates and homemade snacks. Although we are asking parents to bring their own cups, if anyone locally is able to source or donate disposable, recyclable cups for hot drinks, please let us know.

It has been more difficult than usual to arrange our normal fundraising events over the last year, but we are planning for a School Disco in November, and a Christmas pop-up shop and Raffle in December. If you or your local organisations think you may be able to help us in any way, please contact school and let us know. We would be grateful for any new items, duplicate or unwanted presents for all ages, or edible gifts.

We are also setting up the opportunity to purchase 'suspended' disco tickets/pop-up gifts for the children whose families may have been particularly hit by the pandemic.

Thank you to Halfords, Malvern who have already donated some handy car related gifts for our Christmas pop up shop! And thank you to One Stop in Ledbury for supporting our Welcome Wednesdays, where we welcome parents to have a cuppa with FoCS while they wait to see their child's class.

We look forward to being part of the Cradley Village Christmas Fair on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please do come and visit us!

ANNIE MEAGER  
on behalf of FOCS

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## CRADLEY COMMUNITY CELEBRATION, 25 SEPTEMBER 2021

Since I moved to Cradley, around 18 months ago, I have had a feeling that there must be life in the old place, but I had yet to find it. This was almost entirely because various lockdowns had led to wholesale shutdowns, and everyone and everything was under wraps.

Exciting then, to have the village's many clubs and organisations revealed at the Community Celebration, held on the church lawn on a sunny Saturday in late September. The number of stalls manned by brimming enthusiasts and friendly faces reassured me that this was indeed a good place to have moved to.

Cheerful music provided by Gravelly Hill and One Achord boosted the mood, beer was on tap, the barbecue was sizzling, and children's games kept younger residents occupied. The event had the feeling of a university Fresher's Week and had me spinning on the spot, pulled in all directions as I decided what to investigate further. I was drawn to Cradley Walkers, the WI, the local history society and Cradley Players, but this is a mere selection and I apologise to those omitted. I also signed up with Malvern Dowers who were pulling in the punters with their dowsing demonstrations. (Did you know that a ley line crosses the back of the church?)

An impressive turn-out led to a general thrum of activity as people once more engaged with each other and with what the village has to offer. The event also encouraged me to sign up to help with the Cradley Jubilee Fête, which will be held next year to celebrate the Queen's Platinum anniversary. If the Community Celebration is anything to go by, this will be a thoroughly enjoyable and lively affair and well worth putting in the diary.

CLARE GOGERTY



# **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

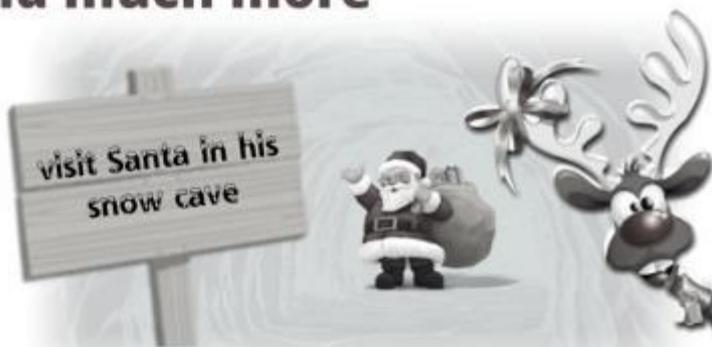
**Cradley Village Hall  
Saturday 4th December  
11am-2:30pm**

**New Stalls plus old favourites too!**

**Raffle Teas & Coffees Tombola Bar  
Cakes BBQ Raffle Books Puzzles**

**Children's  
Books & Toys  
and much more**

**ADMISSION  
FREE**



## CRADLEY VILLAGE PLAYERS

After the last two years of lockdowns and isolation its high time we all had a bit of fun! CVP will be bringing to you an evening of entertainment with dinner included. It's a Murder Mystery written for us by Tom and Oscar van Vuren called *Murder on the Grand Canal* and we think you will like it. Tickets are available from our web site or by telephone.

*Fancy yourself as a bit of an amateur sleuth?*

*Are you up for the challenge?*

*Please come and join us for*

**CRADLEY VILLAGE PLAYERS**  
*Are you an amateur sleuth? Fancy a bit of a challenge?*

# MURDER on the GRAND CANAL

**SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER**  
**7.00 pm at CRADLEY SCHOOL**  
**TICKETS £10 each**

to include a 3 course meal and first glass of wine and available on-line from [www.cradleyvillageplayers.com](http://www.cradleyvillageplayers.com) or by tel 01886 880448

*Why not book a table for a group of friends*

MEG MONK

### WANT TO CONTACT A NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTOR?

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

Then please ring:

Lin Brighton for Cradley East and North:  
01886 880425

Judith Aldridge for Cradley West: 01886 880953

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

## MATHON CHURCH MATTERS

Our Harvest Festival was held on 26<sup>th</sup> September. Thanks go to all those who provided the produce which was auctioned, the proceeds from which will be added to the Font Collection in aid of the Air Ambulance; also for the donations of tinned and dried foods which were given to the Ledbury Food Bank. The church was beautifully decorated, for which many thanks.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our **Christmas Fair will take place in Mathon Parish Hall on Saturday 27 November from 10.30 a.m. until noon** – see separate notice. Please come and support the event.

SP

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## THE SENIOR ALPHABET

A is for apple, and B is for boat,  
That used to be right, but now it won't **float!**  
Age before beauty is what we once **said**  
But let's be a bit more realistic **instead.**

A's for **arthritis**  
B's the **bad back**  
C's the chest pains, perhaps **car-di-ac?**

D is for dental decay and **decline**  
E is for eyesight, can't read that top **line!**  
F is for fissures and fluid **retention**  
G is for gas which I'd rather not **mention.**

H is for high blood pressure – I'd rather it **low;**  
I is for incisions with scars you can **show.**  
J is for joints, out of socket, won't **mend,**  
K is for knees that crack when they **bend.**

L's for libido, what happened to **sex?**  
M is for memory, I forget what comes **next.**  
N is neuralgia, in nerves way down **low**  
O is for osteo, bones that won't **grow!**  
P for prescriptions, I have quite a **few,**  
Just give me a pill and I'll be good as **new!**

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or **flu?**  
R is for reflux, one meal turns to **two.**  
S is for sleepless nights, counting **my fears,**  
T is for tinnitus, bells in my **ears!**  
U is for urinary troubles with **flow,**  
V for vertigo, that's 'dizzy', you **know.**

W for worry, now what's going **'round?**  
X is for X-ray, and what might be **found.**  
Y for another year I'm **left** here **behind**  
Z is for zest I still have – in **my mind.**

CONTRIBUTED BY CHRIS ORFORD

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



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

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

Occasionally meets at Cradley School

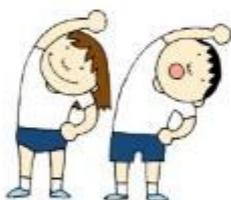
**Come and join in!**

For information please contact:

Rachel: 07790890183

Annie: 01886 880964

**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 SURGERY**

**Dr Patsy Dye**  
**Dr Chris Spruce**

**NOVEMBER 2021**  
**IMMUNISATION SPECIAL**

**FLU:**

As many of you know, our flu jabs were not delivered as planned due to a shortage of lorry drivers. We received them late and have been busy giving them to, firstly, our vulnerable patients. The government has a plan to offer immunisation to all the over-50s, but this number was not included in our order (placed 12 months' ago) and will have to be supplied by the NHS. Information to us comes slowly and often at very short notice.

**COVID:**

Covid boosters will be given no sooner than 6 months since your second Covid jab. You will be informed of the date or you could check on the NHS website link below or call 119 as to your suitability and then arrange to have this done at one of the sites locally.

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination)

We are giving the Covid booster at Ledbury Community Hall and will call patients in order of clinical priority.

**PNEUMONIA:**

If you are over 65, please book with the nurses for a pneumonia jab. This is given once, not every year and protects against several strains of pneumonia.

**SHINGLES:**

This is also only given once. If you are 70 to 79 years of age you are eligible for a Shingles vaccine. Please call to book a vaccine.

If you have COPD and get recurrent infections, please ensure you have a 'rescue pack' of medication in case of chest infection (not Covid) this winter.

**DISPENSARY**

Please don't order extra medication over Christmas. We are open to pick up routine monthly orders every day except the bank holidays and asking for it early puts huge pressure on our dispensing staff. Thank you for your help with this.

**CORRECTION**

We posted the opening times of the dispensary in last month's magazine and there was an error. To clarify, these are the opening times of dispensary:

|           |                |     |               |
|-----------|----------------|-----|---------------|
| Monday    | 09.00 to 13.00 | and | 14.00 – 17.00 |
| Tuesday   | 09.00 to 13.00 | and | 16.00 – 18.00 |
| Wednesday | 09.00 to 13.00 | and | 14.00 – 17.00 |
| Thursday  | 09.00 to 13.00 | and | 16.00 – 18.00 |
| Friday    | 09.00 to 13.00 | and | 14.00 – 17.00 |

## POTHOLE OF THE MONTH

After last month's success, here's the second of my favourite potholes around the three parishes. I pass this one almost daily, walking the dog, at the entrance to Mathon from Cradley. Here's a whole history book of potholes, being filled, breaking up again, new ones opening, leftover grit, but a success story as well, a resilient repair right in the middle of the photograph. I wonder how old some of these patches are!

It's actually quite tricky to negotiate potholes on your bicycle, and of course grit is a big no-no. Which brings me to the traffic story to accompany this beauty. Some of you grumble when cyclists on the road hold you up when driving the car. "They don't even pay road tax", you may say. But the so-called UK Road Fund tax was abolished as long ago as 1937 and road tax does not exist anymore. We all pay Vehicle Excise Duty and the tax that's raised through VED is not specifically earmarked or used to pay for the building and maintenance of the road network, it's part of the government's general taxation pool just like income tax. And most MAMILS (Middle Aged Men In Lycra) you may encounter on their bikes also pay Vehicle Excise Duty: according to the National Travel Survey more than four-out of five (83%) people aged 18+ who cycle, are also drivers.

Feel free to send me your local favourite pothole and a little anecdote to go with it.

TOM VAN VUREN  
(tomvanvuren@hotmail.com)



## EVERGREEN CLUB

Well great news! We had our first 'proper' meeting on Monday October 4<sup>th</sup> with about 17 members, new and old. It was so exciting, like my first day at High School, a few nerves, but lots of expectations. It was great to see everyone after such a long break, not as many as usual, but some were on a late summer break or at different appointments, let's hope for a few more at our next meeting.

It was very informal, lots of chatter with old friends; we all exchanged experiences of 'the great lockdown', and I must say everyone seemed to have coped extremely well, achieving great things.

Mary had moved house, Jacky had knitted 13 jumpers on her knitting machine for members of her family and Mary had also been 'knitting for England!' But, like everyone, the 'novelty' of it all has long worn off, and it is good that we are slowly getting back to some sort of normality, but not taking things for granted and still observing our own safety and that of others.

We discussed many aspects of the running of the Evergreen, and many good ideas were put forward. We are still having fortnightly meetings up till Christmas and then hopefully into the New Year.

I have arranged a Christmas lunch at the Royal Oak Broadwas for Monday November 29<sup>th</sup>, as we have done in previous years. We welcomed two new members/helpers Eva Fielding and Tracy Whiteside, but unfortunately Jean Horne, Cradley has decided after 40 years of dedicated service to the club, to retire. I thank her for her continued support, we shall all miss her very much.

We all enjoyed Jacky's lovely meringues and a lovely assortment of biscuits with our cup of tea.

If you are still interested in joining our friendly little club we are meeting again on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and again on November 1<sup>st</sup> at Storridge Village Hall at 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. You will be most welcome.

Still picking autumn raspberries in the garden getting ready to make another batch of jam and slowly running out of space in the freezer. The hanging baskets (purchased from the Hop Pocket in May!!) are still looking good as are the geraniums and begonias in the cider mill. Let's hope the frosts won't be with us yet. The logs are stacked in the woodshed, but we're hanging on as long as possible before we light the wood burner.

Enjoy the autumn sunshine and keep smiling.

A little thought to finish on: You know you're getting old when you try to straighten out the wrinkles on your socks and discover you're not wearing any.

Speak soon, lots of love

CHRIS ORFORD  
Club Leader  
01886 889387



# CRADLEY & STORRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2021

First off – thank you to everyone who came up to say hello to the councillors at our stand at the recent village event in the church grounds, and to everyone who has stopped by to talk to me at the village hall when I’m working there on Thursday afternoons. I’ll be in the main hall every Thursday afternoon usually from about 2pm, so if you want to say something to (or about!) the parish council, please come and have a chat.

Every third Thursday (so starting on October 21<sup>st</sup>, then on November 18<sup>th</sup>) I’ll be joined by our county councillor, Ellie Chowns, so if you’ve got something to say about the services we get from the county, that’s the best day to come along.

The parish council met at its winter home in Storrige Village Hall on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>. The council approved the plans for the new sensory garden to be added to the Chapel Lane site. We hope this will provide a new place for all people to sit and meet and relax. We have applied for grant funding to help pay for the work – hopefully by next month’s newsletter we’ll know whether we’ve been successful – and we’ve already had some very generous offers of help and donations of trees for the project. Thank you.

The main topic for the meeting was the budget for next year. We need to set the precept (that part of your council tax that funds the parish council) by January. We will be publishing our draft budget next month for consultation and feedback, but at the moment the council plans include putting money towards road safety improvement, continuing to add and improve the facilities at Chapel Lane and Buryfields, and starting to set aside money for when we have to replace the equipment at those two sites. However, this is the time to speak up and let the council know what they should be spending your money on – so please do get in touch.

If you *really* want to have a voice in how the council spends your money, and help make sure it’s as effective as it can be, have you thought about joining in? There are currently several vacancies for parish councillors, but if that sounds too daunting (it shouldn’t!) then the parish council works through a number of groups that focus on particular areas and projects – and you don’t need to be a councillor to take part. We’d especially like to hear from anyone who is interested in road safety or the parish environment, but we’d be very happy to talk to anyone who’d like to lend a hand.

The next council meeting is on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at Storrige Village Hall – you are very welcome to come along and have your say.

If you can’t – then give me a call on 07591 299749, or drop me an email at

[clerk@cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk),

or come and see me on Thursday afternoons in Cradley Village Hall!

PHIL STRIPLIN  
Clerk to Cradley and Storrige Parish Council

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## A REMARKABLE LADY AND A STAINED-GLASS WINDOW IN CRADLEY CHURCH

Many Cradley parishioners and visitors have admired the lovely stained-glass window of “St. Francis talking to the birds” in the north-eastern corner of Cradley church. Made by A. J. Davies of the famous Bromsgrove Guild of Arts and Crafts, and installed in 1936, it has two main panels. On the left is St. Francis of Assisi with a bird in his hand, others in his elbow and yet more flying towards him. The right-hand panel shows beautiful flowering shrubs; look carefully and you will recognise more birds, fledglings and a birds' nest, together with a family of rabbits. Above are angels, with feathered wings, and at the very top a bunch of lilies.



At the foot of the window is this inscription: “To the Glory of God and in dear memory of Thomas Ayscough, priest, born September 11<sup>th</sup> 1830, died April 18<sup>th</sup> 1920. For 25 years Rector of this parish. And of his wife Ethel Anna, born June 1<sup>st</sup> 1839, died August 24<sup>th</sup> 1901 and of their eldest son Francis Ayscough born September 8<sup>th</sup> 1859, died December 6<sup>th</sup> 1933 by whose wife Florence this window is dedicated.”

Florence Ayscough may be little-known to us now, but was a remarkable lady in her own right. She was born Florence Wheeler in 1875, in the International Settlement city of Shanghai, daughter of a prominent

Canadian-born businessman and an intellectual Bostonian mother. As a young girl, she developed a love of horses, was fluent in French and German, and became a gifted violinist. By the age of nine she was also remarkably well-travelled, having circled the globe several times, through the Suez Canal to Europe, across the Atlantic to Boston, and returning to Shanghai from San Francisco via Japan. When she was fourteen, her father retired and the family moved back to Boston where she began formal schooling. Living nearby in Boston was the Lowell family; Florence met Amy Lowell who was a year older; they became lifelong friends and later collaborated in the translation and rewriting of classical Chinese poetry.

The Wheelers built a splendid coastal retreat house (now a hotel) in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, but returned to Shanghai for business reasons. There, in 1898, Florence met and married Francis, a dashing businessman in the import and export trade, and sportsman, who shared Florence's love of horses; he became a member of the Parks' Committee, secretary of the Shanghai racecourse, president of the Gun Club and chairman of the Country Club. Their other mutual love, gardening, is reflected in the design of the window in Cradley church; their Shanghai home, named “Wild Goose Happiness House”, had a vast garden, and they won many prizes in the Shanghai Horticultural Society annual shows.

Florence volunteered for charities such as the British Women's Work Association as well as local good causes. She lectured on Amy Lowell to the American Women's Society and, most importantly, joined the North China branch of the British Asiatic Society which became the vehicle for her life's work interpreting Chinese culture. She moved in influential diplomatic and business circles, and became a close friend of the British Consul-General, Sir Havilland de Sausmarez, whose family home was on Guernsey. In 1906, she became Honorary Librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society, a post she held until 1922. She became fascinated by Chinese art, began building her own important collection and helped host the first ever Chinese art exhibition in 1908. In America, she dedicated herself to illuminating Chinese culture to the wider general public, lectured and organised exhibitions in Manhattan, Rhode Island and New York, and collaborated with Amy Lowell by translating Chinese calligraphy which Amy set to verse – their joint venture “*Fir-Flower Tablets*” was published in 1921.

After Francis Ayscough retired from Shanghai in 1922, at the age of 63, he and Florence moved back to her family home in New Brunswick, with its 28-acre garden (now a public park) overlooking the sea, and hoping to retire there for good. Sadly this was not to be: Francis began to suffer from a debilitating and

*Continued on next page*

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painful blood disorder, which deeply affected his morale and emotional well-being and took its toll on Florence. They sought milder climates as well as health cures; winters were spent in England and continental Europe. While Francis received treatment, Florence became a sought-after speaker, lecturing at the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the China Society and the Lyceum Club, in mainland Europe, and also in Guernsey (Sir Havilland and Lady de Sausmarez had retired from the British Consulate in 1921). She published further books on Chinese poetry and traditions, including the role and status of women, and took up photography; in 1927 she was elected a member of the Royal Geographical Society and was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by Acadia University, Nova Scotia.

Francis's health continued to deteriorate; they left New Brunswick for good in 1929 and, while accompanying Florence on a United States lecture tour in March 1931, his right leg was amputated because of gangrene. As soon as he was well enough, they moved to Guernsey, with its clement climate and closer proximity to his family in England, and where Florence in her distress could be consoled and supported by her long-standing Guernsey friends. They bought a house in Hauteville, overlooking the sea at St. Peter Port, where Florence established another beautiful garden. Francis had to have his other leg amputated later in 1931. As well as caring for him, Florence immersed herself in Guernsey's cultural life history and archaeology, providing the photographs for an excellent book "*Guernsey Past and Present*" as well as for packs of Guernsey picture postcards.

Francis died in in Beechwood nursing home, St. Peter Port, on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1933; his funeral on 7<sup>th</sup> December was attended by their closest Guernsey friends and his coffin was surmounted by beautiful floral tributes. His body was cremated, and his ashes interred in Cradley churchyard, where his mother and younger brother Ralph also lie; his sisters are in adjacent graves. In 1934, Florence petitioned for the stained-glass window to portray the figure of St. Francis, in her husband's memory, and for the window to be in the north-east corner of the chancel; when you stand by the communion rail, the window is in a direct line to the grave which is close to the yew tree in the north-east churchyard. In 1935, Florence married a long-standing American friend Harley MacNair, Professor of Far-Eastern History at the University of Chicago. Although Florence kept the Guernsey house, they moved to Chicago where she continued to lecture, and where she died in April 1942.

A few weeks ago, in late-September, Julia and I spent a lovely week's holiday in Guernsey, staying only a few hundred yards from Florence and Francis's house - which happens to be next door to the home of Victor Hugo's mistress while he was in exile in Guernsey. We walked along Hauteville each day to the harbour at St. Peter Port, spent time in the island

archives and Library, and visited some of the ancient historical sites that Florence had photographed. It felt a privilege to learn about these connections between Guernsey and Cradley, and about the life and work of this remarkable lady. There is more to discover, another time!

MIKE HAMES

NB: If you would like to see the window, the church is open from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily during the winter months, and there are leaflets for visitors about the windows on the table at the back of the church.



## WINTERLAND

Gone the sun and birds of summer.  
Now bold and bright the silver Moon  
among the clouds of day lays claim  
upon the greying land and draws  
the shadows to Her from the hills.

High winter flyers black skeining sky  
in echoing spirals down to darkening trees  
call forth the lurking glooms of night  
fingerlike to close on fading shades of day  
and Motherly Moon holds all her children tight.

Chilling hands spread shimmered frosty blankets  
beneath drifting river mists to far horizon's hills  
where darkness hangs mid light and shine  
ricocheted by swooping bats in heedless haste  
above black-mantled world of silent sound.

In haunting hush the soft white owl  
from silvered oak turns eyes of night  
while scudding clouds strobe glittering stars  
pale memories of a myriad suns.  
And Winter wraps the land in sleep.

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## EXCERPTS FROM PARISH MAGAZINES

CRADLEY PARISH MAGAZINE - NOVEMBER 1897 (Part 2)

### **The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts**

A public meeting on behalf of the above will be held in the Girls' School Room on Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The Rev. R. Ruddock, a Missionary of the Society, just now in England, will speak of the work in which he has been engaged. We hope everyone interested in the Foreign Missionary Work of the Church will endeavour to be present. Bishop Corfe, whom we had hoped to welcome at this time to hear what is being done in the distant Korea has promised to come at a later date.

### **Mothers' Meetings**

These will begin on Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Rectory Room at 2pm.

StorrIDGE Vicarage  
October 19<sup>th</sup> 1897

Dear People,

The Harvest Thanksgiving was a bright and cheerful Festival. The decorations were very pretty. There was a full choir in the morning and evening and we were glad to see that some of the old members from Malvern and Worcester were also able to be present. But while much had been thought of and arranged beforehand, with unwearied care, the offertories, we regret to say, failed to reach the average of preceding years. The fruit and flowers were sent on the following day to Worcester Infirmary.

Mrs Esther Bird returns many thanks for the sympathy and help she received from kind friends. Having nursed the sick for many years throughout a wide district, it is a pleasure to hereto know that her services are remembered and appreciated.

The school re-opened after the holidays on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> October and Mr Day examined the scholars on the following Thursday. He appeared pleased with the children and satisfied with their general progress. We shall know more when his written report is received.

There have been 70 children in the Sunday School during the present year. Many of these it is to be regretted have been very irregular in their attendance. It is hoped all parents will send their children regularly and punctually. If this is done the School will continue throughout the winter months at 10am and 3pm.

Celia Hart is cheered in her painful illness by the weekly offering of flowers, fruit and eggs. These should be sent to the Vicarage any Saturday, not later than 10am.

I am, my dear people,  
Yours faithfully in Christ,  
HUMPHREY DAVIS

CONTRIBUTED BY JOAN PROSSER  
Member of Heritage Group

## HOW TO COMPLETE A TAX RETURN IF YOU RECEIVED SEISS GRANTS

During the coronavirus pandemic, many self-employed people will have received Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) grants from the government. What you may not have realised is that these grants are subject to income tax and self-employment National Insurance contributions. For most people, the first three SEISS grants should be included on your 2020/21 tax return, irrespective of what accounting period you use. The 4th and 5th grants should be included on your 2021/22 tax return. The only exception is for partners whose SEISS grants have been paid into the business partnership and then distributed as per the partnership agreement – more on this later.

### Completing a paper tax return

If you are you planning on completing a paper tax return for 2020/21 before 31st Oct 21, were a self-employed individual and received SEISS grants during 20/21, you may be wondering where and how you have to enter these on your tax return. You will need to complete the main tax return (SA100) plus supplementary pages for each of your self-employments. Remember, if your turnover (sales) is less than the VAT registration threshold of £85,000 then you complete the short self-employment pages (SA103S) – otherwise you complete the full self-employment pages (SA103F).

On the SA100 you will need to complete box 20.1: *'If any of your businesses received coronavirus support payments (such as CJRS, SEISS) you must put 'X' in the box to declare that they have been included as taxable income when calculating profits in the period of this return'*.

You also need to include the total of the first three SEISS grants in box 27.1 'Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant' (short pages) and in box 70.1 (full pages). Don't be tempted to complete box 10 (short) or box 16 (full) – these are additional boxes for other coronavirus business support grants but must not be used for SEISS grants.

If you have repaid any of the first three SEISS grants, when you complete your 2020/21 tax return, you should only include the amount of SEISS grants which you have not voluntarily repaid in the appropriate box.

If you have multiple trades then you include the proportion of the SEISS grants you have allocated to the trade to which the self-employment pages relate.

Please note that you should **not** add the grants to your other income and include it in the turnover box. The SEISS grants should be only reported in the dedicated box as set out above.

### Completing a tax return online

So what do you need to do if you plan to file your tax return 20/21 online?

In the section about your self-employment, which is where you will put information on your turnover income, there is a question: *Any other business income (include coronavirus support payments such as Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, but not Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grants): (optional)* – so don't include your SEISS grant income here, as there is a separate question about SEISS grant income later.

After completing information on business expenses/capital allowances you will be directed to a page called 'Other tax adjustments for your business trading name'. This is where you will find the question: **Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant: (optional)** and this is where you include the total of your first three SEISS grants.

You will notice that in the tax calculation, the SEISS grants are included within your 'Profits from self-employment'. Don't forget that the SEISS grants will count as income when looking at the small profits threshold for Class 2 National Insurance contribution purposes.

As part of the declaration before you submit your completed tax return, there is an additional question for you to tick: **Coronavirus Support Payments (Optional)**: 'I declare that I have included all coronavirus support payments that I have received (such as Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme) as taxable income when calculating profits in the period of this return'.

### What if I am in a partnership?

The rules are slightly different if you are a partner in a partnership, depending on who actually received the grant(s):

- If you, as a partner, were eligible for the SEISS grants and claimed and received the income into your own bank account (so it is **not** recorded as partnership income in the partnership accounts) then the grants will be treated in a similar way to how they are treated if you are a self-employed individual. The first three SEISS grants will be included on your 2020/21 tax return. The total of grants you received should be recorded on your partnership supplementary pages in Box 9.1 (whether you are completing the short partnership

*Continued on next page*

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pages SA 104S or the long partnership pages SA104F). You do not include the SEISS grant income on the main partnership return (SA800). The 4th and 5th grants should be included on the 2021/22 partnership supplementary pages.

- If you claimed the SEISS grants and they were treated as partnership income, included in the partnership accounts and distributed to all the partners in line with the partnership agreement, then there are different rules. In these circumstances, the SEISS grants should **not** be included on the individual's partnership supplementary pages (SA104S and SA104F) but instead should be included within the turnover boxes 3.24 or 3.29 on the Partnership tax return (SA800). The grants would be taxed in the tax year based on the partnership's accounting period.

### What about the Trading Allowance?

Usually, if your income from self-employment is less than £1,000 pa then this income is covered by the Trading Allowance and there is no need to complete a tax return. However, if you claimed any SEISS grants then a tax return must be completed, including the self-employment pages, even if your income was below the Trading Allowance of £1,000. The self-employment pages would be completed to show the income received, the Trading Allowance claimed, and the total of SEISS grants received. Remember, that if you received any of the first three SEISS grants then these must be included as income on the 2020/21 tax return, even if there is no income tax or Class 2 or 4 National Insurance contributions to pay.

\*\*\*

Tax Help for Older People offers guidance over the phone with the completion of these forms, so if you are on a low income and need some help, then you can contact the charity on 01308 488066.

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

### PLANNING AN EVENT?

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

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

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## Cradley and Storrige Parish Council



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Funding

Funding

Funding

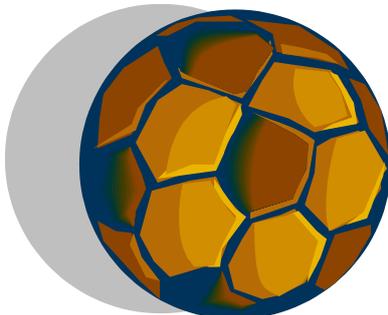
For further details along with guidance:

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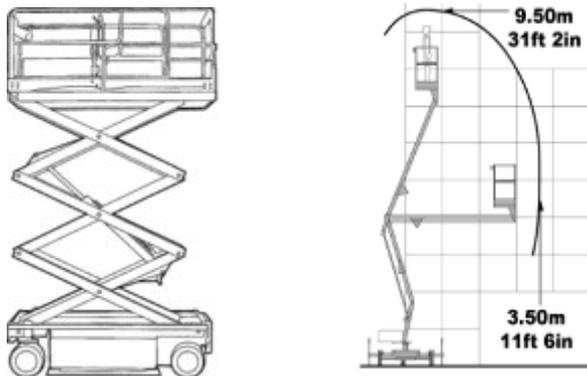
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|                   |         |  |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| <b>Mondays</b>    | 10.40am | Ballet                                 |
|                   | 11.45am | FitSteps                               |
|                   | 1.30pm  | Tap                                    |
| <b>Tuesdays</b>   | 9.20am  | Pilates                                |
|                   | 10.30am | Tap                                    |
|                   | 11.30am | FitSteps                               |
|                   | 1.50pm  | Silver Swans Ballet over 55's          |
| <b>Wednesdays</b> | 9.10am  | Pilates New class TBC                  |
|                   | 10.15am | Modern Jazz Dance                      |
|                   | 11.20am | Ballet                                 |
|                   | 12.30pm | Flamenco                               |
|                   | 1.45pm  | Ballet                                 |
|                   | 2.50pm  | Pilates                                |
| <b>Thursdays</b>  | 10.00am | FitSteps                               |
|                   | 11.15am | Silver Swans Ballet over 55's          |
|                   | 2.00pm  | Silver Swans Ballet over 55's New Beg. |
|                   | 3.10pm  | Pilates New class TBC                  |
|                   | 6.30pm  | Zumba for mums TBC                     |
| <b>Fridays</b>    | 10.30am | Silver Swans Ballet over 55's          |
|                   | 11.45am | FitSteps                               |
| <b>Saturdays</b>  | 8.45am  | Zumba for mums. TBC                    |
| <b>Sundays</b>    | 8.45am  | Pilates                                |
|                   | 10.00am | FitSteps                               |
|                   | 11.15am | Beginners Tap                          |

Classes must be pre-booked for social distancing.  
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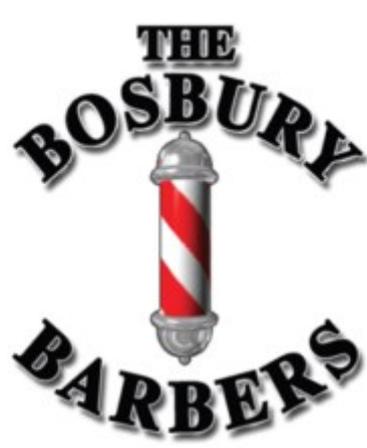
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| Wednesday | 9am – 4pm  |
| Thursday  | CLOSED     |
| Friday    | 9am – 4pm  |
| Saturday  | 9am – 4pm  |
| Sunday    | CLOSED     |



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## THREE VILLAGES DIARY OF EVENTS

The diary is up and running again! Please let us know if you are planning an event or resuming your activities so we can include your dates.

### NOVEMBER

|     |    |            |   |
|-----|----|------------|---|
| Mon | 1  | 2.00 p.m.  | Evergreens meet at Storridge Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m.  |
| Thu | 4  | 10.00 a.m. | Cradley WI meeting in Cradley Village Hall.   |
| Tue | 9  | 7.30 p.m.  | Cradley and Storridge Parish Council meet at Storridge Village Hall.  |
| Thu | 11 | 7.30 p.m.  | Storridge WI meeting in Storridge Village Hall.   |
| Fri | 12 | 12.30 p.m. | <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to postbox on wall of the former Butchery, Bosbury Road, Cradley). |
| Tue | 16 | 12.30 p.m. | <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> for articles and diary entries (hard copies to postbox on wall of the former Butchery, Bosbury Road, Cradley).                   |
| Thu | 18 | 2.00 p.m.  | Ellie Chowns' Cradley Surgery, in Cradley Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m.   |
| Thu | 25 | 10.00 a.m. | Coffee Stop in The Leys Community Room, until 11.30am.  |
| Sat | 27 | 10.30 a.m. | Mathon Church Christmas Fair at Mathon Parish Hall, until noon.   |
| Sat | 27 | 7.00 p.m.  | Cradley Village Players present <i>Murder on the Grand Canal</i> , Cradley Village School.  |
| Mon | 29 | TBA        | Evergreens Christmas Meal at the Royal Oak, Broadwas.   |

### DECEMBER

|     |    |            |   |
|-----|----|------------|---|
| Thu | 2  | 7.30 p.m.  | Cradley WI meeting in Cradley Village Hall.   |
| Sat | 4  | 11.00 a.m. | Cradley Christmas Fair in Cradley Village Hall, until 2.30 p.m.   |
| Sun | 5  | TBA        | Quiz Night at The Oak Staplow, in aid of Cradley Church.  |
| Thu | 9  | 7.30 p.m.  | Storridge WI meeting in Storridge Village Hall.   |
| Thu | 9  | 12.30 p.m. | <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to postbox on wall of the former Butchery, Bosbury Road, Cradley). |
| Sun | 12 | 12.30 p.m. | <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> for articles and diary entries (hard copies to postbox on wall of the former Butchery, Bosbury Road, Cradley).                   |
| Thu | 16 | 2.00 p.m.  | Ellie Chowns' Cradley Surgery, in Cradley Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m.   |

Please keep your articles, event notices and reports coming in. Please, whenever possible, email your contributions to the editorial team at: [editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk). We will be printing and delivering the printed version of the *Newsletter* as usual unless the Covid situation worsens. Additionally, it continues to be accessible to online subscribers at [cmsnewsletter.org.uk](http://cmsnewsletter.org.uk)

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