

CRADLEY

MATHON

STORRIDGE

NEWSLETTER



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May 2023

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MAY 2023

A MONTH TO REMEMBER

May 2023 will undoubtedly be remembered as the month of the King's coronation. Too young myself to remember the coronation of the late Queen, I grew up, as did many, aware that the coronation of 1953, coming as it did just a few years after the end of World War Two, signalled for many the end of a period of restraint and self-sacrifice, and brought with it many hopes for a new and glorious future. The new Queen, with her young family, heralded a bright and better future, and the scale of the celebrations has gone down in history.

This coronation in 2023 perhaps has more in common with that of King Edward VII, after the long and now legendary reign of Queen Victoria, whose reign had by that time accumulated a degree of devotion and of reverence for her person not unlike that which many felt for the late Queen Elizabeth II. We know already that the celebrations will be on a smaller scale than in 1953, as befits the times in which we live. British society is also more self-consciously pluralistic, and more diverse in terms of race and religion, than it was seventy years ago. The new king suggested long ago that he would be more comfortable being seen as a 'defender of faith' rather than '*the* Defender of *the* Faith', a title bestowed on English monarchs, originally by the Pope, in the time of King Henry VIII.

More recently, the press has reported a disagreement between the established Church of England and the royal household over the inclusion of prayers by other faith leaders in the service in Westminster Abbey, but we imagine there will nonetheless be some recognition within the ceremony that the population can no longer be portrayed as uniformly Christian, nor the Church of England as the sole denomination to which Christians in this country bear allegiance. Nevertheless, there is likely still to be a sacramental act, that of anointing with holy oil, at the heart of the ceremony, an action deemed so holy in 1953 that it happened out of the public view as a private moment of commitment and self-consecration between the new monarch and her God. This time we are told that the oils, duly consecrated, have been brought from Jerusalem in recognition of the Greek Orthodox faith of the new king's father, Philip, the late Duke of Edinburgh. The emphasis this time, we are sure, will be on service and self-dedication, both marks of the life of the present King, as they were of his mother before him.

Here in our parishes we had thought that all three villages would want to run events in commemoration of the coronation weekend, but again, in the event, we have had to come to terms with the fact that plans for this first weekend in May have not called forth the same degree of energy and commitment as did the remarkable celebrations in all three parishes which marked the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen last summer, coming as they did on the heels of the relaxation of three years of government Covid restrictions. Then there were the events just months afterwards, surrounding the unforgettable scenes which accompanied the funeral and lying in state of Her Late Majesty in September. There will however be a free screening of the actual coronation on a large screen at Cradley church on Saturday, 6 May followed by a picnic for those who'd like to come, on the church lawn afterwards, with bubbly provided, whilst at Storridge we are celebrating the wedding of Edward Scott-Dickins and Julia Parker. There will also be a Community Celebration to mark the coronation weekend, around Cradley church and Village Hall from 2.00 p.m. till 5.00 p.m. on the afternoon of the Bank Holiday, 8 May.

However you spend the weekend of 6-8 May we wish you a happy and memorable time, and to King Charles and Queen Camilla, a long, happy and healthy reign, in which our land might be richly blessed.

Your Rector,
ROBERT WARD

Edition Editor: Antonia Musgrove, telephone 07785 294232
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Jackie White, telephone 01886 833802

**Cover photo this month taken by
Jan Dampney**

Church Services in May 2023

Please check our pew sheets and parish websites nearer the time to confirm details of live-streamed services,
in case details change.

Wednesday 3	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Holy Communion (said) Live-streamed Evening Prayer from The Rectory	Cradley Benefice
Sunday 7 Easter 5	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. *4:00 p.m.	Live-streamed Service (Lay led) Parish Communion (BCP) Family Service - A Celebration of the Coronation Evensong	Benefice Mathon Cradley StorrIDGE
Wednesday 10	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Holy Communion (said) Live-streamed Evening Prayer from the Rectory	Cradley Benefice
Sunday 14 Rogation Sunday Easter 6	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Mattins Live-streamed Family Communion Rogation Service and Procession through the Village	StorrIDGE Cradley Mathon
Wednesday 17	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Holy Communion (said) Live-streamed Evening Prayer from The Rectory	Cradley Benefice
Sunday 21 Easter 7	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Mattins (Lay led) Holy Communion Morning Service (Lay led) Live-streamed morning service	Mathon StorrIDGE Cradley Benefice
Wednesday 24	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Holy Communion (said) Live-streamed Evening Prayer	Cradley Benefice
Sunday 28 Pentecost Whit Sunday	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Shorter Mattins Mattins (Lay led) Parish Communion Live-streamed service of Evening Prayer	Mathon StorrIDGE Cradley Benefice
Wednesday 31 Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Holy Communion (said) Live-streamed Evening Prayer	Cradley Benefice
Sunday June 4 Trinity Sunday	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Live Streamed Service (Lay led) Parish Communion (BCP) Family Service Evensong	Benefice Mathon Cradley StorrIDGE

From the Registers

Holy Matrimony

25 March 2023

James Dudley John Applegate
Eleanor Meredith Hope Dutton

Cradley

**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)

DEADLINE DATE FOR PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Christians Together in Cradley

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

Our meeting in May will be on 23 May at Roy and Jo Smallwood's Oakleigh Lodge, Chapel Lane, Cradley, starting at 7.30 p.m. We will be showing a DVD of the Life of George Muller.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it.

If anyone requires transport, we will try to arrange that for you; just contact Alan Jameison.

ALAN JAMEISON
01684 592600

A FULL HOUSE FOR THE JESUS FILM

Forty people packed the Royal British Legion Club in Cradley on the evening of Good Friday to watch the Jesus film, a faithful, embellishment-free dramatization of the Gospel of St Luke from the Bible. The film has been seen by more people than any other film in history and, as the audience learned on the night, has now been translated into 2000 languages: an astonishing milestone.

To follow up on the success of the evening, we plan to launch of a new, low-key, three session course called "Hope Explored". The aim is to show how, by trusting in Jesus, and who he is, we can have HOPE for the future, despite all the confusion and chaos in the world today. For more information on this, contact Roy Smallwood on 01886 880858, or Alan Jameison, on 01684 592600.

ALAN JAMEISON

MATHON CHURCH MATTERS

Paul and Karen Seymour would like to thank all those who attended the Lent Lunch at Yew Tree House on 21 March and those who gave donations to the chosen charities.

The Rogation Sunday service on Sunday, 14 May will take us to several venues around the village, commencing in the church at 6.00 p.m.

Following the service drinks and nibbles will be provided in the church in celebration of the recent coronation of King Charles III. All are welcome.

SP

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

READERS

7 May	Mrs Seymour, Mr Walker
14 May	Mrs Pugh, Mrs Cutler
21 May	Mr Vivian, Mr Crouch
28 May	Mrs Crouch, Mrs Seymour
4 June	Mr Walker, Mrs Pugh

SIDESMEN

7 May	Mrs Cutler
14 May	Mrs Pugh
21 May	Mr Crouch
28 May	Mrs Seymour
4 June	Mrs Cutler

The speaker on 21 May will be The Venerable George Howe

K.B.S

STORRIDGE CHURCH FLOWERS

May 6	Mrs P Humphries
May 13	Mrs P Humphries
May 20	Mrs L Coomber
May 27	Mrs L Coomber



CRADLEY CHURCH
Sat 6th May



Please come and join us
to enjoy the free live screening
of the Coronation
Ceremony



Bring along a picnic to
have on the Church lawn afterwards
and we will supply a glass of bubbly



MATHON GET TOGETHER



Who is it for? Anyone living in Mathon and the surrounding area

When is it? Every Friday 10:30 until 12 noon

Where is it held? Mathon Parish Hall

This is open to everyone who fancies dropping in and enjoying a cup of tea or coffee with some biscuits and meeting friends old and new. It has been the venue for many a reunion.

FREE

Just turn up and enjoy



IS YOUR VISION STILL ROADWORTHY ?

West Mercia Police are reminding motorists of their responsibility to ensure their eyesight is still up to the standard required. A national operation, supported by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), is in place over the next two weeks and officers across West Mercia will be conducting roadside eyesight tests. According to national data from the RAC road crashes caused by poor driver vision are estimated to cause 2,900 casualties each year in the UK.

There are eyesight requirements and standards that all motorists must meet by law. Motorists must be able to read (with glasses or contact lenses, if necessary) a car number plate from 20 metres. This is to ensure road signs can be read and pedestrians, cyclists and other road users are clearly seen. Motorists driving without the standard of vision for driving risk causing a collision and also risk being prosecuted and losing their licence.

Eyesight deterioration can be slow which is why it's important to have your eyes tested at least every two years, or straight away if you notice a problem. Regular eye sight checks are also an important way of detecting medical conditions that can affect driving, which, in some cases, if detected early, can be treated.

The national operation is also highlighting that all drivers aged over 70 have to declare when renewing their licence that their eyesight meets minimum legal standards so it is important to get this checked. Supt Steph Brighton said: "Ensuring the safety of everyone that uses our roads is a key priority for West Mercia. Part of this is making sure all motorists meet the eyesight standards that are required by law.

Eyesight often deteriorates gradually so it's difficult to notice any changes. We're therefore encouraging those motorists that haven't had an eye test for a while to get one done. Officers will be out and about over this week conducting roadside tests in order to support this national operation.'

STORRIDGE LITERARY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023

Tuesday, 9 May, 7.30 p.m. in Storrige Church
An organ recital given by Roger Judd, playing music from Bach and Mozart to Brahms and Elgar

Refreshments will be provided.

Entry is free, and donations are invited towards Storrige Church and Organ Fund.

The **Casson Positive organ** in Storrige church dates from the second half of the nineteenth century; last year it was completely overhauled and refurbished. Roger Judd gives the first organ recital since its refurbishment, playing a richly varied programme of music from the last four hundred years.

Roger Judd's musical journey has taken him from chorister at Winchester Cathedral, through an organ scholarship at Pembroke College, Cambridge, to the organ lofts of Ely Cathedral, St Michael's College Tenbury Wells, and latterly St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, from which he retired in 2008 after 23 years. In recognition of that work, Roger was honoured by H.M. The Queen with Membership of the Royal Victorian Order.

In 2015 St Michael's conferred on him the title of Organist Emeritus, of which he is very proud. Now living near Hereford, Roger plays at St Laurence Ludlow as Sub Organist, and has been acting Organist and Choirmaster at St Michael's, Tenbury since 2020. He works with the Diocese of Hereford Organists' Training Scheme, helping aspiring organists raise their game, and for six years he was chairman of the Herefordshire Organists' Society. He has recently taken on the role of organ adviser to the Diocese of Hereford. Over the years he has played concerts all around the UK, as well as in France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the USA and Canada.

Car parking will be available at Storrige Village Hall after 7.00 p.m. You are advised to bring a torch.

Storrige Village Hall is on the junction of the A4103 Hereford-Worcester road and the B4219 from Storrige to Malvern.

Storrige Church is about 100 yards down the 4103 towards Hereford. There's a footpath, but bring a torch!

For more details see:

<http://www.storrigechurch.org.uk> or
kat@norburys.co.uk

To go on a monthly mailing list about the Festival events, email stefan_scot@yahoo.co.uk

CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL

BOOKINGS

Hire our picturesque 15th-century venue for your event

Cradley, Mathon and Storrige 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

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9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.**

**THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
1.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.**

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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

Cradley and Storridge Parish Council



Connecting
our
community

Funding now available
to assist individuals
and groups
within the Parish

The Parish Council has recently launched a 'Small Donations Scheme' allowing YOU to apply for amounts up to **£250** for matters YOU feel will be for the enhancement or benefit of the area or its residents.

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

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

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

Funding

Funding

Funding

For further details along with guidance:

Contact Richard James - clerk@cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Visit the website and download the application form, or fill in the online form

www.cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

FREE ROOM HIRE

AT CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL

We are happy to announce that we will give free use of the Hall to anyone wishing to hold coffee mornings or charity fund raising events

We include full use of kitchen equipment and crockery and free electricity use

Available Mondays 9am- 1pm
Thursdays 1pm-4pm

for details and booking call Jan 01886 880316
or call into the Hall or phone 01886881046

MATHON PARISH HALL



EXERCISE CLASS

THURSDAYS

10.00 a.m to 11.00 a.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!

£5 per session

For further information ring Sue on

01886 880541.

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





Bioblitz at Cradley Churchyard

Come and join us whatever your experience as we discover the wildlife of Cradley Churchyard. We will have nets, pooters and guides aplenty to record as many plants, fungi, insects, mammals, birds and lichens as we can in the two hours. You will help the church manage the site for wildlife in the future. Join us for whatever time you have, no need to book and all equipment provided.

Meet at Cradley Church, WR13 5LH

5th June 1 to 3pm

tim@clan-cic.org



CLaN CIC registered company 10153234

theWI

**INSPIRING WOMEN
CRADLEY WI**

Cradley members are enjoying the start of a new year this April and our programme is full of exciting and interesting meetings, which are now always at 7.30 p.m. throughout the year, on the first Thursday of each month (except for May – see below).

We welcomed two new members - Liz and Irena – and we hope you will enjoy your WI experience with lots to interest and engage and that you forge new friendships.

This month's meeting was very well attended, and we had one visitor, who was made very welcome. Our pre-arranged speaker could not attend and so we very gratefully welcomed our speaker who was due later in the year, Jill Salmons. She spoke eloquently about her trips to Southwest China and the Cultures and Costumes of the local people.

We were astounded by the intricacy and sheer beauty of the embroidery of the costumes, which had many layers and were usually surmounted by equally intricate hats. In this mountainous region where villages were separated by geography, the people designed very different costumes which identified them and defined their culture.

We had many examples to admire and even some to try on. Those in our audience who craft and embroider were especially taken by the craftsmanship.

Members enjoyed the Easter themes, chocolate eggs and coffee and cake provided by the President and committee.

The monthly coffee club restarted in March, with a visit to The Ledberry in Ledbury. Eight of us dodged the showers to meet up in their Garden Room, a covered annexe complete with blankets and heaters. Much laughter and lively chatter ensued - exchanging stories and ideas. A lovely way to spend the morning. Our next coffee morning is at the Hop Pocket in May to be followed by regular coffee mornings at local cafes each month.

The Knit and Natter group met at Joy's and are already knitting teddies for Hereford Hospital and cute teddy jumpers for St Michael's Hospice alongside baby jumpers for Tanzania. An impressive display of knitting already completed was on show at the meeting ready to be sent on their way. It was an impressive and very colourful and cute sight.

Any donations of DK wool are gratefully received - see contact details below.

The monthly lunch club was held at The Duke of York in Berrow. Nine of us enjoyed a lovely lunch in convivial company as always.

Cradley WI is looking forward to participating in the Community Day on Bank Holiday Monday, 8 May, to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III and Queen Camilla. We have a stall and will be welcoming visitors and selling a few pots of jam, cakes and plants as usual no doubt. We are especially looking forward to showing Cradley WI and our plans for this coming year and into the future. Do come and visit us.

The committee is hard at work putting together our summer outing in July - details to follow. We also have Pop-up events and other activities in the pipeline.

If you are interested in joining us, please do come along. First visits are free, and you can be assured of a warm welcome, interesting speakers and a lot of chatter and friendship.

Due to the local elections taking place in the hall on our usual meeting day, our next meeting is on WEDNESDAY, 3rd May at the Village Hall at 7.30pm,

JOY EDWARDS	LESLEY GREGORY
President	Secretary
Tel. 01886 880649	Tel. 01886 880525
cradleywi@gmail.com	

Cradley Mathon & Storrige

TEENY TOTS

play group



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

Thursdays at Storrige Village Hall
(and occasionally elsewhere)

10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon

(£2 per family, includes a snack)

Come and join in!

For information please contact:

Rachel: 07790890183

Annie: 01886 880964

Our President was pleased to report that we have two new members, who joined this year.

A report was given of the very enjoyable, fun evening that a team of four members had at the WI Quiz Night at Little Witley. We did not win but we had full marks on our joker round on fruit and veg.

As WFWI has not started organising Town Walks since the lockdown (and we have requested this for next year) our President made enquiries at Tewkesbury. She found out what they could provide and we hope that we will be able to add this visit as an outing in the summer months. Members were informed of various WFWI activities available including one entitled "A Really Useful Day".

The Annual Meeting is in Cardiff in May. Rushwick in Bedwardine is sending a delegate this year as last year it was our turn and one of our members went to Liverpool.

A leaflet about open gardens in Hanley Swan was distributed.

Rebecca Day was our speaker, giving an illustrated talk on "Bees and their products". Rebecca started out as a chemist, studied aromatherapy and now keeps five colonies of bees. She combined all this expertise when making a vast array of products from polish to creams to medicinal items which were for sale, as well as jars of her local honey.

We learnt so many interesting facts—bees have five eyes, they cannot see the colour red, the females work extremely hard and have a very short life. In the Middle Ages it was usually the monks who kept bees, using their products in many ways including helping the sick.

We had a tasting session - tasting up to nine different sorts of honey; each was a honey from a single source, and we had to guess what we thought the source was. The honey was very varied; some was light in colour and flavour others were strong and dark or had a different aroma. Plant sources were also varied from ivy to eucalyptus.

She discussed nectar, pollen, beeswax and royal jelly. Apparently beeswax is used on violin strings.

Rebecca gave us a wonderful evening and we came away with great admiration for her, and also for these incredible little insects, the clever, hardworking honeybees!!!

Next month is the AGM; we will also be discussing the WI national resolution - Clean rivers for people and wildlife. We also have a speaker, Angela Hugman, on "Tales of the Unexpected". We had to cancel her in March because of the snow and have invited her back in May.

Our May meeting is on Thursday, 11 May at 7:30 p.m. in Storridge Village Hall.

Come along - you are sure of a warm welcome.

JOAN PROSSER
 Secretary



"CHAT AND CRAFT"

10am to 12pm

Every 3rd Monday in the month

*Meetings: 20 March, 17 April,
 15 May, 19 June, 17 July*

Cradley Village Hall

You are warmly invited to bring your work along to enjoy a chat, swap ideas, learn and get help from each other.

We knit/embroider/sew/make jewellery/have a go at Hardanger, Crochet and more ... in fact we're interested in anything and everything craft-y!

Come and join us in a friendly environment to learn a new craft or just have a natter and swap ideas.

For more information please contact Carole
mail@dpassmore.plus.com



STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

100 CLUB

The results of the 100 Club draw for April 2023 were:

First:	Sue Chadwick
Second:	Jenny Matthews
Third:	David and Jo Oseman

Congratulations to our draw winners. Don't forget that you can join the 100 Club at any point during the year. You will only pay for the months you are entered into the draw (£12 for the year March to February or £1 per eligible month).

Please contact me if you would like to be entered into the draw.

Jackie White
 01886 833802/07785 714034
jackie.white@hotmail.co.uk

EXCERPTS FROM PARISH MAGAZINE

Cradley Parish Magazine May 1899 part 3

Lenten Services and Easter

Upon Easter Day there were 80 Communicants - a slight increase upon the number of the previous year - but yet a number sadly out of proportion to what might be hoped and indeed looked for in a Parish of the size of Cradley.

The Church on Easter Day looked very bright, by the work of many helpers who had engaged in preparing it the day before.

Women's Missionary Association

A working party was held every Tuesday during Lent and a great many plain useful Garments were made. The clothing made, with the addition of some Bent Iron Work and some Crockery sent by Miss Ayscough amounted to £3. The Box was forwarded to Miss Hopton, of Canon Frome, who is the Hon. Secretary for the Ledbury Deanery, and was taken by her to the Diocesan Sale of Work, held at the Shire Hall, Hereford on April 13th. Miss Hopton has since written to say that the Sale was a very successful one, and that £100 had been cleared after the necessary expenses had been paid; and had been handed over to the Women's Missionary Association. Miss Hopton sent her thanks to all those who had helped.

Contributed by
JOAN PROSSER
Member of Heritage Group

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

£10.00 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**

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Royal British Legion Club News & Events for May 2023



A Right Royal
Knees Up!

**Join us on Saturday 6 May
to celebrate the crowning of
our new king**



**Open from 2:00 p.m.
for drinks and a chance
to catch up with friends and family**



**As the evening draws in
the Disco will commence
from 7:00 p.m.**



**Coronation Raffles for
adults and children**

**Free entry and everyone is welcome so
put on your dancing shoes!**



To keep up to date with all our events, see future copies of the *Newsletter*, click on the village diary, subscribe to our newsletter, or find us on Facebook. We look forward to welcoming you to all our events.

Joanne Club Secretary / Treasurer



MIDSUMMER SUPPER
SATURDAY, 17 JUNE
7.00 FOR 7.30 p.m.
STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

A choice of salmon, ham and vegetarian options *
With baby potatoes and homemade salads
A choice of desserts
Cheese and Biscuits
Tea/Coffee



BAR, RAFFLE and LUCKY TICKET DRAW



Quiz to test your General Knowledge



ALL FOR £12 PER HEAD— BY TICKET ONLY
Available from **JACKY (01886 832566)** or
JACKIE (01886 883802)



* Please inform Jacky and Jackie of menu choice and any dietary requirements at the time of booking

DON'T DELAY, BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

All profits will be split between
StorrIDGE Church and StorrIDGE Village Hall



CRADLEY SURGERY NEWSLETTER

Dr Peter Clegg

Dr Chris Spruce

www.Cradleysurgery.nhs.uk

MAY 2023

Parking

We are very fortunate here at Cradley that the Royal British Legion, (opposite), allow our patients to use their car park during the day for visiting the surgery.

However it has been brought to our attention that not everyone is using the car park sensibly.

Please can we remind patients not to park either side of the entrance to the car park as it makes access from the car park tricky and dangerous, especially for vehicles coming around the bend.

We do not own or have control over the car park at the British Legion; if any patients do have any safety concerns, you can write to the Parish Council about them and/or asking for a crossing.

Thank you for your help and support.

World Asthma Day

World asthma day is on 2 May 2023; to book in for an asthma check, please ring the surgery to make an appointment with nurse Jenn, who specialises in asthma/COPD.

Cervical Screenings

Cervical screening to pick up early precancerous changes in the cervix is offered to all women aged 25 to 64. The actual procedure is just the same, but we no longer look at cells under the microscope. Instead the lab procedure looks for evidence of the cause of cervical cancer; the Human Papilloma Virus. This is why the name has changed from a 'smear' to 'screening'.

Bowel Screenings

We're always surprised by the (admittedly small) number of our patients (aged 60-74) who don't use the government postal bowel screening. Bowel cancer is number four in cancer frequency in the UK (after breast, prostate and lung). The screening is easy and you don't even have to leave your home!

Card Machine

Some of our patients may have noticed we have been trialling a card machine in our dispensary. We are trying to "move with the times", however being located in Cradley, (in all its lovely rural-ness) has provided us with some obstacles in regards to Wi-Fi and technology. Fingers crossed the card machine continues to work and becomes a permanent feature!

However we are asking patients to be prepared and to bring cash as a backup or be able to access cash, just in case the card machine does fail us; we want everyone still to be able to access their prescriptions.

Out of area patients (OOA)

If you would like to register at the surgery but think you may be situated outside of our practice boundary, please use our postcode checker on our website www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk

Mental Health Awareness Week

Will take place 15-21 May on the topic of Anxiety.

It's normal to feel anxious, worried or fearful in certain situations. These feelings are our bodies' natural 'fight or flight response' to a perceived dangerous or risky situation. However if continuous feelings of anxiety impact your ability to carry out life as normal, you could have an anxiety disorder.

If you are concerned that you are developing a mental health problem you should seek the advice and support of your GP. You can contact the surgery on: **01886 880 207**.

You can also talk to Samaritans, Shout crisis text line, Mind charity, specialist mental health services or tell someone you trust.

- <http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/>
- <http://www.social-anxiety.org.uk/>
- www.ocduk.org
- <http://www.nopanic.org.uk/>

For support in a crisis, Text Shout to 85258

Please can we remind all patients to arrive on time for their appointments. Recently, we have had patients turning up 10 minutes late to appointments and still expecting to be seen. This is not possible as clinicians have fully packed clinics and it is not appropriate to "squeeze you in." It is important to respect the clinician's time and other patients.

If you are going to be late for any reason, you need to contact the surgery and may be asked to re- book your appointment.

ON THIS DAY

May 1st 1999:

The body of climber George Mallory was found on Mount Everest. He and his climbing partner, Andrew Irvine, had disappeared on the mountain on June 8th or 9th 1924. Irvine's ice axe was found nearby but his body has not been found. Irvine is thought to have been carrying the camera which might still contain printable images to confirm whether the pair had in fact reached the summit of Everest.

May 2nd 2000:

The US government allowed unrestricted access to the satellite based Global Positioning System (GPS). It was originally developed in the 1970's for US military applications but civilian use, for example in aviation, was permitted, selectively, from the 1980's. The accuracy of GPS is variable – a typical smartphone will be accurate to within about 5 metres whereas versions used for some engineering applications are accurate to 2 centimetres.

May 4th 1982:

HMS Sheffield, a type 42 destroyer, was hit by an Exocet missile fired from an Argentinian aircraft. An electronic glitch meant that the incoming missile was not picked up by Sheffield's radar. Lookouts spotted the incoming missile but by then there was insufficient time for countermeasures. 20 members of the crew died and a further 26 were injured. The ship was immediately crippled by the attack and sunk 6 days later while under tow. It was the first Royal Navy ship to be sunk by enemy action since the second world war.

May 8th 1984:

The Thames Barrier was officially opened. Its span across the Thames near Woolwich is 520m wide. It has 10 main gates, each weighing 3,300 tonnes. It protects 125 square kilometres of the London area from flooding. The closing process is guided by a mathematical matrix that considers the river flow, tide and surge at the time. It has been closed over 200 times since it became operational.

May 11th 1812:

Prime Minister Spencer Perceval was assassinated in the lobby of the House of Commons. Perceval's assassin, John Bellingham, had been imprisoned in Russia as a result of a disputed marine insurance claim. He held the government and the British ambassador in Russia to be responsible and this was his revenge. He was convicted of murder 3 days later and hanged on May 18th.

May 18th 1980:

Mount St Helens in Washington State exploded. Moderate volcanic activity had been observed since late March and many people had been evacuated from the surrounding area as a precaution. This violent eruption killed 57 people, felled an estimated 10 million trees and sent rock and ash up to 12 miles in the air. The height of the mountain was reduced from 9677ft to 8307ft.

May 21st 1981:

"The House of Lords is a model of how to care for the elderly." So said Labour MP Frank Field.

May 24th 1956:

The first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. Only 7 countries entered, with each country entering 2 songs. The results were decided by juries who were permitted to vote for their own country's songs. The winner was Lys Assia, representing Switzerland with her song *Refrain*. The UK decided not to enter, preferring instead to stage its own national contest.

May 24th 2020:

Dominic Cummins kept his job as a key adviser to Boris Johnson despite his trip to Barnard's Castle to "check his eyesight".

May 26th 1967:

The Beatles' album *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* was released to a warm reception from the critics. It became the group's best-selling album with 32 million copies sold worldwide. *Abbey Road* is the next best, selling almost 20 million copies.

May 30th 1983:

In a match against Essex, Surrey's cricketers recorded one of the lowest ever scores in the first class game. Replying to Essex's first innings score of 287, Surrey were all out for 14. Essex bowler Norbert Phillip took 6 wickets for just 4 runs. However, the weather gods smiled on Surrey who drew the match because a full day's play was lost to rain.

IAN THOMPSON

ORGAN CONCERT CRADLEY CHURCH

Jonathan Hope

[Assistant Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral]

Jonathan will improvise on the organ to a silent film lasting just over an hour.

He is well-known for his incredible talent for improvisation, and this promises to be an entertaining, exciting, and very 'different' concert.

Save the date!

Saturday 10th June at 8pm
Bar opens 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £10 Under 18s free

Proceeds in aid of Cradley Church
and
Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust

MISS MARBLE AND THE DOG POO FAIRY

Submitted by: some newspaper or other.

It's a wonderful spring day, and Miss Marble is taking her morning constitutional along a country footpath in the parish of St. Nutjob. She is wearing her favourite red sweater, and yellow plaid scarf with matching culottes. By her side walks Trigger-Happy Lily, stage magician's assistant and infamous oriental assassin. Trotting along at their rear is the loyal pug, Dr. Hilda Witless.

Miss Marble is happily absorbed in swatting the wild flowers with her walking stick, when to her surprise something yells "Ow!" from amid a dense tussock. Miss Marble scratches her fluffy white ear and wonders what has got into the violets this morning.

Trigger-Happy has better eyesight, and lets rip with a cry of warning. "Watch out, Marble, there's something down there about to take a chunk out of your ankle." She whips out her revolver, and only a vicious slice from the walking stick across her wrist stops the killer from plugging a diminutive creature writhing on the ground at their feet.

"Ahhh, it's a little mannikin," sighs the pug, Hilda. "What a precious little diddums. Can we take it home with us and keep it as a pet?"

"Don't be an ass, Hilda," says Miss Marble. "We don't know what it may be carrying. Rabies most like, judging by the foam at its mouth."

"I don't think so, Marble," said Hilda, jumping up and down with excitement. "The poor thing's hurt. We must take it home... we must take it home... we must... we must!"

"Down girl!" commanded Miss Marble. "Try to control yourself." And with a touch more menace, she gave the single command, "Sit."

Hilda obeyed without demur, and confined her activities to wagging her curly tail.

While all this is going-on, Trigger-Happy is busily poking about in the grass beside the stricken fairy. "Look at this, Marble. She's got a miniature shovel, and an empty bag. Seems to be one of those old, ecologically sound, hessian sort of sacks. How very strange." She prods the prostrate imp with the barrel of her pistol. "Hilda's right, you know; the little blighter is injured. See, I've got blood on my weapon."

Miss Marble is one of those practical ladies of a certain age who are never found ill-equipped. From out of her capacious handbag, she draws a first-aid kit, and a pair of protective gloves left over from the recent epidemic.

"Hold it down, Trigger. I don't want to get savaged."

"Do I have to? Look at it: the thing's disgusting!" replies the murderous ally.

Being a nosey old biddy, Miss Marble interrogates the patient as she bandages. Trigger-Happy assists her by shining a torch directly in the creature's eyes. The little lass is only too ready to squeal, and admits to being a dog-poo fairy, whose role in life is to clear up certain noxious substances.

"Not much call for that anymore, is there?" demanded the resolute investigator. "Not now it comes ready packaged in plastic."

"It's a different job to what it was in the good old

days, that's true," agrees the fairy.

At mention of the past Miss Marble gets all nostalgic, and reminisces. "I recall when every footpath was knee deep in the stuff. People would travel for miles to savour the invigorating aroma: according to some, much better than the scent of ozone at the seaside."

"We medics used to recommend it as a treatment for patients with lung complaints," interjects Dr. Hilda. "It worked out considerably cheaper than the usual prescription of forty Woodbines a day."

"Yes, those were the days. A golden age: will we ever see its like again?" mourns Miss Marble; before turning her attention back to the fairy. "Tell me, little urchin, what did you people do with all your gleanings?"

"Make ourselves jolly sick, that's what," replies the fairy.

"And are you all now out of work?"

"Does it look like it!" retorts the fairy, in bitter tones. "Look up there." And it points vertically upwards.

They all raise their eyes to the heavens.

"In the branches, you idiots!" cries the fairy.

"It's that new invasive shrub," says Trigger-Happy. "The one with the black dangly blossoms. It's cropping up everywhere."

"It's the poo, nincompoop!" screamed the fairy. "These days we have to climb up into the hedgerows to collect the stuff. Disentangle it from the branches. And do they provide the equipment? Like hell they do! I'm getting on in years; I'm not up to it anymore. I need to retire before I break my neck."

"But who throws it up there? I don't get the point," asks Miss Marble.

"Whoever it is, they've no concern about polluting the environment with plastics," comments Trigger-Happy, as she merrily takes pot-shots at the suspended bags.

"Who else would it be?" answers the fairy, significantly.

"The Rector's wife again, I take it," says Hilda. "I gather she's back in the country now the North Atlantic fluffy animal cull has been wrapped up."

"She empties all the Pu-tins and chucks it up as high as she can," says the fairy, bitterly. "For the sheer fun of the thing, I reckon. Makes our life a misery, it does. Some of the local girls are inclined to leave a sample or two on the Rectory drive; but the message doesn't sink in. That woman revels in causing trouble."

"Well, I wouldn't fancy doing your job, you malodorous pixie," says Miss Marble. "Now, I suggest you get a move on at the double. You're breaking the Country Code by obstructing a public footpath like this; which in this county is a serious felony. So, stop your slacking and get on with the work you're paid for!" With a rather nifty drop kick she sends the fairy flying back up into the branches. "And don't let me catch you at it again!"

And, so, basking under the warmth of a golden sun, the three pals continue with their stroll: ever alert to criminality of every kind, however minor, and more than ready to inflict whatever arbitrary punishments they see fit.

"Yeuch! What's that I've stepped in?"

EVERGREEN CLUB

March winds and April showers – we're certainly getting those at the moment. We did have a nice few days over the Easter weekend which I'm sure we all enjoyed. Let's hope there's more to come!

The hall looked a picture for our Spring Lunch. Daffodils on the windowsills, Jacky's lovely flower arrangements on the tables, laid with Lindsay's colourful yellow and green check tablecloths. Many thanks to Jennifer and Caroline for setting up the hall for us so efficiently.

Jo, Jacky and I arrived early to prepare lunch for everyone: quiche, salad and new potatoes followed by black forest gateaux. Everyone seemed to enjoy what was a delicious meal. It was lovely to have Daphne join us for lunch accompanied by Louise, Daphne's daughter-in-law. We were also joined by our two new members, Bob and Val Oliver from Acton Cross. Some members were unable to be with us because of illness but about 32 members, friends and helpers sat down to eat.

Our entertainment for the afternoon was going to be Janet Ashton and her sister, Susan, but Janet had tested positive for Covid and had to cancel. Fortunately, David Beale, who has entertained us many times before, was able to step in and saved the day. We always enjoy his selection of popular music and songs, past and present, with lots of audience participation.

We had a good raffle with a really miscellaneous mix of goodies.

Many thanks to all my great helpers, Jo, Jacky, Jane, Glenys, Caroline and Jennifer, who worked so hard to make the occasion such a success.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to Elizabeth, and Jo Davies, who were unable to join us because of ill health. We wish them a speedy road back to good health. We also hope Audrey will be able to be back with us very soon.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 17 April when a representative from Guide Dogs for the Blind will be coming, with, we hope, a new puppy in training; we shall look forward to that.

A little thought to finish on –

"A bald spot is like a lie; the bigger it gets, the harder it is to cover it up."

Speak soon, take care, lots of love.

CHRIS ORFORD
(Club leader)
01886 880 387

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.**

COMPILER NEEDED

**Can you use Publisher?
Or do you have computer skills and are willing to learn?**



**We have a vacancy for a Compiler
for the Three-Villages NEWSLETTER**

Can you offer a few hours a month 3 or 4 times
a year to help put together this amazing
community resource?

You would be joining a small team of dedicated
volunteer editors and compilers.

Some knowledge of Publisher an advantage but
not essential as you will be supported by
experienced compilers throughout.

**Enjoy a digital challenge?
Want to join the Community?
Join the NEWSLETTER Team!**

Phone Jackie on 07785 714034 or
Pauline on 07462 922404

CRADLEY SURGERY

01886 880207
www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk

Surgery hours:
Monday to Friday:
8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Closed weekends and Bank Holidays

You can also ask a question online at
<https://florey accurx.com/p/M81600> which will be
read by a team member within 48hrs.

This might be about an admin issue, eg. about sick notes, repeat prescriptions etc; about a medical issue eg new or ongoing symptoms; or advice and guidance concerning conditions, symptoms and treatments.

If your GP practice is closed and you need more urgent help, visit [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk) or call 111 In an emergency call 999.

(see separate notice for Dispensary)

I've been out and about knocking on as many doors as possible over recent weeks to chat with residents and hear about the issues that really matter to you. Lots of people have mentioned potholes and road resurfacing, and I've followed up on all the individual cases that have been raised with me. I've been a bit surprised to find that many people aren't yet aware of how to report potholes online or by phone, and so I thought I should use this column to highlight these very useful options!

First of all: if you don't use the internet, you can simply phone the Balfour Beatty hotline on **01432 261800** – the people on the phones are always very friendly and helpful! (Balfour Beatty, also known as BBLP, are the contractors that the council pays to look after the roads for us all).

If you do use the internet, I highly recommend using the 'Report It' page on the council's website: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-problem. I really recommend bookmarking the page for easy access!

If you click on the link for 'report road problem' you can report potholes, a road needing resurfacing, drainage issues, overhanging trees, broken road signs – anything like that.

The way the system works is that it asks you to put a pin on an online map to show exactly where the problem is. You can provide details and upload a photo if you want (not essential). The system sends this straight through to the BBLP 'locality stewards' who are the people responsible for inspecting our roads on a regular basis – the one for our area is called Mike Brookes. Mike will then come and inspect the issue and decide what needs to be done, using the 'prioritisation matrix' (available in the Highways Maintenance Plan – let me know if you'd like a copy!) which scores a road defect based on how much of a safety risk it poses. If it's a big pothole on a main road it has to be fixed within 48 hours; if it's a smaller hole on a minor road the time limit is 2 months (though it's often actually fixed much sooner than that).

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

POTHOLES - AN UPDATE FROM ELLIE CHOWNS

Either way, the best way to get potholes fixed quickly is to report them directly by phone or via the website – this starts the clock ticking straight away for inspection and fixing! You'll also get a reference number which you can use to follow up. And if you create an account with your email, the system will send you a message when it's been inspected and fixed, which is very helpful. There is also another online map (www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/pothole-road-defect-progress-map) which shows all the defects that have been fixed recently.

If you ever have any difficulties, or you've reported an issue and it hasn't been dealt with, please let me know and I will happily chase it up for you.

I hope this is helpful! I warmly encourage you all to report any road defects that you are aware of as that's the vital first step in getting them fixed. And please do let me know if you would like my help with any of these issues – or indeed anything else!

My contact details: 01531 670729 (landline) or 07950 714947 (mobile), or email:

ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk

or www.facebook.com/CllrEllieChowns/

With very best wishes
ELLIE

Dr Ellie Chowns
Herefordshire Council
Councillor for Bishops Frome and Cradley Ward
Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy
Leader of the Green Group

Mathon Parish Hall Management Committee

Hire Rates Mathon Parish Hall

** Minimum booking two hours

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

Commercial bookings by negotiation

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

Linen service (additional charge).

Tables and chairs available to hire out.

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

or email mar.ainsco@btinternet.com

EVERY BODY DANCE

EVERYBODY DANCE and Cradley C of E Primary School are working together on a new project called 'Get Out Together' and invite you to join them.

Get Out Together is an intergenerational project for young people aged 9-16 and elders aged 60yrs +.

A small group of pupils from Cradley C of E Primary School invite you to join them for a series of short local walks in June 2023. These will be of a length and level suitable for your ability and needs, and theirs. This could be 100 yards or 3 miles! Staff and a project leader will accompany the walks.

Parallel schemes are running in Cradley, Bosbury, Ledbury, Leominster and Bromyard and we invite you to take part.

If you enjoy being outdoors and the company of young people, please get in touch with Rachel Freeman by email rverybodydance@gmail.com or phone 07870 429528.

Get Out Together is supported by #iwill through Herefordshire Community Foundation.

www.everybodydance.org.uk

Proudly supporting
youth social action



Herefordshire
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



**Dementia
Friends**

An Alzheimer's Society initiative



NUMBERPLATE OF THE MONTH

OK – I got bored with road signs.

And funny numberplates are easy to find on the internet. Did you wonder why this person can afford a Porsche Carrera?

And because so many of you pointed out newly sprung potholes over the winter months, I will revert to the pothole of the month in the next newsletter editions.

Scanning price comparison sites for my car insurance renewal (why isn't loyalty rewarded?) I



mused about my claims over the years (yes, I have made a few, of which I'm not proud). Here are statements from claims made by others, according to the internet:

"The accident happened because I had one eye on the lorry in front, one eye on the pedestrian and the other on the car behind."

"I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way"

"A pedestrian hit me and went under my car"

"An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished."

"Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have."

"The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."

"I had been driving for forty years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident."

"As I approached an intersection a sign suddenly appeared in a place where no stop sign had ever appeared before."

"My car was legally parked as it backed into another vehicle."

"I told the police that I was not injured, but on removing my hat found that I had a fractured skull."

"I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him."

"I saw a slow moving, sad faced old gentleman as he bounced off the roof of my car."

"The accident was caused by me waving to the man I hit last week."

"When I saw I could not avoid a collision I stepped on the gas and crashed into the other car."

"The pedestrian ran for the pavement, but I got him."

And indeed, I did find a cheaper quote!

TOM VAN VUREN

CRADLEY SURGERY

Dispensary Hours
from 20 March 2023
01886 880207

Dispensary open:

Monday to Friday:
9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Dispensary phone lines open:

Monday to Friday:
9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Please note the Dispensary opening hours and Dispensary phone line opening hours are different from those of the surgery.

(see separate notice for Surgery)

Royal British Legion

Cradley Storrige & Mathon

Outside Bar



Do you need an outside bar for your function?
If so, call us on 01886 880552 (evenings only)

Weddings, birthday parties, anniversaries, etc.

RECENT SKY EVENTS MAKING THE NATIONAL NEWS SEEN HERE.

In this article, I describe some of the recent national news featuring astronomical events visible from our location. We are very fortunate to live in a beautiful rural area, but sometimes it is not appreciated that we also have far better dark skies than most of the UK, which is increasingly blighted with light pollution in every direction. A recent research paper hitting the headlines, has shown that the sky brightness is increasing about 10% every year due to increasing outside lighting from towns and cities. Before 2015 the sky was orange in colour due to sodium street lighting, later pink with high pressure sodium. Now the sky towards the horizon is white and brighter from more electrically efficient and cheaper running blue-white LEDS outside lighting, just as we have in our homes.

The atmosphere scatters blue light 16 times more than red, which is why the sunlit sky is blue on a clear day. The same is true for artificial lighting at night. The sky is becoming brighter with more prominent sky domes on the horizon as a result of scattering in the atmosphere and the brighter lighting. Much of the outside lighting now is from commercial properties, car-parks, retail parks, advertisement boards, sports facilities etc. and illuminated buildings. Motorways are now only lit at junctions, with carefully designed downward pointing lighting.

In Mathon, my sky monitor measures the zenith sky brightness every 2 minutes, on the clearest of nights I also run a fisheye all-sky complete-horizon camera, with over 10 years of data. Even here, the horizon is dominated by light pollution: - from over the hills Malvern, the Severn Valley, sky domes of Birmingham, Hereford, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Bristol Cardiff and Swansea etc., up to 150 kilometres away. The darkest horizon sky is northwest into Wales. The darkest places in the UK are the most distant from towns in the least populated areas. If public lighting is doubled across all Europe, the Milky Way will cease to be visible.

In late January we had the ideal visibility of a comet swinging around the Sun and back out of the inner solar system, last visiting about 50,000 years ago. I, by chance, managed to image it during a gap in the clouds when it was overhead on January 30th. Another is expected next year. There is a huge cloud of comets far out beyond Pluto. I will explain what comets really are, another time.

On 27 February, we had a beautiful display of the Aurora Borealis, covering all of the UK; here the clouds briefly cleared just at the right moment, and I imaged it with my all-sky camera. Aurorae are common in Antarctica and far north latitudes such as Iceland (where I last managed to image a nice display on a planned two-night trip in November 2014). The previous one, that, by chance, I managed to image in Malvern, was in November 1991.

The Sun is powered in its core by nuclear fusion processes. It is a massive sphere of very hot

electronically ionised hydrogen and helium gas rotating once a month like an electric generator, so creating a magnetic field between its north and south poles, which swap over every 11 years. The magnetic field is constantly being wound up as the rotation rate differs with latitude from its equator, so it becomes twisted up and springs from the solar surface in magnetic loops during the changeover.

Sunspot groups of cooler temperature solar surface form at the base of the loops in north and south pairs. Electrons spiral round the magnetic loops, generating huge electric currents which themselves generate magnetic fields in the opposite direction, and twist up. The very large ones can break like an elastic band, ejecting huge numbers of electrons and protons into space at millions of kilometres per hour. These coronal mass ejections (CMEs) occur occasionally, and if they are ejected in the Earth's direction, they hit our terrestrial magnetic field about two days later. They then get caught in the Earth's magnetic field, and spiral round it, reflecting back and forth between north and south poles. They concentrate near the magnetic poles, where they kick electrons in the oxygen and nitrogen atoms of our atmosphere to a higher energy state.

At about 60 kilometres altitude, the atmosphere is low density and molecule-molecule collisions are not frequent, so the excited electrons can return to their original state in their own time, emitting the energy difference as green or red light, much like in a fluorescent tube. This is the Aurora curtain that we see. If really intense, it can extend from the polar regions to lower latitudes, which it did across the UK.

The large outer planets have strong magnetic fields with Aurorae close to their magnetic poles; Jupiter has a huge magnetic field which if we could see it would be 20° across the sky. CMEs can be very electrically disruptive; large ones have caused electricity outages in Canada and the USA; one in Victorian times was so powerful that, if it happened now, it would destroy most satellite communication.

Venus has been bright in the evening sky, and we recently had a nice alignment of many planets seemingly close together (albeit at very different distances). This happens occasionally. The orbital planes of the planets out to Neptune, are variously slightly inclined (2 to 7 degrees) to that of the equator of the Sun. The time a planet takes to orbit the Sun is proportional to its average Solar distance to the power of 3/2 (Kepler's 3rd law). The further they are, the longer they take to complete an orbit (88 days for Mercury, 1 year for the Earth, 59,800 days for Neptune). Just like the hours, minutes and seconds hands of a clock catching up with each other, the planets do the same. but because of their different inclined planes, they never exactly coincide. More on orbits and events next time.

Enjoy our beautiful night sky while we can.

CHRIS BADDILEY

Market Magic at Crowcroft

The Yard @ Crowcroft, Leigh Sinton WR13 5ED

crowcroftmarket@btinternet.com 01684 578381 / 07976 444618

On the fourth Sunday of every month from April to September, the Yard at Crowcroft Farm, near Leigh Sinton, will again be transformed into a fantastic Farmer's and Arts & Crafts market. The next market for this year is on Sunday 28th May starting at 10.30 a.m.

Throughout the summer last year Crowcroft market saw fantastic backing for the small businesses it showcases, as local communities have flocked to enjoy its mixture of artisan food, crafts, dog shows, wildlife exhibitions and its resident plant nursery Wykeham Gardens. The event has something for everyone, including a bouncy castle for younger family members and organiser Rachael Nitz admits to being really pleased that both traders and visitors have supported the market so well.

"We have been overwhelmed by the number of enquiries we have had for stalls and are constantly



CROWCROFT MARKET @ The Yard

VISIT US SUNDAYS
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10.30AM – 2.30PM:

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f i t

looking to provide a wide range of things for customers to enjoy. Crowcroft is a market for all the family. The dog shows are particularly popular, with everyone enjoying watching some great fun classes. We have been really heartened by the number of local people coming and enjoying what the market offers."

The range of food and drink encompasses everything from Indian snacks to traditional sweets, to award winning preserves, organic vegetables, bread, and wonderful cheeses. There's also hot food and drink available courtesy of the farm selling their meat and burgers, as well as spit roast chickens. The high-quality crafts include jewellery, art, soaps, and a host of individual handmade delights.

So, if you want to enjoy great family fun this spring & summer, why not go along to Crowcroft Market, and support local businesses. The Dog show starts at 12.30 and all entries are welcome. Rachael, her team and all the stallholders would love to see you.

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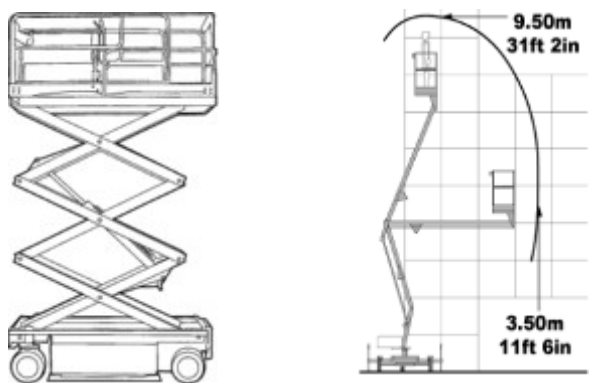
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Finer wines (Exclusive to us in the area) are now stocked, come in to take a look at our new range. We are working on getting locally produced fruit and veg to support our local companies, we have started selling newspapers again and can reserve them daily for you (Collections Only).

Finally we have also introduced a monthly raffle instore, donations are contributed to different causes each month.

Facebook- 'The Village Store - Cradley' for regular update.

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Tuesdays	9.20am	Pilates
	10.30am and 3.00pm	Tap
	11.30am	FitSteps
	1.50pm and 7.00pm	Ballet
Wednesdays	9.10am	Pilates
	10.15am	Modern
	11.20am and 1.45pm	Ballet
	12.30pm	Flamenco
	2.50pm	Pilates
	6.45pm	Ballet
Thursdays	10.00am	FitSteps
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	6.30pm	Zumba
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THREE VILLAGES DIARY OF EVENTS 2023

MAY

Tue	2		World Asthma Day
Wed*	3	7.30 p.m.	Cradley WI meet in Cradley Village Hall. (Note change of day)
Thu	4	10.00 a.m.	Exercise Class, Mathon Parish Hall, until 11.00 a.m.
Thu	4	10.30 a.m.	Teeny Tots. Storridge Village Hall. Until 12.30 p.m.
Fri	5	10.30 a.m.	Mathon Get Together in the Parish Hall, until 12 noon
Sat	6	tbc	Screening of the Coronation Ceremony in Cradley Church followed by picnic lunch
Sat	6	2.00 p.m.	A Right Royal Knees-up – Royal British Legion
Mon	8	2.00 p.m.	Community Day celebrating the Coronation, Cradley Church Lawn, until 5.00 p.m.
Tue	9	7.30 p.m.	Storridge Music & Literary Festival, Organ Recital in Storridge Church by Roger Judd RVO
Wed	10	2.00 p.m.	Cradley Mathon & Storridge Art Group, until 4.00 p.m.
Thu	11	10.00 a.m.	Exercise Class, Mathon Parish Hall, until 11.00 a.m.
Thu	11	10.30 a.m.	Teeny Tots. Storridge Village Hall. Until 12.30 p.m.
Thu	11	7.30 p.m.	Storridge W.I. AGM.
Fri	12	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to post box on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
Mon	15		Mental Health Awareness Week – Until 21 May
Mon	15	10.00 a.m.	“Chat and Craft”, Cradley Village Hall, until 12 noon
Tue	16	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for articles and diary entries (hard copies to post box on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley).
Tue	16	7.00 p.m.	Mathon Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting, Mathon Parish Hall.
Thu	18	10.00 a.m.	Exercise Class, Mathon Parish Hall, until 11.00 a.m.
Thu	18	10.30 a.m.	Teeny Tots. Storridge Village Hall. Until 12.30 p.m.
Tue	23	7.30 p.m.	Christians Together at Roy & Jo Smallwood’s, Oakleigh Lodge, Chapel Lane
Wed	24	2.00 p.m.	Cradley Mathon & Storridge Art Group, until 4.00 p.m.
Thu	25	10.00 a.m.	Exercise Class, Mathon Parish Hall, until 11.00 a.m.
Thu	25	10.30 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon
Thu	25	10.30 a.m.	Teeny Tots. Storridge Village Hall. Until 12.30 p.m.
Sun	28	10.30 a.m.	Crowcroft Market, Leigh Sinton.

JUNE

Thu	1	10.30 a.m.	Teeny Tots. Storridge Village Hall. Until 12.30 p.m.
Thu	1	7.30 p.m.	Cradley WI meet in Cradley Village Hall.
Mon	5	1.00 p.m.	Bioblitz at Cradley Churchyard, see www.cradley.org.uk for details. Until 3.00 p.m.
Wed	7	2.00 p.m.	Cradley Mathon & Storridge Art Group, until 4.00 p.m.
Thu	8	7.30 p.m.	Storridge W.I. Philip Bowen speaking on ‘The 1950s’
Thu	8	10.30 a.m.	Teeny Tots. Storridge Village Hall. Until 12.30 p.m.
Sat	10	8.00 p.m.	Organ Concert of Improvisations to Silent Film. Jonathan Hope. Cradley Church
Mon	12	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to post box on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
Tue	13	7.30 p.m.	Storridge Music & Literary Festival, <i>Dante and the Divine Comedy</i> . Storridge Village Hall
Thu	15	10.30 a.m.	Teeny Tots. Storridge Village Hall. Until 12.30 p.m.
Fri	16	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for articles and diary entries (hard copies to post box on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley).
Sat	17	7.00 p.m.	Midsummer Supper at Storridge Village Hall by Ticket only.
Mon	19	10.00 a.m.	“Chat and Craft”, Cradley Village Hall, until 12 noon
Wed	21	2.00 p.m.	Cradley Mathon & Storridge Art Group, until 4.00 p.m.
Thu	22	10.30 a.m.	Teeny Tots. Storridge Village Hall. Until 12.30 p.m.
Thu	29	10.30 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon

Thu 29 10.30 a.m. Teeny Tots. Storridge Village Hall. Until 12.30 p.m.

JULY

Tue 4 7.30 p.m. Storridge Music & Literary Festival, *Cycle for Safe Water*, in Storridge Village Hall
Thu 6 7.30 p.m. Cradley WI's Garden meeting (more details to follow).
Thu 13 7.30 p.m. Storridge W.I. Peter Johnson speaking on '*Why People Irritate Us*'
Mon 17 10.00 a.m. "Chat and Craft", Cradley Village Hall, until 12 noon
Thu 27 10.30 a.m. The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon

AUGUST

Thu 3 7.30 p.m. Cradley WI's Produce Show, Cradley Village Hall.
Sun 6 6.00 p.m. Storridge Music & Literary Festival, Choral Communion in Storridge Church for the Feast of the Transfiguration, Storridge Church
Thu 10 7.30 p.m. Storridge W.I. Linda and Mike Averill speaking on '*Whitley Court in 1916 – based on diary of the bailiff's wife*'
Tue 22 10.30 a.m. Community Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy with stalls, in Mathon church/churchyard, until noon.
Tue 29 7.30 p.m. Storridge Music & Literary Festival, *Henley and Hats, Boaters and Blazers*, Storridge Village Hall
Thu 31 10.30 a.m. The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon

SEPTEMBER

Thu 7 7.30 p.m. Cradley WI meet in Cradley Village Hall.
Tue 12 7.30 p.m. Storridge Music & Literary Festival, Bring and Share, Storridge Village Hall
Thu 14 7.30 p.m. Storridge W.I. Marsha O'Manony speaking on '*Hops*'
Thu 28 10.30 a.m. The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon

OCTOBER

Thu 5 7.30 p.m. Cradley WI meet in Cradley Village Hall.
Thu 12 7.30 p.m. Storridge W.I. Members' Night
Thu 12 12.30 p.m. **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to post box on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
Mon 16 12.30 p.m. **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for articles and diary entries (hard copies to post box on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley).
Thu 26 10.30 a.m. The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon

Please keep your articles, event notices, diary dates and reports coming in. Please, whenever possible, email your contributions to the editorial team at: 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

Please send all advertising bookings and enquiries to the advertising team at: adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk

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The editor of the June issue will be Ian Thompson.
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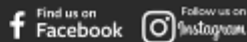
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