

**CRADLEY**

**MATHON**

**STORRIDGE**

# NEWSLETTER



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**November 2023**

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### Opening Times

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	9am—4pm
Thursday	9am—4pm
Friday	9am—4pm
Saturday	9am—4pm
Sunday	CLOSED

Email:

[contact@crumptonhillfarmshop.com](mailto:contact@crumptonhillfarmshop.com)

[www.facebook.com/crumptonhillfarmshop](https://www.facebook.com/crumptonhillfarmshop)



Crumpton Hill,  
Storridge,  
Herefordshire,  
WR13 5HP

**01886 880802**



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

NOVEMBER 2023

## FROM ALL SAINTS TO ADVENT

November starts and ends in our churches with celebrations of the light. 1 November is All Saints Day, so we will celebrate All Saints Sunday on 5 November - a festival of bonfires and fireworks already! We will already have commemorated All Souls - all whom we have loved but see no longer - the Sunday before, so All Saints Sunday this year will celebrate simply the Saints in light. As it happens, the Family Service that day seems likely to focus among other things on the story of Guy Fawkes - not exactly a Christian saint - but Mathon's Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m. and Storridge's Evensong (at the Winter starting time of 4.00 p.m.) will celebrate All Saints pure and simple.

With the contraction of the daylight hours and Remembrance Sunday halfway through, November can often seem the most sombre of months. Year after year as we remember those whose names have been preserved on our War Memorials, we pledge ourselves to pursue the cause of peace and reconciliation, in the earnest hope that such terrible events might never again play themselves out between nations. Yet we know that, in spite of what we might like to think are all our best endeavours, the world has never been entirely free of armed conflict. In recent years the war in Ukraine has brought that reality and the effects of it much closer to home, and as I write this, events in Israel, especially in and around Gaza, have already inflamed longstanding grievances with the potential for repercussions internationally that are truly alarming. One of the difficulties of writing for this Newsletter at least two weeks before the date of distribution is that we never know how situations will develop in the interim, and cannot know what might be uppermost in everyone's minds by then. But this year's Armistice Day on 11 November and Remembrance Sunday the following day take place in the shadow of these events, underlining both the potential danger of international conflicts and the apparent inability of the human race to consign them to history. This year's Acts of Remembrance will take place on Sunday, 12 November, at Storridge at 9.30 a.m., at Mathon at 6.00 p.m., and at Cradley, with the annual commemoration with the Royal British Legion, soon after 10.45 a.m., so that we can keep the two minutes silence at 11.00 a.m. together with those at the Cenotaph in London and elsewhere throughout the country.

By the time we get to the last Sunday in November we shall have reached 'the Sunday next before Advent', also known these days as the Feast of Christ the King. By then I suspect we will be more than ready to sing our Advent carols and prepare to welcome Christ our King, the Light who is coming into the world, whose birth we celebrate again at Christmas...but for now we will content ourselves with singing:

'Who are these like stars appearing, these before God's throne who stand?'

and:

'For all the saints, who from their labours rest,

Who Thee by faith before the world confess'd:

Thy name, O Jesu, be forever blest. Alleluia!"

Your Rector  
ROBERT WARD

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<b>Edition Editor:</b>	Antonia Musgrove, telephone 07785 294232
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<b>Advertising:</b>	Jan Dampney, telephone 01886 880316 Jackie White, telephone 01886 833802

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

## ***Church Services in November 2023***

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

<b>Wednesday</b> <b>4 November</b> <b>All Saints Day</b>	10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer - Live-streamed from The Rectory	Cradley Benefice
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>5 November</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m. Parish Communion (BCP) 9:30 a.m. Live-streamed Service (Lay led) 10:45 a.m. Family Service 6:00 p.m. Evensong	Mathon Benefice Cradley StorrIDGE
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>8 November</b>	10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer - Live-streamed from The Rectory	Cradley Benefice
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>12 November</b> <b>Remembrance Sunday</b> <b>(3 before Advent)</b>	9:30 a.m. Mattins with the Act of Remembrance 10:45 a.m. Service of Remembrance with the Royal British Legion 6:00 p.m. Evensong with the Act of Remembrance	StorrIDGE Cradley Mathon
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>15 November</b>	10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer - Live-streamed from The Rectory	Cradley Benefice
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>19 November</b> <b>2 before Advent</b> <b>(Trinity 24)</b>	9:30 a.m. Mattins (Lay led) 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. Morning Service (Lay led) 11:00 a.m. Live-streamed Morning Service	Mathon StorrIDGE Cradley Benefice
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>22 November</b>	10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer - Live-streamed	Cradley Benefice
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>26 November</b> <b>Christ the King</b>	9:30 a.m. Shorter Mattins 9:30 a.m. Mattins (Lay led) 10.45 a.m. Parish Communion 6:00 p.m. Live-streamed service of Evening Prayer	Mathon StorrIDGE Cradley Benefice
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>29 November</b>	10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) 6:30 p.m. Live-streamed Evening Prayer	Cradley Benefice

## ***Church Services in December 2023***

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>3 December</b> <b>Advent Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m. Parish Communion (BCP) 9.30 a.m. Morning Service - Live-streamed (Lay led) 10:45 a.m. Advent Family Service 4:00 p.m. Evensong	Mathon Benefice Cradley StorrIDGE
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## ***From the Registers***

### **A Service of Thanksgiving for Marriage**

14 October	Matthew Merker and Anita Khagram	Cradley
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### **Funeral**

17 October	Brian Leslie Lymer	StorrIDGE
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## CRADLEY CHAPEL

(Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion)



Services each Sunday at  
10.30 a.m.

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

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



## MATHON CHURCH MATTERS

Our Harvest Festival was held on Sunday, 8 October. Thanks are expressed to all those who donated produce, which was auctioned, the proceeds to be given to Tools for Self-Reliance and for the tinned and dry food which will be given to the Ledbury Food Bank. We are grateful to all those who supplied the light refreshments which were served at the end of the service. The church was beautifully decorated, for which many thanks.

**Our Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday, 12 November at 6.00 p.m.**

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our **Christmas Fair** will take place in **Mathon Parish Hall on Saturday, 25 November, 10.30 a.m. till noon.** There will be various stalls, with many bargains, as well as children's competitions. Please see separate notice.

SALLY PUGH

## MATHON CHURCH

### READERS

5 November	Service at Cradley	
12 November	Mr Crouch	Mrs Crouch
19 November	Mrs Pugh	Mrs Seymour
26 November	Mr Walker	Mrs Cutler
3 December	Mr Crouch	Mrs Seymour

### SIDESMEN

5 November	Service at Cradley	
12 November	Mrs Cutler	
19 November	Mrs Pugh	
26 November	Mrs Cutler	
3 December	Mr Crouch	

## STORRIDGE CHURCH FLOWERS

4 November	Miss J Alfrey
11 November	Miss J Alfrey
18 November	Mrs P Hawkings
25 November	Mrs P Hawkings

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



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 28 November 2023, when we will be having a talk from Chris Stacey a retired Branch Manager of W H Smith, who will be giving his testimony. The meeting will be at Philip Hilderley's, 1 Chapel Orchard, Chapel Lane Cradley starting at 7.30 p.m

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

If anyone requires transport, we will try to arrange that for you, just contact Roy Smallwood

01886 880858.

ALAN JAMEISON  
01684 592600

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

### STORRIDGE WI

The September meeting of Storrige WI was an open meeting.

Marsha O'Mahony, author of 'The Scratch of the Hop' gave an illustrated talk to many visitors in Storrige Village Hall about the social history of hop picking in this area.

During the hop picking season thousands of people descended on Herefordshire from the Black Country and South Wales, as well as local people. Public notices were written in Welsh as well as English. To some it was their annual holiday, hard work but with fresh air, good food and accommodation provided. Whole communities were formed. On Sundays there could be the buying and selling of horses. Traders arrived to sell bread and other goods. There were factions and fighting. Artist Dame Laura Knight painted figures from the hop fields. Marsha showed us many photos of family groups picking, boiling kettles and eating among the hops. During the war these were joined by Italian prisoners of war. The hops were collected in pockets and dried. The hop yards had to be strung before the hops were planted and then tied.

At one time there were fifty growers in the area which dwindled down to seventeen. This became an endangered industry with the disease Wilt, and the public's preference for lager as two of the factors for its decline. Where hops are still grown machines have taken over.

These experiences are a distant memory but there were members of the audience who still could remember and talk with fondness of their hop picking days.

The October meeting began with notices of events. A trip to the Nottingham Christmas Market and Malvern WI's invitation to a talk entitled 'A passion for pearls' and a talk in Cradley on 'Clean Rivers'.

The speaker was Rozanne, the Ledbury flower farmer. Rozanne had started her business because she was concerned about the miles that even supermarket flowers had travelled damaging the environment. Her flowers are grown on site. She uses no chemicals. She provides flowers for weddings, gift bouquets and funerals. They are picked and gathered, are seasonal and fresh and many are scented. She does not use oasis or plastics and has a sustainable business. We have already decided we will visit her flower farm next year for a tour. Apparently, several WI's have already been.

As she spoke she made up a bouquet and then an arrangement in a hollowed out pumpkin which she donated and two lucky members won them in the raffle. She was very knowledgeable about the growing and different varieties of flowers, and she answered members' questions.

It was a lovely, inspirational evening.

JOAN PROSSER  
Secretary

## HARVEST DONATIONS



Cradley Church and Cradley School both used their Harvest Festival services to donate a huge amount of tinned and dried goods which was very gratefully received by the Ledbury Food Bank.

A total of around £170 was also collected for the charity Water Aid which aims to provide clean water in many places around the world. Many thanks to all who contributed to a very successful weekend.

JULIA MACLAGAN

## EXCERPTS FROM PARISH MAGAZINE

### Cradley Parish Magazine December 1899 (part 2)

#### Lectures on Gardening

We are very sorry that these Lectures have been unavoidably postponed in consequence of the Lecturer being released by the County Council so that he may fill another valuable appointment. Every effort is being made to secure a suitable successor, but since it is not easy to find one with all the qualifications required, there may be a little delay in doing so.

#### Mothers' Meetings

All mothers are welcome to these, and if there are any who have not, up to this time, been able to attend them, but now find that they can do so, we hope they will come without delay. During December they will be held on Mondays 4th, 11th, and 18th.

#### Parish Magazine

The circulation of our Magazine has kept up steadily during this past year, and there is every sign of its continuance. Now is the time for any who have not taken it to make known, their intention of doing so.

#### Baptism

Nov. 12th Ethel Mary, daughter of Alexander Ellen Symmonds

#### Burials

Nov. 14th Gertrude Annie Gittins, aged 1 year  
Nov. 19th Doris May Busby, aged 8 months

Contributed by  
JOAN PROSSER  
Member of The Heritage Group

## DEADLINE DATE FOR PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Payment and advertisement to be received by  
12<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to insertion.

# THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



## Royal British Legion Club – Events for November 2023

On 12 November we remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. A service will take place at Cradley Church at 10.45 a.m. Following the service, we invite you to join us at the club for a drink and a chance to gather with fellow members from 12.00 p.m.

### Quiz Night!

**Saturday, 11 November at 8.30 p.m. (in aid of the Poppy Appeal)**



Another opportunity to spend an entertaining evening getting the brain in gear, and seeing if your team can take the trophy from the current holders!  
(Prizes for the winning team)

### Race Night!

**Saturday, 18 November from 7.30 p.m. (Races start at 8.30 p.m.)**

If excitement and adrenalin are what you're after then join us for the return of our infamous race night, giving you the opportunity to see if you can pick the winner.



Experience 8 races on our big screen, giving you the feel of being down at the Derby.

Starting gates open at 8.30 p.m.

A great night of entertainment not to be missed.

### Cribbage Night!

**Saturday 25 November from 7.30 p.m.**



Knockout Competition (5 cards) £5 entry fee.

Prizes dependent on the number of entries.

Enjoy a fun night of cribbage over a drink or two.

Don't forget if you're organising an event, take the headache out of bar planning and book our outside bar. For further details please pop in and chat with Trina or give us a call on 01886 880552. Alternatively, why not hire all or part of the club for your event.

We look forward to welcoming you to all our events.

JOANNE  
Club Secretary/Treasurer

## CRADLEY SURGERY NEWSLETTER

**Dr Peter Clegg**

**Dr Chris Spruce**

[www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk)

**NOVEMBER 2023**

### Dispensary

Apologies for mentioning the "C word", just a reminder to **please not 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. Please don't panic. We are open between Christmas and New Year and after New Year and you won't run out!

Thank you for your help with this.

These are our Dispensary opening times:

Monday	09:00-13:00
	15:30- 18:00
Tuesday	09:00-13:00
	15:30-18:00
Wednesday	09:00-13:00
	15:30-18:00
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>15:30-18:00</u>
Friday	09:00-13:00
	15:30-18:00
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Closed</b>

### SAMPLES

"Please can any samples be dropped off at the surgery before 11 a.m. Any samples dropped off after 11 a.m. won't be processed until the next day. (On a Friday, this won't be until the Monday.)

*Thank you, the nursing team."*

### COVID AND FLU CLINICS

Our Saturday Covid and Flu clinics were very well attended and we have vaccinated nearly 800 people.

Once again we would like to thank those friends, neighbours and relatives who brought patients to the surgery to receive their vaccinations at the clinics.

Also a big thank you to the Cradley clinicians and admin team who worked the Saturday clinics to provide care to our patients.

### Online Services

Just a reminder to patients to please take full advantage of our online services, you can contact the surgery or book appointments when it is convenient for you, without having to wait on the phone!

Please use the NHS app to book blood tests (and health check blood tests) online.

You can also use the NHS app and Patient Access to order repeat prescriptions and to cancel an upcoming appointment.

We would like to remind patients to use our Online Consultation tool, which is available on our website. This is a great help to our doctors as you, the patient, can provide as much information as you wish (in your own words) as well as freeing up our phone lines for urgent enquiries.

You can use online consultations to request a fit note, ask for (or enquire about) test results, admin queries, as well as any new or ongoing medical symptoms you have. There is also an option where you can attach photos and describe your symptoms which will go straight to the relevant or requested clinician.

This tool is for non-urgent medical requests and queries as a clinician will respond within 3 working days.

No app or account necessary, you just have to be a registered patient at our practice.

### Newsletters

Please note our newsletters are written over a month in advance and given to editors and therefore some information can be subject to change. (The NHS changes constantly!)

### Staff News

We would like to welcome the lovely Bianca to our reception team.

Also a huge congratulations to one of a reception team, Mel and her partner, on the safe and happy arrival of their beautiful baby girl!

### Winter is coming!

Please ensure that your elderly relations are kept warm and hydrated, especially if the heating is on. Urine infections caused by or aggravated by dehydration is a major cause of hospital admission.

We are aware that the elderly sometimes avoid drinking so that they don't have to get up to go to the loo! This is a very worrying and potentially dangerous thing to do, (it causes falls as well).

Also please take extra care in colder weather conditions, especially ice on the roads!



CRADLEY WILD  
PRESENTS  
A DISCUSSION:

# CREATING WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

WITH TRACY PRICE OF  
HEREFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 7pm,  
CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL, WR13 5LH

Admission free. Refreshments.

Voluntary donations to  
Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and  
Cradley Village Hall



## CRADLEY CHURCH SUMMER RAFFLE

### PRIZE WINNERS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Village shop voucher	Di Cale
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Holloways Voucher	Peter Noel
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Red Lion Voucher	Derek Carver
4 <sup>th</sup>	Watering Hole Voucher	Joy Hatton
5 <sup>th</sup>	Pimms	J Hunaban
6 <sup>th</sup>	Italian Wine	Clare Copp
7 <sup>th</sup>	Lindor Chocolates	Sue Warner
8 <sup>th</sup>	White Wine	M Foord
9 <sup>th</sup>	Red Wine	S Mullaney
10 <sup>th</sup>	Biscuits	Di Cale
11 <sup>th</sup>	Rose'	Eryl Copp
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sanctuary Spa	John Gilbert
13 <sup>th</sup>	Shriraz	C Partington
14 <sup>th</sup>	Bath Salts	Gill Howard
15 <sup>th</sup>	White Wine	C Roberts
16 <sup>th</sup>	Red Wine	Liz Lamb
17 <sup>th</sup>	Telephone Case	A Hext
18 <sup>th</sup>	Red Wine	T Madsen
19 <sup>th</sup>	Tea Towel	Tony Copp
20 <sup>th</sup>	Pen	M Edgar
21 <sup>st</sup>	Coasters /Drinks Markers	H Morgan

IAN BAILEY  
Churchwarden

*Apologies for late publication of these results, which unfortunately just missed the deadline for inclusion in the October issue of the Newsletter.*

*Ed.*

### DON'T FORGET!

Hard copies of advertisements and articles should be placed in the post box attached to the left hand side of The Hamlets Village Store,  
**Bosbury Road, Cradley**

## CALLING ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS

Do you have floristry skills, but never get the chance to use them?

Cradley Church is looking for new members to join their team of flower arrangers. You don't have to be a member of the congregation, just a willing participant, with a love of flowers.



For more information contact: DI ROBERTS  
01886 884553  
dmroberts@talk21.com

### PLANNING AN EVENT?

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

### SEEKING NEW VOLUNTEERS

Do you want to preserve Cradley's heritage?

You may not be a church goer, but are proud of Cradley's beautiful church.



We are looking for people to join our team of cleaners.

If you feel you could spare some time to help keep our church beautiful, please contact:

SHEILA MULLANEY  
01886 880237



**Cradley, Mathon and Storridge**

# **ART GROUP**



Do you wish that you could paint or draw but  
need encouragement and guidance?

Come and have a go with us!

**We are a small group, meeting in Storridge  
Village Hall every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday of the month, 2pm to 4pm**

**Just turn up for a free taster session**

We can help you with materials – it's a friendly place to  
have a go and get lots of support



[For a chat about it, please phone:](#)

**Carole 01886 886370 or Mary 01684 574120**

**Or email: [cmsartgroup01@gmail.com](mailto:cmsartgroup01@gmail.com)**



## MESSAGE FROM ELLIE CHOWNS

Some changes have recently been proposed to the council's budgets, so I thought I should update you on these. First, a story of the real world effects...

Ten days ago I was at a coffee morning in Burley Gate Village Hall for a 'Living Well Roadshow' organised by Age UK Herefordshire. The event was going really well, but the lady from Age UK was very upset because just that morning she had received notification from the council that the new administration has decided to withdraw a grant funding pot for the local voluntary sector. The £2m 'Super Hubs' funding was intended to support local voluntary sector organisations to improve their services for local communities; I believe Age UK had applied for a minibus to help extend their services in the rural areas. Many other local organisations had also applied for funding from this pot – for example, to support youth services in Ledbury – and are horrified that it has simply been withdrawn.

I share this frustration, and in my role as an opposition Group Leader I have challenged the cabinet member about this at both of the recent Cabinet meetings, on 28 September and 5 October. The cabinet member says 'the pot was very oversubscribed so many applicants would be disappointed anyway' – but this is not a reasonable justification for withdrawing the funding altogether! The cabinet member also claimed that she would have withdrawn the funding anyway, irrespective of the administration's new spending plans – but when I suggested that she should therefore keep the £2million ring-fenced for supporting the voluntary sector, she refused.

Instead, it appears that this money is being reallocated. The minority Conservative administration is proposing to put £12.3 million towards work to 'progress' the proposed Southern Link Road in Hereford. The administration have also set aside £6million for the Shirehall project.



So those are capital budget matters. Meanwhile the council faces continuing challenges on the revenue budget side, almost entirely due to the costs of transforming children's services. This issue shows so clearly that the austerity-driven cost-cutting that was done 10 years ago has had very serious long-term costs – both financial and human. I know that staff are working incredibly hard to transform the work of the council in this area – but it is particularly challenging because there is a nationwide shortage of social workers.

Alongside my work scrutinising proposed budget changes I continue of course to support local residents with issues from potholes to planning. If you'd like to contact me about a local issue, please phone 01531 670729 (landline) or 07950 714947 (mobile), or email [ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk). You are very welcome to come and see me at one of my ward surgeries on the third Monday of each month: in Cradley Village Hall from 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., and in Bishops Frome Village Centre from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

With very best wishes, Ellie

DR ELLIE CHOWNS

Herefordshire Council

\*Councillor for Bishops Frome and Cradley Ward

\*Leader of the Green Group

\*Chair of the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Tel: 07950 714947 / 01531 670729

<https://www.facebook.com/CllrEllieChowns/>

## THE MALVERN TROLLEY INCIDENT



As published in 'The Week', issue 1458



A big thank you to everyone who supported our MDNA coffee morning and book launch at Cradley Village Hall on 30 September. We are delighted to say that we raised £1,985.

If you missed the coffee morning and would like a copy of 'Margaret's Cakes and Bakes' book, these are available from the Village Stores, Cradley Village Hall and Crumpton Hill Farm Shop. Margaret and Jan Dampney also have copies available.

All profits from the sale of Margaret's books will go to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.



*ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH MATHON*  
***ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS FAIR***



***SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER***

***MATHON PARISH HALL***  
***FROM 10.30 A.M. UNTIL NOON***

***STALLS INCLUDE***

***CAKES/BAKES, NEW ITEMS, BOOKS,***  
***PLANTS, TOMBOLA, RAFFLE AND***  
***BRIC-A-BRAC STALL***

***CHILDREN'S COMPETITIONS***

***COFFEE, TEA AND CAKES AVAILABLE***  
***THROUGHOUT THE MORNING***



***PROCEEDS IN AID OF MATHON CHURCH FUNDS***



**WELL BEING**  
Relaxation Class

伸

Tai Chi & Qigong  
Zen Practice  
Gentle Stretching  
Breathing Exercises

松开

**WEDNESDAY**  
12-1PM

£8 per session  
£6 O.A.P/Student  
(Discount Block Booking Available)

@

Cradley Village Hall  
Rectory Lane  
Malvern  
WR13 5LH

身心神

NO Booking Required  
For Further Details  
Call Kev 07725161178



**theWi**  
INSPIRING WOMEN



**CRADLEY WI**  
Established 1938

Thursday, 2nd November 2023  
at 7.30 p.m.  
Cradley Village Hall  
Monthly Meeting  
**Party Nibbles for Christmas**  
With Cameron MacFarlane

New members always welcome  
Come along as our guest for your  
first meeting  
to see what we are about.  
You are assured a warm welcome



For more information phone:  
Joy Edwards, President, 01886 880649 or  
Lesley Gregory, Secretary, 01886 880525  
or email [cradleywi@gmail.com](mailto:cradleywi@gmail.com)  
Find us on Facebook

**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

MEET+CHAT

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



**CALL+CHAT**

**Contact:**  
Sue Ronan on 01886 884646  
Email: [sue@ronan.me.uk](mailto:sue@ronan.me.uk)



**Mathon Get Together**

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

**When is it?** Every Friday 10:30 until 12:00

**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



**Sunday 26th November**  
**2:30pm - 4:30pm**

**Come along and have fun stirring up  
your own Christmas Pudding**

**We supply the ingredients (at cost)**

**You supply the bowl (non metallic)**

**and the elbow grease( no mixers here!)**

**Further information: Julia 01886 880402**  
**Email: [julia.maclagan@btinternet.com](mailto:julia.maclagan@btinternet.com)**



Cradley WI meets on the first Thursday of each month, leaving much of the month available for other activities.

16 September is the annual WI Day with events taking place all over the country. This year Cradley was involved in the Herefordshire Federation of WIs show in Bodenham, with members of Cradley being successful in several of the craft and horticultural categories as well as raising funds from our sale of crafts, preserves and baking.

The following week the Book Club met to discuss 'The Twyford Code' by Janice Hallett. The general consensus was that it was an 'interesting style' and was different, but there was a spoiler alert as not all members had quite finished it!

Cradley WI hosted Harvest Lunch on 26 September when home-made soups and desserts were served to WI members, Cradley villagers and locals. We were delighted to raise £200 to donate to this year's chosen charity, St Michael's Hospice, from proceeds from the lunch and raffle. Thank you, Cradley, for supporting this event.

September was rounded off by a well-attended Coffee Club at the ever-popular Hop Pocket. October began with several members enjoying a few days with pleasant weather in London, on a Herefordshire Federation short break. They were, however, home in time for the monthly meeting.

In our October meeting we welcomed Ros Black, who gave a fascinating talk about a local woman, Isabella Caroline Somerset, known as Lady Henry Somerset who lived between 1851 and 1921. Isabella married the 2<sup>nd</sup> son of the 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Beaufort. As was often the case in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the marriage was one of convenience, and as marriage to a second son was not very lucrative, Isabella was left to make her own way in the world. She made good use of her time, setting up homes for young girls leaving the workhouse, and training them for jobs in service. As President of the British Women's Temperance Association, she became a figurehead but was not always supported in her views to moderate rather than abstain from alcohol. Working with associations in America she petitioned all rulers in the world about not abusing alcohol. At a local level she founded the Mission Hall in Ledbury to enable people, who could not afford to attend church, to worship.

Isabella became a suffragist and in her support of women she set up a 'village' in Duxhurst in Surrey to care for women who had had difficult times in their lives, to develop their skills and help them into employment. Their children were cared for and went to school in the village. This was a very revolutionary approach for the time, and she had wanted to create further villages, but she did not live to see their

creation. Duxhurst is, unfortunately, now overgrown and no longer a village. Isabella was certainly a very influential local woman and Ros was thanked for introducing her to us.

After refreshments Joy, Lesley and Sue updated us on forthcoming activities before we all found our torches and headed off along the lane to our cars.

The Knit and Natter group continues to thrive with new people joining each month and the nattering sometimes getting in the way of the knitting, although several charity projects are ongoing.

The Lunch Club met at The Three Horseshoes in Little Cowarne and as always there was lots of lively chat over tasty food.

As always, we are always welcoming new members. Please come along to a meeting as our guest to see what we are all about. You will be assured of a warm welcome at the door. See our poster in this edition of the newsletter for details.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 2 November at 7.30 p.m. in Cradley Village Hall (see notice on p12).

Details at [cradleywi@gmail.com](mailto:cradleywi@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook - Cradley W.I.

PAM MOSS, PRESS OFFICER  
 LESLEY GREGORY, SECRETARY  
 JOY EDWARDS, PRESIDENT

## **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)**

**Come and join in!**

For information please contact:  
 Rachel: 07790890183  
 Annie: 01886 880964



**SATURDAY,  
2nd  
December**

**Cradley  
Village  
Hall**



# **Christmas Fair**

**10.30am to 2.30pm**

**Admission 50p Children free**



**Cradley Handbells  
11:30-12:30**

**Books**

**Jigsaw  
puzzles**

**Children's  
books  
and toys**

**Children's  
Games**

**Raffle**

**BBQ &  
hot food**

**Bar, Tea  
& Coffee**

**STALLS  
GALORE**

**Tombola**



**Visit Father  
Christmas in  
his snow cave**



## POTHOLE OF THE MONTH

This month I thought I'd tell you a bit about potholes, or actually sink holes, affecting the railways, after I found out about the so-called The Lindal railway incident, which happened in 1892 near Lindal-in-Furness, a village in Cumbria. A locomotive shunting at sidings disappeared into the ground after a large, deep hole opened up beneath it. The driver and his fireman had managed to jump to safety. The locomotive was never recovered and still lies buried beneath the railway, though the depth remains a source of speculation.

Have you ever wondered where people travel to most by train from Malvern? I guess you haven't but I am sure you still want to know! It won't surprise you, that it's Worcester. About 35%, more than a third of trips go to Foregate Street and Shrub Hill, whereas 12%, about an eighth, travel to Hereford. Malvern is of course, incredibly well connected by train full stop, having direct routes to both Birmingham and London. I hope you make use of that convenience – I certainly do on a weekly basis. Just under 16% of trips go to Birmingham, around one sixth, and 8% (one twelfth of all trips) go to London. And a final statistic – about 2.5%, one fortieth of all trips, travel between Malvern Link and Great Malvern.

Around 1 million rail trips are made to and from the two Malvern stations every year, and Malvern Link is slightly busier than Great Malvern. That of course is a drop in the ocean compared with London. Its busiest station is Waterloo, with more than 40 million trips going through its gates annually. That of course is nothing compared to some other stations in the world. In Europe, Gare Du Nord in Paris is the busiest station, with more than 200 million passengers travelling through every year.

*(contd in next column)*

### CRADLEY SURGERY

01886 880207

[www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk](http://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.

*(continued)*

The world's busiest passenger station, with a passenger throughput of 3.5 million passengers per day (more than 1 billion per year), is Shinjuku Station in Tokyo. The world's station with most platforms is Grand Central Terminal in New York City with 44 platforms. And the world's station with the longest platform is Hubli Junction in India, which has a platform length of 1,500 metres, almost a mile. The actual distance between Great Malvern and Malvern Link stations is only a bit more, I think, so imagine walking between the two stations just to get to your seat!



Image source: Wikipedia

## WHAT WE ARE WORTH

Did you know that we old folks are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stone in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomach

I have become older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old woman! I am seeing six gentlemen every day!

As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me out of bed, then I get to see Jimmy Riddle, and next it's time for breakfast with Mr Kellogg, followed closely by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley or my other friend whom I know only by his initials, P.G.

Then comes Arthur Itis. He knows he is not welcome but insists on being here and stays for the rest of the day. Even then he does not like to stay in one place so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a hectic day I am glad to go to bed (and with Johnny Walker too).

What a hectic life! Oh yes, and I am flirting with Al Zheimer. The vicar called the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him that I did so all the time, for, no matter where I am, in the bedroom, kitchen, sitting room or the garden, I ask myself, "Now what am I here after?"

I will close now and hope that Will Power is your companion too, but do make sure that his friend, Emma Royd, does not creep up on you from behind and watch out for that crafty Gerry Atrick!

Contributed by  
CHRIS ORFORD





# **WANTED**

for

## **Cradley Village Hall Christmas Fair**

**Saturday 2nd December**



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



**Contact:**

**Judi ☎01886 880534**

✉ [creednewton2@btinternet.com](mailto:creednewton2@btinternet.com)

**Jan ☎01886 880316**

✉ [jan@dampney.plus.com](mailto:jan@dampney.plus.com)

## ON THIS DAY

### November 6<sup>th</sup> 1923:

The USSR began one of a number of experiments with changes to the calendar. It replaced the 7-day week which included a rest day on Sunday with a 5-day week with no rest day. The intention was partly to increase the level of economic activity and partly, it is thought, to obstruct the weekly pattern of religious observance. In 1940 a 7-day week was finally reinstated with Sunday as a rest day but at a cost – workers could be imprisoned for being more than 20 minutes late or for missing a day's work.

### November 11<sup>th</sup> 1954:

Thousands of elderly people took part in a march in London calling for an increase in the old age pension. They were campaigning for a rise of 17s 6d per week to take the single person's weekly pension to £2 10s. In 1955 an increase to £2 per week for a single person and £3 5s for a couple was approved by parliament.

### November 20<sup>th</sup> 1951:

Snowdonia became Britain's third National Park after the Peak District and the Lake District. It contains all the 15 mountains in Wales over 3000 feet high and has an area of 823 square miles. Over 26,000 people live within the park, almost 60% of them able to speak Welsh. The town of Blaenau Ffestiniog is within the park boundaries but is considered as an enclave excluded from the park itself because of its slate mining activity.

### November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1921:

The Willis-Campbell Act became law in the USA. During Prohibition it specified that only "spirituous and vinous liquors" - spirits and wine – could be prescribed medicinally. The maximum quantity of beer that could be prescribed was reduced to half a pint per day and doctors could issue no more than 100 prescriptions for alcohol in any 90-day period. The act became known as the "beer emergency bill."

### November 25<sup>th</sup> 1971:

Harold Wilson, then leader of the opposition, presented a 16-point 15-year programme designed to pave the way for the unification of Ireland but the proposal was rejected by the Heath government. Once back in office in 1974 Wilson considered other options for the status of Northern Ireland but was persuaded that international opinion, particularly in the USA, would be strongly against any form of British withdrawal.

### November 26<sup>th</sup> 1805:

The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, designed by Thomas Telford and Williams Jessop to carry the Llangollen canal 126 feet above the river Dee, was officially opened. A 12-foot-wide cast iron trough is supported on 18 pillars. It is the longest aqueduct in Great Britain and the highest canal aqueduct in the world. It took 10 years to build and cost £47,000. The canal network it was designed to serve was left incomplete so despite being an engineering masterpiece it has never fully served the purpose for which it was built.

### November 29<sup>th</sup> 1814:

For the first time *The Times* newspaper was printed by steam powered printing machinery replacing the old manually operated machines. The machines printed 1,100 sheets per hour, 4 times the previous output. They were a closely guarded secret to prevent the workforce from sabotaging them. They were set up in a separate building next to the Times' offices and the operators of the original presses were told that there was a delay in production that night because important news was expected from the continent. To prevent a serious industrial dispute the workers in the old printing plant were paid their full wages until they found another job.

### November 29<sup>th</sup> 1956:

In the 3,000 metre steeplechase at the Melbourne Olympics Chris Brasher won Britain's first track and field gold medal since 1936. He was initially disqualified for impeding an opponent, the Norwegian Ernst Larsen. After an appeal hearing he was reinstated as the winner and the medal ceremony was held the following day with Brasher admitting that he was still "blind drunk, totally blotto" after his celebrations the previous night.

IAN THOMPSON



### ST RICHARD'S HOSPICE ANNUAL LIGHTS OF LOVE EVENTS

Friday 17 November 2023

Worcester Cathedral

Join us at 2.30 p.m.  
or alternatively 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m.

**Lights of Love events** are a special time as we remember loved ones in the Cathedral and afterwards at the beautiful Christmas tree at St Andrew's Spire, Worcester, with further lights in memory and celebration.

Dedicate a light to someone special and reflect on the wonderful people who have touched our lives, particularly those who are no longer with us.

We invite you to take part and make a donation to support our care, dedicate a Light of Love and let your memories shine this Christmas;

Online: [www.strichards.org.uk/lights-of-love](http://www.strichards.org.uk/lights-of-love)

Call: 01905 958262

Email: [appeals@strichards.org.uk](mailto:appeals@strichards.org.uk)



## ARE YOU FEELING FLUSH?



Can you help us to meet our target to provide a much-needed disabled TOILET facility in Cradley church in the near future?

We have received grants and some generous donations, but still need around £30,000 to complete the project. We have already secured planning permission and a faculty from Hereford Diocese.

Although we have use of the Village Hall facilities, for which we are very grateful, the church does need its own, especially when the church is used for concerts and other large events when it is dark, and for school services.

**CAN YOU HELP TO FLUSH AWAY OUR DEFICIT** to enable us to provide toilet facilities in Cradley church?

**DONATIONS MAY BE MADE BY CHEQUE**  
Payable to Cradley PCC, which can be left in the wall safe or sent to the Treasurer at Reafields, Grittlesend, Cradley WR13 5NR.

Alternatively by Bank Transfer to:

Sort Code 30-95-41.

Account No 29499268

PCC of St James Cradley Restricted Funds.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, SPEAK TO IAN: ON**  
01886 880201



### **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**

## EVERGREEN

Well, since my last report, we've had another lovely short break away, mainly to catch up with family from both sides. Roger caught up with two of his sisters in Weston and one of my sisters in Clevedon. We had three really nice days, considering how unpredictable the weather can be at the moment, and only caught the real edge of the winds coming across from America.

Our meeting on Monday, 18 September, was very enjoyable, when 14 year old William Lambourne (accompanied by his mum) came to talk to us. William is a very pleasant, confident and extremely knowledgeable young budding ornithologist. His passion for birds has taken him all over the country (with his mum) photographing and logging, from the local Malvern Hills, Birtsmorton, Slimbridge, the Brecon Beacons and Portland Bill, to name just a few. His talk was mainly on 'Migration' and the movement of birds to warmer countries. He talked about, and showed beautiful slides of, birds that I had never seen before: the corncrake in the Scottish islands, the whinchat in the Brecon Beacons, the black-necked grebe at Birtsmorton and the snow bunting on the Malvern Hills, amongst others. He also spoke about visible migration and birds that migrate mainly at night – and contrary to what people think or know, woodpigeons do migrate.

William is also a detectorist and has over time discovered many interesting objects. We all thoroughly enjoyed William's talk and slides and we wish him all the very best. Thank you, Derek, for setting up the screen and projector for me. Jo and Lindsay prepared a lovely tea for us all – sandwiches and cake, wonderful as ever. Thank you.

On 2 October, we had a grand Bring and Buy. Members were so generous and there was a wonderful array of items for sale; we made over £80 towards club funds.

To fill in the time left, we had a picture quiz; one part related to different landmarks in and around the county, a lot of which were easily recognizable, although some we had to think about! The other part was distorted faces of world leaders and politicians over many years. This proved quite difficult to do – we have all got to the stage when recalling names can sometimes be quite hard!! However, it was a bit of fun and everyone did very well. Jane and Glenis provided a lovely tea, beautiful sandwiches and some really delicious sweet treats. Thank you both.

At the moment we are looking forward to our Harvest Lunch, and entertainment by the Cradley hand bell ringers, all of which will be on Monday, 16 October.

At this point I would like, on behalf of everyone who enjoyed a lovely evening, to thank all those who helped to organize and provide a fantastic Harvest Supper on Sunday, 1 October.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Elizabeth Armitage, who is very poorly at the moment. We are all thinking of you.

A little thought to finish on: - "What you have done is nothing compared to what you can do".

Speak soon, lots of love.

**CHRIS ORFORD**  
(Club Leader 01886 880387)

## RAISING HEDGEHOG AWARENESS

### Dear neighbours

We're wondering whether we could call on your support.

We were recently given two hedgehogs, who were ready for release, by a hedgehog rescue, and they have now set up camp in our garden. While we are providing them with food and shelter for the time being, hedgehogs need to roam a large area at night in order to find enough food, and also a mate; the fact that most modern estates are built with each garden separate from that of its neighbours has sadly contributed to the dramatic fall in hedgehog numbers over the last couple of decades because it reduces the area of land available to them. There's evidence that around a third of the hedgehog population has been lost since 2000 and they are now officially classified as vulnerable to extinction.

This is why we have dug a small tunnel under each of our two garden gates, which will enable them to explore a bit further afield, which is one of the most important things you can do to help them. Please will you help the hedgehogs in Cradley by creating a hedgehog highway in your garden? A 13 x 13 cm<sup>2</sup> hole is sufficient for any hedgehog to pass through, but small enough to not let in foxes or badgers, or even most other pets. I have found this a very good website to get started: [www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/)

If you see a hedgehog out during the day and it gives you cause for concern, please try to capture it and take it to a hedgehog rescue or wildlife centre; they are nocturnal animals, and a hedgehog being out in daylight hours is usually a sign that it is in trouble. The nearest dedicated hedgehog rescues in the wider area are:

Hollycroft hedgehog rescue,  
Tillington, Hereford, HR4 8LD,  
01432 769375

Pins & Needles hedgehog rescue,  
Walford Road, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5RS,  
01989 567217

Brockworth Hedgehog Rescue,  
Unit 5, Abbotswood Road,  
Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4NY,  
07789 268296

Please also check out the website of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk), and this website trying to raise hedgehog awareness, [www.hedgehogawareness.weebly.com/home/the-prickly-nomad](http://www.hedgehogawareness.weebly.com/home/the-prickly-nomad)

Not everyone will be able to participate, of course; if that's you, please drive slowly through the village and try to be aware of any hedgehog crossing the road at night. Sadly so many hedgehogs lose their lives on the roads.



Just a couple of other tips: NEVER put out milk for them to drink, which makes them very ill – they can potentially die; and, if you like, get the family involved in building a feeding station out of materials you may already have at home. See, for example, [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/feeding/](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/feeding/) or [www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/feed-hedgehogs/](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/feed-hedgehogs/) Why not also get your kids' schools involved? See [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-friendly-schools](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-friendly-schools)

Can we all try to turn our village into a hedgehog haven? Thank you for your support.

THE BRYCE FAMILY,  
25 PIXIEFIELDS

P.S. We wonder whether anyone in Cradley, Mathon or Storrige was already doing something like this?

**New Creative Arts Social Group**

Limited spaces available so please call to book your place.

Meet new people and get creative with a group of like-minded artists. All abilities are welcome!

**Starting on**  
**Wednesday 8th November 2023**  
**1:00pm - 3:00pm**  
Drybridge House, St Martins St, Hereford, HR2 7SG  
First session free, £3 thereafter

Herefordshire & Worcestershire  
**ageUK**

0800 008 6077  
[www.ageukhw.org.uk](http://www.ageukhw.org.uk)

## FINDING PLANETS AROUND OTHER STARS

The Sun is currently active with sunspots and near the maximum of its 11-year cycle, resulting in some good Aurora displays, even down to our latitude, so watch out for alerts. Venus is bright in the east before dawn and Jupiter high to the south in late evening. The Milky Way is also well-placed, arching overhead showing thousands of different coloured stars through binoculars.

My main topic this month is how we have discovered planets around other stars. We now know that most stars have planets around them but so far these are very different from the Earth.

First, some related astronomical news in the search for organic origins of life, that hit the headlines in the last few months.

In 2016, NASA launched the exploratory probe ORSIS-REx to asteroid Bennu (several hundred metres across) delivering a small sample-taking lander to the surface in 2020, to return it to Earth. This September after the 2 billion km journey back, the probe flew past the Earth and released the sealed container sample, which landed intact in the Utah Desert, where it was recovered. The material originates from a time before the Earth was formed and some of it will be subject to detailed chemical analysis, while avoiding contamination from our own environment. We have very few samples of other bodies from the solar system besides material from impacts of meteors hitting the Moon, Mars and some minor planets, travelling through space then landing on Earth as meteorites. This is a part of the quest for knowledge about the origins of life on Earth from the organic material that we know is scattered throughout the universe.

Europa, the second largest Moon of Jupiter, is known to have an ocean under its thick layer of ice. Just discovered is carbon dioxide gas at a location where the ice is broken up; it most likely comes from its ocean underneath the ice. CO<sub>2</sub> is a requirement for organic life. Europa could well have volcanic vents on its ocean floor like that of the Earth.

In August, the James Webb space telescope investigated a known planet around a small red dwarf star 120 light-years away, Catalogue No. K2-18b. It is 8.6 times more massive than Earth and the JWST infrared spectrometer has revealed atmospheric carbon molecules, suggesting a 'Hycean' planet, that is a planet a little smaller than Neptune with a rich hydrogen atmosphere (like most large planets) but with a water ocean covered surface. It is orbiting in a habitable zone round its parent red dwarf star, (an orbit that could support liquid water). The data shows spectral signatures, of methane (that could be created from biological life), but there is no signature of ammonia (which is the alternative non-organic life source). JWST has also possibly detected dimethyl sulphide; in the atmosphere of Earth that is only produced by organic life. Much more data is needed to be certain, as the data is very noisy, and the interpretation is based on a best-fit model. If so, it is the only exoplanet so far discovered with biological indications.

It is only in the last 15 years that we've been able to detect planets around other stars (exoplanets). To date, we know of over 5000; due to special instrumentation and dedicated space-based telescopes. Most stars seem to have planets around them.

A host star in optical wavelengths will outshine its planets by many orders of magnitude and most exoplanets will be unresolvable in angular separation from their host stars.

This is not always the case. The first planet discovered around another star was that of beta Pictoris, by direct observation, by deliberately masking out the intense brightness of the star, which shows a nebulous disk and a point which is a planet. A recent image of another star shows several points of light (clearly planets) moving in time around it.

The main detection techniques are as follows: If by chance the orbital plane of a planet around its parent star is lined up with the Earth, the planet will periodically obscure a tiny fraction of the starlight as it transits the star, causing a detectable regular drop of the starlight intensity. It is easier if the planet is large, causing a significant change of the starlight brightness. Many planets have been discovered this way. It is now possible to see tiny changes in spectral content of the starlight due to some of the light going through the atmosphere of the planet as it transits the star.

A planet that is orbiting a star causes the star to wobble slightly, periodically in its position, as it orbits their common centre of mass. If the star wobbles side to side periodically and it is not coupled to a companion star, it will be from a massive planet in orbit. Another way of detecting the wobble is from its motion backwards and forwards in our direction, which causes slight increasing and lowering of the wavelength of its spectral features (Doppler shift). Even a variation in speed as low as 1 metre per second is now detectable with very accurate spectrometers.

Most of the discoveries have been of very massive planets close to their parent stars, hence preferentially detecting very hot versions of massive Jupiter like planets. But as stated, there are a few cases where a planet of considerable size can be seen directly and moving in their orbits over time, particularly in the case of planets just being formed showing disturbance of the gas and dust surrounding the star, which shows in infrared or millimetre wavelengths.

It is only in recent years that with the improved instrumentation, very accurate brightness measuring, and precise spectral wavelengths determination has been achievable. This is mostly from dedicated orbiting observatories above our turbulent atmosphere, taking repeated samples of selected parts of the sky. Our closest discovered exoplanet is only 4 light years away; currently there over 60 discovered rocky exoplanets up to 1200 light years distance that could support liquid water, so potentially organic life. Some stars are known to have a number of planets around them, many with extraordinarily inhospitable atmospheres. Next time I will cover how this is achieved.

CHRIS BADDILEY



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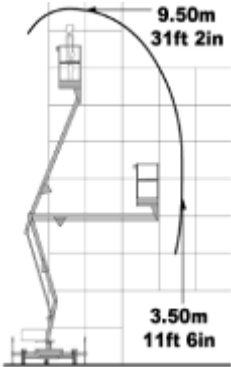
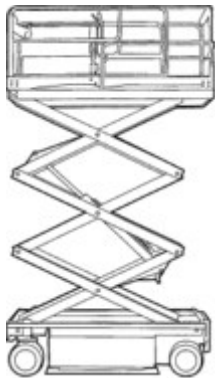
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**Tuesdays**

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
11.15am and 7.30pm	Ballet
2.15pm	Silver Swans Ballet
6.30pm	Zumba

**Fridays**

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**Sundays**

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## THREE VILLAGES DIARY OF EVENTS 2023

### OCTOBER

Fri 27 All week Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Week begins.

### NOVEMBER

Thu	2	7.30 p.m.	Cradley WI meet in Cradley Village Hall. Party Nibbles for Christmas.
Fri	3	7.30 p.m.	One Achord at the Cube, Malvern
Tues	7	7.30 p.m.	Mathon Parish Council Meeting – Mathon Parish Hall
Weds	8	2.00 p.m.	Cradley, Mathon, Storridge Art Group meeting. Until 4.00 p.m.
Thu	9	7.30 p.m.	Storridge W.I. Christmas Craft Evening
Fri	10	10.30 a.m.	Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 noon.
Sat	11	8.30 p.m.	Royal British Legion. Quiz Night in aid of the Poppy Appeal
Sun	12	10.45 a.m.	Remembrance Day Service, Cradley Church
Sun	12	12.30 p.m.	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to post box on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
Thu	16	12.30 p.m.	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> for articles and diary entries (hard copies to post box on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley).
Thurs	16	7.00 p.m.	Creating Wildlife Corridors in Cradley – Cradley Wild Talk - Cradley Village Hall
Fri	17	10.30 a.m.	Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 noon.
Sat	18	7.30 p.m.	Royal British Legion. Race Night. Races start at 8.30 p.m.
Mon	20	11.30 a.m.	Ellie Chowns Ward Surgery, Cradley Village Hall, until 1.00 p.m.
Weds	22	2.00 p.m.	Cradley, Mathon, Storridge Art Group meeting. Until 4.00 p.m.
Fri	24	10.30 a.m.	Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 noon.
Sat	25	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Fair in Mathon Parish Hall, until noon.
Sat	25	7.30 p.m.	Royal British Legion. Cribbage Night. Knockout Competition. £5 entry fee.
Sun	26	2.30 p.m.	Stir-Up-Sunday. Christmas Pudding Making. Cradley Church. (See separate Notice)
Tues	28	7.30 p.m.	Christians Together meeting at 1 Chapel Orchard, Chapel Lane, Cradley
Thu	30	10.30 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon

### DECEMBER

Fri	1	10.30 a.m.	Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 noon.
Sat	2	10.30 a.m.	Cradley Christmas Fair – Cradley Village Hall, until 2.30 p.m.
Fri	8	10.30 a.m.	Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 noon.
Sat	9	TBA	Royal British Legion. Christmas Bingo
Tues	12	12.30 p.m.	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to post box on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
Thu	14	7.30 p.m.	Christmas Party and Secret Santa
Weds	13	2.00 p.m.	Cradley, Mathon, Storridge Art Group meeting. Until 4.00 p.m.
Thu	14	10.30 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon
Fri	15	10.30 a.m.	Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 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](mailto:editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk).

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