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MATHON

STORRIDGE

NEWSLETTER



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May 2022

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Cradley Mathon Storridge Newsletter

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

MAY 2022

THE TIME OF THE SINGING OF BIRDS

'Flowers appear on the earth...the time of the singing of birds has come.'

The well-known passage from the Song of Songs, often chosen these days for weddings, comes into its own at this time of year. These are the weeks of Eastertide. May, traditionally, is Mary's month; England is 'Mary's dowry.'

Through the Sundays of Eastertide we celebrate the various fragmentary accounts of the experience of the early Christians, that Christ is risen from the dead. Outside an empty tomb in the half-light; or at a meeting of his followers later that day in an upper room in Jerusalem; travelling on the road to Emmaus, or at dawn on the lakeside: the experiences are unexpected and fleeting, but the result is the same. Followers who were shattered, frightened, disappointed and disillusioned find new life, new hope, new energy and new joy, and bear witness together to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

In our world, this spring time, there are again signs of fragmentary hope, and promise. The first Easter morning did not erase the memory of all that had happened, especially on Good Friday. The past is 'a given', whatever we might say of the present and the future. But a new depth of meaning was revealed, and a new perspective.

At the time of writing, news of the war in Ukraine continues unabated, with evidence emerging of atrocities and appalling devastation in areas which have been occupied or have suffered military attack. Whatever the future holds, nothing can wind the clock back on that. But we have seen in recent weeks how the spirit of the people there lives on, in spite of incredible odds. Metropolitan Epiphany Dumenko, head of the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church, told a congregation in Kyiv at the end of March: "Although a heavy cross has fallen upon us, we must bear it with dignity, following Christ until we achieve victory - a spiritual victory over the evil brought to our homeland. By the power of God's truth and mercy, by the power of our people's love, sacrifice and faith, Ukraine - still wounded, tortured and crucified by its enemies - will be resurrected."

Please remember, this Eastertide, all for whom these are testing and difficult times: from those in our own land increasingly resorting to food banks like the ones in Ledbury and Hereford, to those in Ukraine and the many who seek a place of refuge and safety, having been forced from their homes. Please consider whether you might be in a position to offer accommodation for six months or more to a family from Ukraine (typically a mother and child), or an individual, seeking to come to the UK. Parishes locally are seeking to link the names of potential hosts with the names of those seeking emergency aid. Details of the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme can be found on the website www.hereford.anglican.org, or via Citizens UK. Some, I know, have already made the offer, some in Cradley, or some as part of a larger support group in Colwall, for which please contact the Revd Melanie Horton, at Colwall Church.

Your Rector,
ROBERT WARD



Church Services in May 2022

*

Sunday 1

3rd Sunday of Easter	9:30 a.m.	Live-streamed Service of Mattins (lay-led)	Benefice
	9:30 a.m.	Parish Communion (BCP)	Mathon
	10:45 a.m.	Family Service	Cradley
	6:00 p.m.	Evensong	Storrige

Wednesday 4

10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
6:30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer from the Rectory	Benefice

Sunday 8

4th Sunday of Easter	9:30 a.m.	Mattins	Storrige
	10:45 a.m.	Live-streamed Family Service of Holy Communion	Cradley
	6:00 p.m.	Evensong	Mathon

Wednesday 11

10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
6:30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer from the Rectory	Benefice

Sunday 15

5th Sunday of Easter	9:30 a.m.	Mattins (lay-led)	Mathon
	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Storrige
	10.45 a.m.	Morning Service (lay-led)	Cradley
	11:00 a.m.	Live-streamed service	Benefice

Wednesday 18

10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
6:30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer from The Rectory	Benefice

Sunday 22

6th Sunday of Easter Rogation Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Shorter Mattins	Mathon
	9.30 a.m.	Mattins (lay-led)	Storrige
	10:45 a.m.	Benefice Holy Communion	Cradley
	6.00 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer from The Rectory	Benefice

Wednesday 25

Eve of Ascension	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
	6:30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer from The Rectory	Benefice

Sunday 29

7th Sunday of Easter	9.30 a.m.	Live-streamed service (lay-led?)	Benefice
	4.00 p.m.	Service of Confirmation	Mathon

Church Services in June 2022

Sunday 5

Pentecost Whit Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Live-streamed Service of Mattins (lay-led)	Benefice
	9:30 a.m.	Parish Communion (BCP)	Mathon
	10:45 a.m.	Family Service	Cradley
	6:00 p.m.	Evensong	Storrige

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Cover photo this month taken by Jan Dampney

MATHON CHURCH

READERS

1 May	Mrs Seymour	Mr Crouch
8 May	Mrs Pugh	Mrs Crouch
15 May	Mrs Cutler	Mr Vivian
22 May	Mrs Armitage	Mr Walker
29 May	Confirmation Service 4 p.m.	

SIDESMEN

1 May	Mr Crouch
8 May	Mrs Pugh
15 May	Mrs Cutler
22 May	Mrs Cutler / Mrs Seymour
29 May	Mrs Pugh

The preacher on 15 May is The Reverend James Stewart.

K.B.S.

STORRIDGE CHURCH FLOWERS

1 May	Mrs P Humphries
8 May	Mrs P Humphries
15 May	Mrs L Coomber
22 May	Mrs L Coomber
29 May	Mrs L Coomber



As we are now getting lighter evenings, we have changed our meeting times back to 7.30 p.m.

Our last two meeting were extremely interesting. On Tuesday, 1 March, the Revd Robert Ward gave us an insight into his life.

On Thursday, 7 April, Julia Pascoe from Jews for Jesus gave us a very informative talk on Jesus in the Passover and she went through all the elements and what everything meant.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 26 April at 7.30 p.m. at Oakleigh Lodge, Chapel Lane. It is a "Get Together" evening with a Quiz. On 31 May at 7.30 p.m. we are again meeting at Oakleigh Lodge for a Musical Evening with Geoff and Alison HawcuttViolin and Flute/Piano, Looks like a good evening!

As always anyone is welcome to attend our meetings; if you require any further information, please do contact us.

ALAN & ANGELA JAMEISON
01684 592600

CRADLEY CHAPEL

(Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion)



Services each Sunday at
10.30 a.m.

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

A very warm welcome awaits you.



MATHON CHURCH MATTERS

At the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on 4 April 2022 Nick Walker, who wished to stand down as Churchwarden after very many years, was thanked most sincerely for all his hard work, dedication and support. Mrs Karen Seymour was also thanked for her hard work as Churchwarden during the last year and was re-elected for the ensuing year.

As has already been advertised, **A Mathon Platinum Experience** is to take place on **Friday, 3 June commencing with a Ploughman's Lunch in the church/churchyard at 1.00 p.m.** followed by a **Treasure Hunt** (on foot and suitable for children and adults) after which there will be **tea and cakes** in the church/churchyard. **Tickets** are £10 for adults; £25 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children; £5 for accompanying children between the ages of 5 and 10 and are available from Sally (01886 880155) and Karen (01684 541943). Please get your tickets early to be sure of a place – **it will be fun!** (See separate notice for details).

Another event to look forward to is **Mathon Open Gardens on Saturday, 25 June from 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.** Tickets cost £5 for entry to all the gardens and are available from Sally (01886 880155) and Karen (01684 541943). (See separate notice for details).



Platinum Jubilee Fete

Saturday 4th June

11am-6pm
AT QUEENSWOOD
WR13 5NF

Novelty Dog Show

Assault Course

Belly Dancing

Games

Bhangra Street Dance

Falconry Display

Bull Rodeo

Spectacular Aerial Stunts

Beer Tent

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and much MORE**



Entry With Programme
£2



Platinum Jubilee Long Week-End 2nd - 5th June



Platinum Jubilee
2022



The Lighting of the Jubilee Beacon

2nd June, 9:45pm

Chockbury Lane, Cradley.

Please note there is no parking in
Chockbury Lane. Pedestrian entry only.
With kind permission of the Bryan family.

FREE

Music for Her Majesty

3rd June, 7pm

St James Church, Cradley.



A concert by local musicians with readings by The Cradley
Players and performances by the Queen's Ringers and the
Cradley Jubilee Choir. Entry by programme at the door.
Refreshments available after the concert.

£8
under 16 free



Platinum Jubilee
2022

Platinum Jubilee Fete

Saturday 4th June, 11am-6pm

Queenswood, WR13 5NF, Cradley
(ample off-road parking).

£2
under 16 free

The Big Lunch/Picnic

5th June, 12noon-3pm

on the Cradley Church lawn

Bring your own picnic and enjoy
music, a bar, tea and coffee .
Everyone welcome.

FREE



MATHON PARISH HALL



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CRADLEY AND STORRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

It's like old times writing one of these monthly reports, and it's good to be able to say to you all that every single member of the Council has been contributing greatly to its operation at this time of transition. Saying that I am grateful understates things dramatically. I have felt very well supported by everyone whilst I have been acting temporarily as Chair – a big thank you all round.

New Councillor

I am delighted to report that we have been able to co-opt yet another councillor, Paul Aitken, who will join us in May, and this takes our numbers up to 8. It is lovely to have representation from the area north of the A4103, and there are still vacancies, so please put yourselves forward from any part of the parish.

Sensory Garden

By the time you read this, the grant-funded project enhancing the central area of the Chapel Lane Recreation Ground should have made significant progress, so do make use of the seating area for that morning chat or quiet contemplation in lovely surroundings.

Lengthsman

We are recruiting for a Lengthsman, so please contact us if you are interested in helping to maintain our infrastructure, or if you know someone who might be, please point them in our direction.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Our next scheduled meeting on 10 May will, I hope, elect a new Chair for the 2022/2023 year and confirm our structure of working groups etc. This is another opportunity for some involvement, because, if you are interested in the work of particular working group, we do have lay members on some of them. Again, let us know if you are interested.

Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday, 24 May at 7.30 p.m. in Cradley Village Hall. It is a general meeting for all parishioners that the Parish Council is legally obliged to facilitate and chair, but we intend to arrange some interesting talks/presentations as part of it.

All welcome.

WYNNE HARRIES

clerk@cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cradley Mathon & Storridge TEENY TOTS play group



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

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

Occasionally meets at Cradley School.

Come and join in!

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

WHAT SIGNS ARE FOUR

My home village of St. Mungo Moss has altered out of all recognition in recent years. It has always been a hotbed of serious crime – maybe not as bad as Kirkmungo in Scotland, or Ballymungo in Ireland; and definitely not as dire as Midsomer Mungo, home patch of Slick's pal, Inspector Barnaby, who has an impossible job keeping a lid on the carnage – but no, it's not the jewel robberies and the gangland gunfights that hang heavy over our sweet rural idyll. The change is in the multitude of minor felonies committed by individuals who are otherwise law-abiding, but who consider their individual rights are being curtailed. Acts of petty vandalism are especially favoured.

For illustration, some months ago a twenty miles an hour speed limit was imposed through the village, with the appropriate signage erected. A welcome improvement in road safety, according to the majority of inhabitants; indeed, such a scheme is long overdue for the old village in Cradley. For all that someone thought differently. Within a month all the speed signs were defaced with indelible paint and required replacement. Investigations proved difficult. My methods rely on village gossip, and I am seriously hampered by the loss of shop, school, church, village hall, and, more recently, the closure by Chief Inspector Edwina Moose of our last remaining pub and Gordon Blue restaurant, the Turk's Head. The disgraced owner - celebrity chef, Giles Bristow, has not had a television series since. The truth came out, eventually, during a typically acrimonious parish council meeting, when the chairwoman broke down in tears and admitted all. It seems she had been caught by one of those irritating speed cameras, and forced to pay a trivial fine. Not content merely to incinerate the offending camera, as any sensible person would, she had to take out her frustration on those innocent circular plaques, the instalment of which she had instigated.

Other instances include the theft of twenty-two 'Keep off the Grass' notices from the perimeter of the village green. The local wildlife enthusiasts had been hoping that, after a few years of careful mismanagement, there was an outside chance we'd get a skylark nesting amid the sward. What's the likelihood of that if everyone in the village misuses the green for afternoon strolls and ball games?

Another example of the trend was the deliberate defacement of signs erected beside every stile and kissing-gate along the numerous rights-of-way within the parish. These specifically excluded agricultural livestock from trespassing on these pathways. We are all aware of the disgusting mess a herd of cattle or sheep can make of a nice firm footpath; indeed, most of us will have taken a sample of it home on the soles of our footwear. As a village we democratically decided on this course of action, imposing a requirement on the local farmers to keep their beasts firmly under control. After all, the prime purpose of the countryside has long since ceased to be about food production.

Then there was the fate of the two metre square placards placed in prominent positions about the village, threatening legal action against anyone so mean as to leave their litter for others to clear up. They were promptly ripped to shreds, and scattered willy-nilly about the roadways, verges and the front gardens of various parish councillors.

An act of deliberate theft occurred when more than one thousand daffodil bulbs, planted with the aim of winning us a coveted 'Best Kept Village' award, were dug up and removed in the space of a single night. At first it was assumed they would turn up on offer at a car boot sale; though, any hope of identifying the purloined bulbs was scotched owing to those responsible for their acquisition in the first place failing to make a record of the varieties. However, it has since been noted that the gardens of these latter persons, previously devoid of spring flora, have unexpectedly burst into bloom.

As for those essential health and safety signs, warning people of the dangers of swimming in the Mungo Brook: well, one was cast up on a beach in the Scilly Isles only last week; the fate of the other one hundred and nine is yet to be confirmed. Those signs cost the parish council twice their annual income; and, yes, it is possible to drown in three inches of water!

On a recent visit to your rector – the woman of the house was away visiting her friend Vladimir in Moscow, or I wouldn't have dared go near the rectory – I learnt of similar instances in the local area. Indeed, the problem is on the increase across the entire country. To all appearances, the population is growing less tolerant of the powers-that-be instructing them of their public responsibilities. Well, for most of us there is something that presses all the wrong buttons. For me it is those repulsive little plastic symbols telling me I am on the Something-or-other Way, or in which direction the footpath goes next: as if I'm incapable of reading a map! However, while I consider it perfectly legitimate to eradicate nasty little excrescences such as these whenever I encounter them, such is hardly the case with the previously mentioned examples of wanton destruction.

For all my superlative skills in detection, I find these crimes impossible to solve. Give me a meaty murder any day, something I can get my choppers into; but such trifling misdemeanours are not worth the time and effort involved. And the same goes for the constabulary – they are all far too busy investigating the peccadilloes of prominent politicians. So, unless there are major improvements in our society, I can only foresee the problem growing ever greater. Or, perhaps, we can stop putting up so many signs.

Submitted by:
MISS JUNE MARBLE

Stalwart Guardian of the moral high ground.

NEWS FROM MATHON

PARISH COUNCIL meeting
30 MARCH 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

Malvern Hills Trust - Mr David Baldwin had sent in a report on MHT activities. Two further resignations from the Trust had taken place. Several workshops had been undertaken via Zoom, but the majority of the meetings were now face to face. Car park meter prices would be increased to £4.80 per day. Annual pass prices would be increased to £41 per annum plus £16 per annum for a second car at the same address. The final draft of the 5 year business plan 2022-2027 had been circulated to Trustees for consideration. The application for a Countryside Stewardship Agreement to cover MHT land at Castlemorton Common had been successful. Following final scrutiny, this Agreement was now live and an important step forward for MHT. Provisional enquiries had been received for two beacons to be lit on Trust land to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen's Coronation. These would be on the Worcestershire Beacon and British Camp. 40 trees had been planted at Poolbrook and Barnards Green, hedges had been planted at Colwall Lands and memorial fruit trees had been planted at the community orchard in Townsend Way.

Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy - As a means of safeguarding the grass triangle at the end of Southend Lane, the Council proposed planting a Jubilee Sweet Chestnut Tree (donated by Cllr C Green) in the triangle. Local residents had already purchased and planted bulbs, but damage was being done by lorries using the triangle space to turn round.

Footpaths – the Council noted that Herefordshire Council was now taking over the management of PROW's from Balfour Beatty, commencing 1 April. The Clerk had completed the P3 Scheme forms.

The Footpaths Officer, Cllr K Perkins, had reported to the Clerk that the bridge on footpath MA18 had finally been mended and the footpath was now open.

Verge Cutting – 2022 - the Council considered the options regarding verge cutting. Conserving wild flowers as opposed to road safety was the key issue. The Council agreed on a compromise, and the Clerk was asked to write to Herefordshire Council requesting one cut only to be carried out at the beginning of August.

Next Meeting Date - Wednesday, 4 May 2022; Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00 p.m. and Annual Council Meeting at 7.30 p.m. in Mathon Parish Hall.

DIANA TAYLOR (MRS)

Clerk to Mathon PC

Tel: 01684 569430

E-Mail: dtaylormathonclerk235@gmail.com

9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern, Worcs WR14 1NL

EXCERPTS FROM PARISH MAGAZINE

Cradley Parish Magazine
March 1898 (part 2)

My dear Parishioners,

I am sure you will have heard with sorrow, and a sense of shame, that the good name of our Parish has been brought into question by its connexion with a case brought recently before the Bromyard Bench of Magistrates, in which a Cradley youth was convicted and fined for an assault upon a young woman in the Public Road upon a Sunday evening.

The matter is one, which, from the state of things disclosed in evidence, seems to need anxious thought and decisive action on our part. I think too well of the manliness, good sense, and right spirit of the men of the Parish to doubt for a moment that if they make up their minds to deal with the evil it will be stopped. They owe it to their wives, mothers and sisters, that they shall have no fear of harm or annoyance anywhere within the bounds of the Parish at all times; and although of course the law of the land affords protection to all, the standard of public feeling and opinion ought to be such that there would be no need to resort to it. Until this is the case we shall remain discredited.

We may have contributed to it in failure in our Christian duty as Parents, Teachers, Pastors and Masters and pray to God that we see what we ought to do, and manfully to do it. There are occasions when Christian indignation, properly expressed, is a very wholesome thing; this seems one of them.

I am, yours faithfully, T. A. AYSCOUGH

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EVERGREENS

Well here we are again; time flies when you're having fun, so they say, and, indeed, we have been having our share of fun at the Evergreen gatherings.

On Monday, 31 March, we enjoyed our game of "Scattergories", as we call it, when letters of the alphabet are randomly selected and an answer beginning with that letter is chosen for each category, e.g. an object found at the bottom of the freezer, or a present for a 40th birthday and so on. And, my word, some of the answers are unbelievably funny, and the more obscure, the better, as points are awarded for unique answers. We work in teams and the team with the most points wins the prizes. This game always creates a lot of laughter and fun.

Jane provided a lovely tea of delicious sandwiches and quite "posh" cakes. Jo kindly did the raffle and a very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all.

On Monday, 4 April, twenty-five members and helpers sat down to a fantastic lunch of quiche Lorraine, salad and new potatoes, followed by "out of this world" home-made trifles, made lovingly by Cherry, Jacky and Sue.

Caroline and Jenny had arrived with me at the hall to set up the tables, with colourful tablecloths and bright yellow primula table decorations. The windowsills were decorated with daffodils and primulas and the whole room looked very bright and spring-like. Thanks to Caroline and Jen for their constant support. Thank you to Jo for doing all the shopping and for all your help with the preparation, and to all the girls too.

Our entertainment was David Beale from Ledbury, a professional guitar instrumentalist and vocalist, who we have invited to the club many times before. He played and sang a whole range of popular music, past and present, including country, blues and rock and roll, encouraging audience participation. It was a most enjoyable programme. Everyone enjoyed a very welcome cup of tea and some lovely biscuits before the raffle and Easter chocolates.

We shall not have our next scheduled meeting on Monday, 18 April as it falls on Easter bank holiday so we will meet again on Monday, 2 May (despite that also being a bank holiday).

So, until I catch up with you again, enjoy the holidays and some welcome sunshine. Continued best wishes to Jean Horne (Cradley) and it was lovely to see Margaret Billett, John Davies and Janet of course, back with us at the Spring Lunch.

A little thought to finish on –

"Life is like a camera.
Focus on what's important,
Capture the good times,
Develop from the negatives,
And, if things don't work out,
Take another shot"

Speak soon, keep safe, lots of love

CHRIS ORFORD
Club Leader
01886 880387



Do you have the attributes to be a Supported Lodgings Provider?

We are looking for individuals and families who can provide safe accommodation and support to young people whilst they develop the skills to live independently. Supported Lodgings is an important stepping stone for young people age 16+, who are leaving care or homeless, and have not yet had the opportunity to hone the life skills they need to move forward positively.

There is no typical Supported Lodgings Provider (SLP). We welcome applicants from all walks of life, as a diverse range of providers enables us to find the right fit for the young people we work with.

You don't need to own your home – you just need a spare room or annexe. You don't need to have had children of your own, as long as you have experience of working with young people and are able to engage with them effectively.

What you will need is patience, commitment, understanding, confidence, tolerance, flexibility, positivity and a good sense of humour. This is a rewarding but sometimes challenging role, so the right attributes are essential to provide the level of emotional support and guidance needed.

Good life experience is important too as you will need to be able to help the young person develop practical skills such as:

- Accessing further education, apprenticeships, training, or employment
- Food planning, cooking, cleaning and laundry
- Financial management and budgeting
- Accessing housing and benefits
- Health management

SLPs receive weekly payments to cover rent, food and utilities, the support of a dedicated social worker and other providers, and other related benefits.

[See our website](#) for more information.

If you have the attributes and commitment to be a Supported Lodgings Provider we would love to hear from you. Call Sally on 01432 383 240 or email svaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk for more information.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Send articles and enquiries to

Editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk

Send advertisements and notices to

Adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk

CRADLEY SCHOOL

Cradley School on BBC Breakfast News

We were delighted to be asked to take part in some filming for the BBC last month. You can see the clip on our website – www.cradleyschool.org.uk/post/cradley-school-makes-it-on-to-bbc-breakfast-news Mrs Jones was in demand the day it aired and was interviewed live on BBC Hereford & Worcester at teatime!

We are extremely proud of all of the children, staff and parents who took part.



Lucy Renshall, Team GB Judo, Visited Us

We were fortunate enough to have a visit from Lucy Renshall who has represented Team GB in Judo at the Olympics! She came to lead an exercise session which the children raised sponsorship for – they all did so well and put all their effort in, and we raised lots of money to spend on sports equipment! Well done children!



CRADLEY SCHOOL

Easter Service

On Thursday 7 April we held our Easter Service in Cradley Church. It was lovely to be able to all get together in the Church once more and celebrate Easter. Well done to the children and staff – it was a beautiful service.



John Champion West Mercia PCC

Working for and with the local community to build a safer West Mercia.



As your PCC I work for and with the local community to build a safer West Mercia. It is my role to govern and scrutinise the service you as a member of the local community get from your police force.

As your commissioner my priorities are:

- Putting victims and survivors first
- Building a more secure West Mercia
- Reforming West Mercia
- Reassuring West Mercia

To find out more about the work I do as your PCC, please visit the details below.

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@WestMerciaPCC



CRADLEY

Cradley WI met as usual in the Village Hall and members enjoyed being able to walk in daylight to our first evening meeting this spring. Our President, Joy Edwards, welcomed members to the first meeting in the new year's programme. The meeting was well attended by 21 members and, once we had got new subscriptions out of the way, we settled down to listen to a fascinating talk given by our village's own Community First Responder, Sarah Clarke, who told us all about her role. She gave us a demonstration of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to help someone choking. She showed us her equipment pack and we were surprised to hear that she receives no funding from Government, other charities or organisations to support her in her work. Not only are Responders volunteers, they are required to fund-raise to acquire their equipment and meet costs. We were very pleased that our speaker's fee was going to such a worthwhile cause. There were questions and lively discussion around the services for cardiac events in this area.

We are returning to normality after a couple of years of being unable to meet at the village hall due to the pandemic. Although Zoom meetings kept us all together virtually, a lot of the events that made up a meeting had to go by the wayside during this time. Joy had created a collage of photographs of our activities last year depicting the diversity and fun that was enjoyed by all throughout the year. We have reinstated the trading table and raffle both of which create charitable income. Preserves, plants and books were for sale. Judi Creed-Newton won the raffle which was a very lovely, seasonal planter of blooming bulbs.

We have also restarted, after a couple of years, our competition which is themed to the topic of the evening. Appropriately enough this evening's theme was 'A Heart crafted in any medium by the member'. This generated many entries and was won by Sue Hyson with her gorgeous and intricate bunting with heart motifs. Points were awarded to Sue and the second and third equal places. These will be added up at the end of the year to find the overall winner - as we all know, 'points means prizes'.

The members agreed to donate to the Ledbury Food Bank from monies received at the Pancake Lunch in March. We have chosen the Food Bank as our charity to support throughout this year through our fundraising efforts. We will also have a box for members to donate food items each month.

Our new exciting programme has been printed and members received their beautifully printed copies to look forward to our future events including 'A Walk on the Wild Side', 'Ring out those Bells', and 'Sound

Healing'. We also have our Group meeting to look forward to in July when we will host other WI's in the Ledbury Group for an evening of entertainment and fun with the prerequisite refreshments or two.

If you are interested in coming along to see what we are all about, you are most welcome to come as our guest initially and see for yourself, as this is a great time to join at the start of the programme year.

Any enquiries please contact me, Lesley Gregory (Secretary) on 01886 880525 or Joy Edwards (President) on 01886 880649

LESLEY GREGORY
(Correspondence Secretary) Cradley WI

STORRIDGE WI

Storrige WI met on 4 April, and welcomed one visitor. We met in Storrige Village Hall, although the kitchen was unavailable, as currently a completely new kitchen is being installed.

Thanks to our programme secretary, Josie Lowe, the narrow boat trip at Stourport has been organised for June. Members were reminded of the Storrige Jubilee Supper on 4 June. The Worcestershire Federation has a Jubilee Garden Party at the end of May. Other events open to members include helping at the Three Counties Show, trips to Shugborough Estate and Hanley Swan open gardens and many more,

The Secretary thanked members who had contributed to the Ukraine appeal. Items had been safely delivered to the centre where items are sorted and packed for the lorries to transport them to the Polish/Ukrainian border, going every few days. Delight and thanks for what had been collected were passed on.

Our speaker was Angela Hugman, a retired physiotherapist whose talk was entitled "How to get and stay fit". The premise was that the body was like a machine which needed maintaining to keep it in good condition. She began with the head and worked down the body. Excess weight was bad for the joints and the heart. Angela mentioned osteoporosis and how exercise, calcium and vitamin D are vital. She also explained the importance of good posture, advice on safe ways to lift things and ways to garden comfortably. She mentioned making sure that mammograms and cervical smear appointments were kept. Then Angela gave us a wonderful very funny spoof on how to prepare for a mammogram, which involved a fridge door, a garage floor and a stranger!!

The session finished with Angela leading an exercise session to music. Her message was that it doesn't have to be a chore or take a lot of time, but exercise, if done regularly, can make a big difference.

We all agreed it had been a fun evening and we would go home and practise.

JOAN PROSSER
Secretary



MATHON OPEN GARDENS

SATURDAY 25TH JUNE

10.00 A.M. – 4.00 P.M.

£5 PER TICKET

FOR ENTRY TO ALL GARDENS

CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS FREE

Please no dogs except guide dogs

**Tickets from
Sally on 01886 880155 or
Karen on 01684 541943**



Proceeds in aid of Mathon Church

CRADLEY COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING FOR UKRAINE

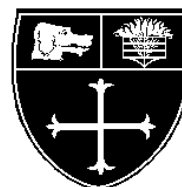
The organisers of the Cradley Community Coffee Morning held on Tuesday, 12 April would very much like to thank everyone who came along to support us. The persistent rain, which seemed to deter people from venturing out early on, cleared by 11 a.m. and then we saw a steady flow of visitors enjoying delicious home-made cakes and a flutter on the raffle.

Whether you baked cakes, grew plants, ran one of the stalls, made tea and coffee, washed up, donated a raffle prize, donated those much needed basic items or simply came along and enjoyed the morning with us, spending your money as you did so, thank you. We couldn't have done it without you!!

Many congratulations too to all of the raffle winners, A magnificent £660.42 was raised on the day with six boxes of essentials delivered to the collection centre in Ledbury the following day who in turn pass on their thanks. Those items have all been taken to the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester and will be delivered to where they are most needed. A donation of £661 has been made to the DEC appeal.

My heartfelt thanks to you all.

JOY EDWARDS



As we approach the Easter break, it is useful to reflect on what has been another exciting term at Dyson Perrins. Our school turned blue and yellow this week as the whole community came together in support of those suffering in Ukraine. Our Community Challenge Week has been full of Inter-house competition and fund-raising, generating close to £2,000 towards The British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal. Our 'From our Community to Yours' display in reception was full of heart-warming messages of hope and empathy.

In recent weeks, our student leadership team have been generating 'Campaign for Change' ideas on topics that are important to them, including mental health support and gender-neutral toilet facilities amongst many others. It will be interesting to see how these campaigns develop and the levels of support our student leaders can generate across the school for their proposals. Our Head Students successfully secured £500 funding from Malvern District Council towards a peer mentoring scheme, through a challenging bid writing and presentation process.

It has also been a busy period for our Chaplain, Keren Davies, who has led collective worship throughout Lent with challenges linked to our school values: Trust, Belief, Challenge and Resilience. Term finished with our Easter services and celebration of our students' wonderful achievements.

By the time I next update you, our Year 11 students will have started their GCSE exams. They have worked incredibly hard and deserve every success. We are proud of all of them.

Best wishes

MIKE GUNSTON
Headteacher

We are recruiting!

We have the following opportunities available to join our lovely team:

- * Children's Superintendent
(Lunchtime Supervisor)
- * After-school Club Assistant

Please see www.cradleyschool.org.uk/
vacancies for all of the details.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB – EVENTS FOR MAY 2022

The evenings are getting longer and now surely summer is heading our way. This month we have a varied programme of events with something to suit most people including a gripping Blockbuster Evening, a brain testing Quiz Night and a night at the races!

Quiz Night! Saturday, 7 May at 8.30 p.m. (in aid of Cradley Scouts)



Another opportunity to spend an entertaining evening with your Quizmeister! Time to get the brain in gear again and see if your team can take the trophy from the current holders? (Prizes for the winning team)

RACE NIGHT! Saturday, 21 May from 7.30p.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 chance 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 8.30pm., a great night of entertainment not to be missed.

Free entry, minimum bet £1 but you do not have to place a bet to still enjoy the fun



BELFAST: Oscar Winning Blockbuster Saturday, 28 May at 8.30p.m.

Belfast, 15 August 1969. Surrounded by sporadic violence and growing danger, nine-year-old Buddy finds himself confronted with the ugly reality of sectarian conflict. And, as the suffocating stranglehold of increasing turmoil tightens around his once-peaceful

working-class neighbourhood, Buddy tries his best to understand The Troubles - after all, someone must be responsible for forcing people to flee their homes. Now, Buddy's family must come face to face with a nearly impossible, life-altering decision: stay or start packing?

We had a fantastic response to our comedy night on 2 April. The club was filled with laughter and the enjoyment of a sold-out performance. Many ploughman's were eaten and pints were consumed, so it seems only right to plan the next one! **Tickets available from the club and committee, save the date: 18 June 2022**

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?

To keep up to date with all our events, see future copies of the Parish magazine, click on the village diary, subscribe to our newsletter and find us on Facebook.

We look forward to welcoming you to all our events,

JOANNE
Club Secretary / Treasurer

If you would like to see something on at your Club, please let us know, we welcome all suggestions. Your Legion Club, great company, great events and easy to find.

STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

The results of the 100 Club draw for April 2022 were:

First	Sandra Palmer
Second	Diana Minton
Third	Eileen Fitzer

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

LETTER FROM ELLIE CHOWNS APRIL 2022

Last month (in March) I went on a 'ward tour' with Mike Brookes, our Balfour Beatty Locality Steward (ie the person who keeps an eye on the issues re the roads in our ward). It was very useful and I plan to repeat it regularly, as I used to do with the previous incumbent pre-Covid.

One of the locations we inspected was the place outside the surgery in Cradley that was recently flooded (again). By the time of our visit, the flood had thankfully been pumped out – but I was frustrated to see that the road and pavement were still covered in mud, and indeed the drains themselves were hidden under the mud. Mike agreed with me that this is simply not acceptable. A few days later, he had arranged for the mud to be scraped from the road, but the drains and the pavement were still muddy, so I chased this up again. As I write this I am on holiday for a week and have not been able to recently inspect the site, but I very much hope that by the time Cradley residents read this the mud will finally all have been removed. I am just sorry that it has taken so long... grrr...

Another frustrating issue has been the signage at the A4103 / B4214 junction at the bottom of Fromes Hill. Following numerous emails from me, temporary additional warning signs were installed here; and I continue to chase BBLP to install the permanent new signage which I hope will significantly reduce the incidence of accidents in this location. Again, I am frustrated that this has taken so long, despite me chasing it every week since January... I'm sorry about this and am trying my best to get quicker action on these key road safety issues.

Last month I started my column reflecting on the horrors of war in Ukraine and the support the county is providing for refugees. I learned this month that there are also still over 15,000 Syrian refugees in temporary accommodation across the UK following the evacuation last August. I am pleased to report that Herefordshire has taken our fair share of these refugees, and is working hard to support Ukrainian refugees too.

At the last Cabinet meeting, we approved an additional £11.49 million funding for children's social care services. This is a significant extra investment, designed to address the longstanding problems (dating back nearly ten years) in children's social care, that were highlighted by a critical court judgement in April 2021. With a new administration, a new chief executive and a new head of children's services, the council has fully recognised the need for root and branch reform. This commitment of additional funding signals the seriousness with which we are all addressing the problems. We want Herefordshire to be a place where every child is safe and well cared for.

Also at the last Cabinet meeting we approved Market Town Investment Plans for all the five Herefordshire market towns (Bromyard, Ledbury, Ross, Kington and Leominster). This is the first time



that a council administration has made a specific effort to identify investment needs and potential in the market towns.

I often say that that county's economy is like a three-legged stool: city, market towns, and rural areas – as residents of this ward know, we have many thriving rural businesses! We are currently developing a Herefordshire-wide proposal to the government's Levelling Up Fund and I very much hope that market town investment will be a central part of this.

As usual, I am running out of space! So I'll just close with a reminder about my monthly ward surgeries (just drop in, no appointment needed):

- Bishops Frome Village Centre, 3rd Tuesday of each month, 1.00-2.30pm
- Cradley Village Hall, 3rd Thursday of each month, 1.00-2.30pm.

Alternatively you can phone me on 01531 670729 (landline) or 07950 714947 (mobile) or email me at ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk.

And finally – if you fancy joining me for a bit of litter-picking or sign-cleaning or general spring-cleaning in the ward, do get in touch and come and join me on the second Sunday of every month, 10 a.m. to 12 midday for my 'Sunday Service'. I'll provide litter-pickers and hi-viz!

Wishing you all the very best, Ellie

DR ELLIE CHOWNS
Herefordshire Council
Councillor for Bishops Frome and Cradley Ward
Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy
Leader of the Green Group
Tel: 07950 714947 / 01531 670729
email: ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/CllrEllieChow>

DEADLINE DATE FOR PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

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



STORRIDGE JUBILEE SUPPER

SATURDAY, 4 JUNE

7.00 FOR 7.30 p.m.

STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

A choice of meats and vegetarian options *

with homemade salads

A choice of desserts

Cheese and Biscuits

Tea/Coffee



BAR, RAFFLE and LUCKY TICKET DRAW



Table Quiz to test your Royal and General Knowledge



ALL FOR £10 PER HEAD— BY TICKET ONLY

Available from **JACKY (01886 832566)** or

CHRIS (01886 880628)



* Please inform Jacky and Chris of dietary requirements at the time of booking.



Mathon's Contribution to the Three Villages' Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

FRIDAY 3 JUNE

'A MATHON PLATINUM EXPERIENCE'

1.00 p.m. Ploughman's Lunch in Church/Churchyard

Followed by



A TREASURE HUNT

on foot and suitable for adults and children



Followed by Tea and Cake back in the Church/Churchyard

£10 for an adult £25 for two adults and two children

Any other accompanying

children aged between five and ten £5.00

Tickets available from



Sally 01886 880 155 or Karen 01684 541943

Platinum Jubilee Fete

FUN DOG SHOW

Saturday 4th June

Entries 11am Judging 11:30-12:30

Judged by local vet

Classes

Waggiest Tail

Cutest Puppy
(under 12 months)

Golden Oldie
(7 years +)

Best Junior Handler

Best Rescue Dog

Most Regal Dog

£1 per class
entry on
day

To secure your place email: Cradleydogshow@hotmail.com
or pick up a form at the Village Store

Cradley Platinum Jubilee Fete Fun Dog Show - Entry Form

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR DOG'S NAME: _____

Email: _____

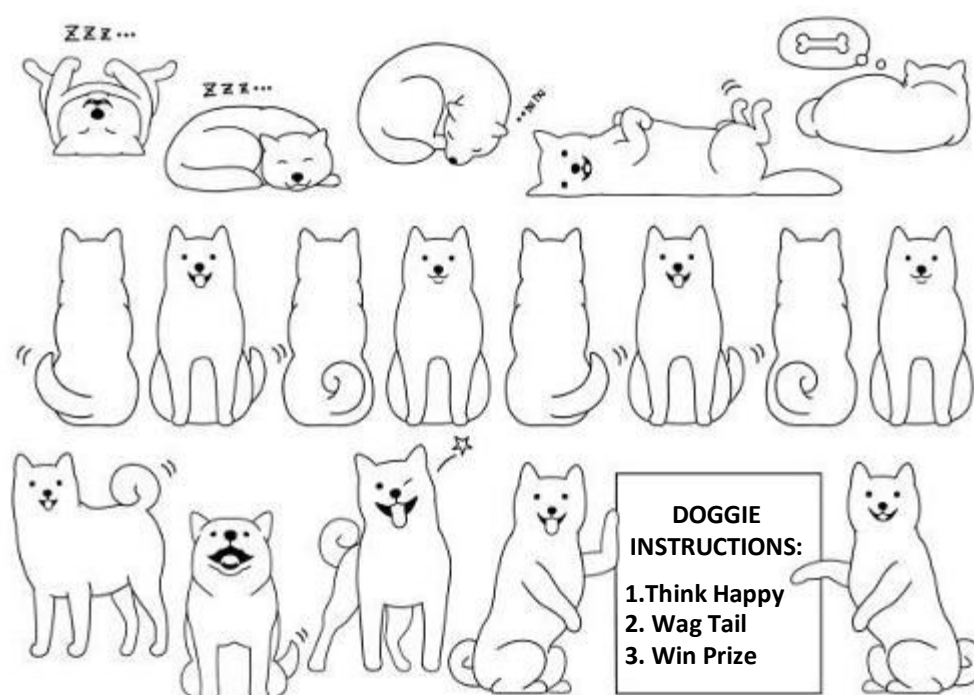
I would like to enter my dog in the following category or categories (there is no limit to how many categories you can enter, but please submit one form per dog):

- ☐ Waggiest tail
- ☐ Cutest puppy (under 12 months)
- ☐ Golden oldie (7 years+)
- ☐ Best junior handler
- ☐ Best rescue dog
- ☐ Most regal dog

- Cradley Jubilee Fete - June 4 - Cradley Jubilee Fete - June 4 -

Entry fee: £1 per category, payable on the day.

Entries: 11am. Judging: 11.30-12.30.



CRADLEY SURGERY

NEWSLETTER

Dr Patsy Dye

Dr Chris Spruce

May 2022



Dispensary

It helps us if you plan your need for medication ahead of time and please don't phone us to request medication except in an emergency. It isn't safe and can take longer than you might think; often the dispensers need to check with the doctor, who may be consulting and unavailable for several hours, by which time we would have missed the opportunity to order for the next delivery.

Please register to order your medication online. The system is called Patient Access (the receptionists, secretaries or dispensary staff can help you with this request). If something does not appear on your "repeat" list (there is usually a good reason for this), then just type the request in manually. We require 2 full days to action medication requests unless it is a true emergency.

World Asthma Day

World asthma day is on the 5th May 2022, 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!





Mental Health
Awareness

Mental Health Awareness Week Monday 9 May to Sunday 15 May 2022

Mental Health Awareness Week
2022 will take place 9th-15th May on the
topic of Loneliness

Loneliness is affecting more and more of us in the UK and has had a huge impact on our physical and mental health during the pandemic. Our connection to other people and our community is fundamental to protecting our mental health.

Our mental health is just as important as our physical health, other types of mental health issues can be anxiety, stress, depression, eating disorders and addictive behaviours.

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 telling someone you trust.

[Samaritans](#)

[Rethink Mental Illness](#)

[Mind](#)

[NHS Choices](#)

[Childline](#)

[Youth Access Directory of Services](#)

[Youth Wellbeing Directory](#)

For support in a crisis, Text **Shout** to **85258**

Over 75 Vaccination Program

We do not currently know when or if Cradley Surgery will be involved in the delivery of these to our patients. Please call 119 or go online to 'Book your vaccination' or wait to be contacted by our administration team.

Flu Clinics

If you are between the ages of 50-64, you will only be invited to our flu clinics if you are included within the cohort of having underlying health conditions.

Finally we want to thank you all for your patience with us whilst we switched over to our new telephone system. We know it has had some teething problems but we do think overall it has been a success and will make a real difference to both staff and patients. Thank you for being so understanding!

On a light-hearted note, May 11th is **EAT WHAT YOU WANT DAY**, possibly in preparation for the upcoming national doughnut week?



Do you need urgent help?

If your mental or emotional state quickly gets worse, or you're worried about someone you know - [help is available](#). Call **116 123** - it's **FREE**.

You're not alone; talk to someone you trust. Sharing a problem is often the first step to recovery.

ON THIS DAY

May 1st 1927: Imperial Airways became the first British airline to serve in-flight meals to passengers. The airline was based at Croydon airport and its first services were to continental European destinations. It later developed services to Delhi, Cape Town and Australia, using flying boats.

May 2nd 1809: Dartmoor prison was opened to house French prisoners of war. They had previously been housed in derelict ships but it was considered too risky to keep them close to the dockyard at Devonport. Later American POWs were also housed in Dartmoor and the prison population grew to nearly 6000. When the wars with France and America ended the prisoners were repatriated and the prison was left empty. It was refurbished in 1850 and has been used ever since as a convict prison. It is now a category C prison (for prisoners not expected to make a determined attempt to escape) and houses about 640 inmates.

May 3rd 2007: Madeleine McCann from Rothley in Leicestershire, then aged almost 4, disappeared from a holiday apartment in the Portuguese resort of Praia de Luz. Despite extensive investigations by police in Britain, Portugal and a number of other countries, her disappearance remains a mystery.

May 4th 1926: The Trades Union Congress called a general strike in support of coal miners who had gone on strike four days earlier in protest against wage reductions. The army was called in to keep essential supplies moving and even put armoured cars on the streets to help maintain order. The general strike failed to achieve its objectives and was called off on May 12th, although the miners' strike continued.

May 7th 1954: The Russian government requested admission to the NATO alliance. Vladimir Putin revealed in 2001 that the response from the West, primarily France, the UK and the USA, was that the 'unrealistic nature of the proposal does not warrant discussion.' Putin also said that he had suggested Russian membership of NATO in the year 2000 but was refused by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State.

May 8th 1885: Sarah Anne Henley, a barmaid from Easton, Bristol, survived her attempt to commit suicide by jumping from the Clifton suspension bridge. The drop to the water below is about 75 metres.

May 10th 2021: A safari park in eastern China was heavily criticised after it took nearly a week to notify police and residents that 3 leopards had escaped and were roaming around local suburbs.

May 14th 2016: Ukraine won the Eurovision Song Contest. Singer Jamala won with a song entitled 1944. The UK entry finished 24th out of 26 finalists.

May 19th 1910: Halley's Comet had a (relatively) close encounter with the planet Earth, passing within 13.9 million miles. It was thought at the time that toxic gases in the comet's tail might wipe out all life on Earth. In reality the gases are so diffused that no damage was done as the planet passed through the tail of the comet. However, that did not stop some panic buying, especially in the USA, of gas masks, "anti-comet pills" and even "anti-comet umbrellas".

May 21st 1420: Following the English victory at the battle of Agincourt in 1415, the treaty of Troyes was signed, making Henry V the ruler of France. Henry was now permitted to marry Princess Catherine de Valois and he would become king on the death of Charles de Valois. It was hoped that this would ensure perpetual peace between the two countries.

May 24th 1941: British battlecruiser HMS Hood, engaged in an operation to sink the German battleship Bismarck, was sunk by gunfire from the Bismarck itself and the Prinz Eugen. A German shell hit the magazine and after an enormous explosion the Hood sunk rapidly and only 3 members of the crew of 1418 men survived. The Bismarck then headed for the port of Brest in occupied France but was intercepted by British ships and aircraft which sunk it on May 26th.

May 27th 1958: American rock singer Jerry Lee Lewis was forced to abandon his tour of the UK when the press broke the news not only that his (third) wife Myra, who was travelling with him, was his cousin but also that she was only 13 years old.

May 31st 2009: Millvina Dean, the last known living survivor of the sinking of the Titanic, died in Ashurst, Hampshire at the age of 97. She was the youngest passenger on the ship at just 9 weeks old when it went down.

IAN THOMPSON

DEADLINE DATE FOR PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

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

THANK YOU

John and Lynne Rowe and family would like to say thank you for all the lovely cards and kind messages we have received from so many of you after the sad loss of Karen.

It has been a sad and difficult time and we have been greatly comforted by all the support we have received.

Thank you again.

THE ROWE FAMILY

**THE CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS OF
MATHON PARISH COUNCIL**

INVITE YOU TO THE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ON WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2022

**AT 7.00 PM
IN MATHON PARISH HALL**

NOTICE OF MEETING & AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Chairman's Annual Report to 31st March 2022
4. Question Time
5. Close of Meeting



Sam Harte

(Chairman – Mathon Parish Council)

If anyone has items for discussion at this meeting please contact:-

Parish Clerk – Diana Taylor – Tel: 01684 569430



E-mail - dtaylormathonclerk235@gmail.com



1952-2022

A 70 YEAR COLLECTION
OF
ROYAL MEMORABILIA

CELEBRATING
THE PLATINUM JUBILEE
OF



HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II



4th & 5th JUNE 2022

12pm-4pm

AT

STORRIDGE CHURCH

ANY MONIES RAISED WILL BE DONATED TO
STORRIDGE CHURCH



Platinum Jubilee Fete



Saturday 4th June
11am-6pm

AT QUEENSWOOD
WR13 5NF

**HELP
WANTED**



The organisers need volunteers on the day to man stalls, collect money, help with the parking etc. Even an hour or two would be a great help.

Contact: Jan Dampney ☎ 01886 880 316.

WE ARE STILL SEEKING DONATIONS OF:

Cakes

Contact Jane Howe
☎ 01886 880220

Bric-a-brac

Get rid of unwanted household items, maximum five pieces. No rubbish please.

Contact Ian Bailey ☎ 07580 281888
✉ ianbailey@hotmail.co.uk

General Items

Items for the Tombola, paperback books, jigsaw puzzles.

Contact Jan Dampney
☎ 01886 880 316
✉ jan@dampney.plus.com
(can collect)

The Stock Exchange

Ladies' summer clothes, jewellery and accessories for the pre-loved stall. A maximum of six pieces of clothing in new condition per donation. No men's or children's items and strictly no jumble.

Contact Judi Creed-Newton
☎ 01886880534
✉ creednewton2@btinternet.com.

Plants and seedlings

Bring along on the day(preferably labelled).

JOKE

Bill was in the hospital, very sick, so the family sent for his pastor.

As the pastor stood beside the bed, Bill's frail condition grew worse, and he motioned frantically for something to write on. The pastor handed him a pen and paper and Bill used his last ounce of strength to scribble a note. Then Bill died.

The pastor thought it best not to look at the note just then so he slipped it into his jacket pocket.

Several days later, at the funeral, the pastor delivered the eulogy. He realised that he was wearing the same jacket that he'd worn the day that Bill died.

"You know," he commented, "Bill handed me a note just before he died. I haven't read it, but, knowing Bill, I'm sure there's a word of inspiration for us all there."

He unfolded the note and read aloud, "You're standing on my oxygen tube!"

Contributed by
CHRIS ORFORD

CRADLEY & STORRIDGE GRAND ANNUAL PUMPKIN COMPETITION



**Get your seeds NOW!
£10**

(includes entry fee)

From:

Chris Lowder

☎ 01886 880282

✉ jadrianfiction@aol.co.uk

**Weigh In
Sat 29th Oct
Cradley Village Hall**



Cradley and Storrige Parish Council

Connecting
our
community



**Funding now available
to assist individuals
and groups
within the Parish**

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

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

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

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

Funding

Funding

Funding

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

www.cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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

OUR UNIVERSE INSIDE-OUT

I showed, last time, that the absolute constants of nature that control the universe are not by chance. The values such as the charge on the electron and its mass are absolutely critical for stars to form, otherwise they would not start, or would instantly explode, which would prevent synthesis of carbon and all the elements, and consequently prevent ourselves from ever perceiving any universe. That makes the whole universe observer-dependent, the Anthropic Principle. It exists because of our imagination to see it so, and vice versa!

There is an alternative. In the laboratory, the electron's properties can take very slightly different values according to how they are observed, even though they are implied by measurement to be the same throughout the universe. On the quantum mechanics scale of particles, their properties are not independent. For example, mass and charge are forms of energy and the perception of energy as different forms is dependent on relative observer to object speed. Inertia of an object, that is its resistance to acceleration, is interpreted as mass, and is perceived to be greater at relativistic speed than when static because it requires ever more energy to accelerate it faster out of proportion so never achieving the speed of light.

In the unproven bizarre world of string theory where particles are considered as the ends of tiny vibrating strings, the number of stable possible solutions involving the physical constants are like islands of stability with no preference, in an ocean of infinite possible solutions with no stability. If so, then there are infinite solutions out of far more, for our existence-universe, but which one?

Here I try to answer, what is outside the universe? And what was before the beginning? A simple model visualising the surface of an expanding balloon answers these and more.

Most people asking about the size of the universe are thinking of a ball viewed from the outside, or possibly from the inside. This is a comprehensible model and assumes there is an inside, outside and surface between.

A ball's surface is curved in two dimensions from any point on its surface; always viewed radially as a two-dimensional projection through our eyes. The universe has three spatial dimensions and one of time. It actually has at least 11, but that is for another time. We cannot imagine curvature in three dimensions so we suppress one of them. Which is what we're doing when we are imagining it as a balloon seen from outside in an additional dimension. The real observer is in the universe, so is in our immersive surface model; it is seen as a continuous surface only, with no curvature or edge. Curvature of surface and edge are only in the higher dimension and so only seen by the higher dimension observer.

In the imagination higher dimension model, an insect crawling round this surface universe would find no end but come back to the beginning. In fact, the universe is continually expanding, so the ball becomes an inflating balloon. In the case of the insect, in the time it attempts to get round the circumference, the surface has expanded, so it never gets round it; analogous to a traveller attempting to navigate through the universe. Even at light speed, the circuit is never completed. So, the experience is that the universe has an infinite size, there is always more to get through. Imagine the balloon continually being blown up, has ink-dots at random all over the surface, then these represent galaxies. Wherever we place the true observer on the surface then every point is moving apart from them, the further away the dots, the more rubber is stretching and the faster they seem to be parting. There is no preferable position on the surface. The surface itself has no centre, all points are alike. An observer located anywhere on the surface sees every point moving from them, increasingly according distance. The higher dimension observer can see that it is just the balloon evenly expanding. This is how the universe is; its forever expansion eliminates perception of any curvature so it appears to be flat and infinite.

In our immersive model it has no edge and therefore no inside or outside. It is everything that can be observed and much more that cannot be; that which cannot be reached in any measurable time. Then nothing can escape it (to me, this is the definition of a black hole) and is everything, so must represent the whole of space-time.

The imagination model of the surface of a rubber balloon expanding is a good representation of our universe, and answers many questions. If we pass through the surface a higher dimensional object, it is seen on the surface universe as a wall appearing and disappearing, particles instantly created and destroyed, and this actually happens.

The universe has an origin in time, about 13.8 billion years ago as we look out and back. If we think of a balloon with the mass of the universe, it would naturally collapse under its own gravitational attraction, just normal gravity. The further we look out, the further back in time we are looking, so we are basically looking at a collapse in time-reverse which is perceived as an expansion at the same rate.

Nothing is before time started; with our concept of the surface of a balloon at all times (size), that is equivalent to asking what is north of the north pole on the earth's surface?

We can't see back to the beginning because the further we look, the acceleration increases (as here slowing down) so no information reaches us; a universe infinitely small yet all around us. In the early period it was proportionally compressed, so at a high temperature and opaque like the inside of a star; an obscuring barrier. We know the particle formation processes and subsequent nuclear reactions that occurred from about one 10-millionth of a second to a few minutes because we can see them in the large Hadron Collider and are familiar with the processes just as in the stars which followed.

Why is the sky dark at night? Watch this space for answers to this and other common questions using the same model, more on particle creation and destruction from nothing. **To be continued.**

SCAM NEWS

Unfortunately, reports of scams affecting the elderly and vulnerable are on the rise in the County again. Please continue to spread the word about these scams amongst the elderly and vulnerable members of our communities, especially those who do not have access to social media or the internet.

We are still receiving reports of email and telephone scams from organisations such as DVLA, Amazon, TV Licensing and HMRC. Be wary!

What to do;

Verify financial requests: Be wary of unusual messages asking for assistance with financial transactions. Even if the message appears to be from someone you know and trust, you should check it's really them that sent the message by calling them or speaking with them in person.

Unusual financial requests: Never respond to any requests to send money, or have money transferred through your account, by someone you don't know and trust.

Secure your accounts: You can protect your important online accounts by using a strong separate password and, where available, turn on two- factor authentication (2FA).

If you have made a payment: Inform your bank, or payment service provider, such as PayPal, as soon as possible. They can help you prevent any further losses. You should also monitor your bank statements regularly for any unusual activity.



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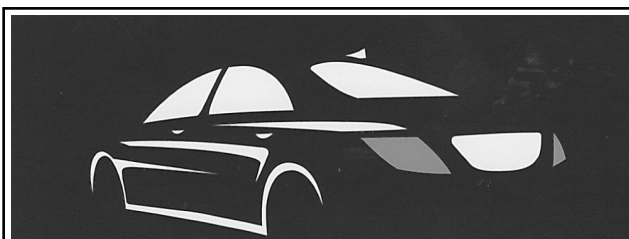
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	11.30am	FitSteps
	1.50pm	Silver Swans Ballet over 55's
Wednesdays	9.10am	Pilates New class TBC
	10.15am	Modern Jazz Dance
	11.20am	Ballet
	12.30pm	Flamenco
	1.45pm	Ballet
	2.50pm	Pilates
Thursdays	10.00am	FitSteps
	11.15am	Silver Swans Ballet over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

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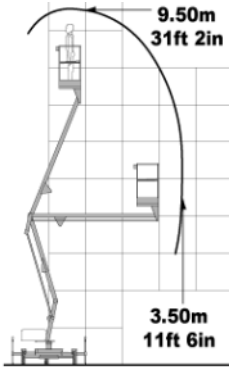
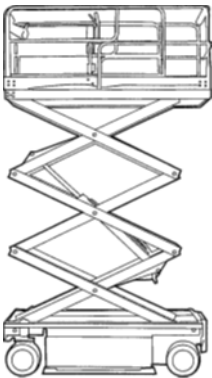
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THREE VILLAGES DIARY OF EVENTS 2022

Please let us know if you are planning an event or resuming your activities so we can include your dates.

MAY

Mon	2	2.00 p.m.	Evergreen Club meets at Storridge Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m.
Wed	4	2.30 p.m.	CMS Mothers' Union meeting.
Thu	5	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Thu	5	7.30 p.m.	Cradley WI meets at Cradley Village Hall.
Sat	7	8.30 p.m.	Quiz Night, Royal British Legion
Wed	11	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group meet at Storridge Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m. New members welcome.
Thu	12	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to postbox on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
Thu	12	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Mon	16	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for articles and diary entries (hard copies to postbox on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley).
Thu	19	1.00 p.m.	Ellie Chowns' Cradley ward surgery, Cradley Village Hall, until 2.30 p.m.
Thu	19	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Sat	21	7.30 p.m.	Race Night, Royal British Legion. (Races start at 8.30 p.m.)
Sun	22	10.30 a.m.	Crowcroft Market @ The Fold, until 2.30 p.m.
Wed	25	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group meet at Storridge Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m. New members welcome.
Thu	26	10.00 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until 11.30 a.m.
Thu	26	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Sat	28	8.30 p.m.	'Belfast' film, Royal British Legion

JUNE

Wed	1	2.30 p.m.	CMS Mothers' Union meeting.
Wed	1	7.00 p.m.	Cradley WI at The Bromyard Downs- a short foraging walk.
Thu	2	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Fri	3	1.00 p.m.	A Mathon Platinum Experience Lunch and Treasure Hunt
Fri	3	7.00 p.m.	"Music for her Majesty" a concert by local musicians in Cradley Church.
Sat	4	11.00 a.m.	Jubilee Fete to be held on the field at Queenswood until 5 p.m.
Sat	4	7.00 p.m.	Jubilee Supper, Storridge Village Hall.
Sat	4	12.00 p.m.	70-year Collection of Royal Memorabilia, Storridge Church. Until 4 p.m.
Sun	5	12.00 p.m.	70-year Collection of Royal Memorabilia, Storridge Church. Until 4 p.m.
Sun	5	TBA	Big Picnic on Cradley Church Lawns. Full details to follow.
Wed	8	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group meet at Storridge Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m. New members welcome.
Thu	9	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Sun	12	2.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to postbox on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
Thu	16	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for articles and diary entries (hard copies to postbox on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley).
Thu	16	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Thu	16	1.00 p.m.	Ellie Chowns' Cradley ward surgery, Cradley Village Hall, until 2.30 p.m.
Wed	22	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group meet at Storridge Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m. New members welcome.
Thu	23	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Sat	25	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Open Gardens, until 4.00 p.m.
Sun	26	10.30 a.m.	Crowcroft Market @ The Fold, until 2.30 p.m.
Thu	30	10.00 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until 11.30 a.m.
Thu	30	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.

JULY

Wed	6	2.30 p.m.	CMS Mothers' Union meeting.
Thu	7	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Thu	7	7.00 p.m.	Cradley WI meets at 1, Huntingdon, Cradley for garden meeting
Tue	12	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to postbox on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
Wed	13	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group meet at Storridge Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m. New members welcome.
Thu	14	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Sat	16	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for articles and diary entries (hard copies to postbox on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley).
Wed	20	8.00 p.m.	Faithful City Morris Men will be dancing at the Red Lion
Thu	21	1.00 p.m.	Ellie Chowns' Cradley ward surgery, Cradley Village Hall, until 2.30 p.m.
Thu	21	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Sun	24	10.30 a.m.	Crowcroft Market @ The Fold, until 2.30 p.m.
Wed	27	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group meet at Storridge Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m. New members welcome.
Thu	28	10.00 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until 11.30 a.m.
Thu	28	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.

AUGUST

Wed	3	2.30 p.m.	CMS Mothers' Union meeting.
Thu	4	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Thu	4	7.30 p.m.	Cradley WI meet at The Hop Shed for tour and tasting
Wed	10	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group meet at Storridge Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m. New members welcome.
Thu	11	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Fri	12	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to postbox on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
Tue	16	12.30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for articles and diary entries (hard copies to postbox on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley).
Thu	18	1.00 p.m.	Ellie Chowns' Cradley ward surgery, Cradley Village Hall, until 2.30 p.m.
Thu	18	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Tue	23	10.30 a.m.	Community Coffee Morning in Mathon Church and Churchyard, until noon.
Wed	24	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group meet at Storridge Village Hall, until 4.00 p.m. New members welcome.
Thu	25	10.00 p.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until 11.30 a.m.
Thu	25	10.00 a.m.	Mathon Parish Hall Exercise Class until 11.00 a.m.
Sun	28	10.30 a.m.	Crowcroft Market @ The Fold, until 2.30 p.m.

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.

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Editorial Team: Robert Colledge, Antonia Musgrove, Ian Thompson.
The editor of the June issue will be Ian Thompson
Compilation Team: Barbara Davies, Pauline Diplock, Jackie White



Opening Times

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	10am—4pm
Wednesday	9am—4pm
Thursday	CLOSED
Saturday	9am—4 pm
Sunday	CLOSED

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