

**CRADLEY**

**MATHON**

**STORRIDGE**

# NEWSLETTER



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**October 2023**

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## The Hamlets

Bosbury Road - Cradley - WR13 5LT  
01886 880221

It's going to be an exciting year for 'The Village Store', we are rebranding to The Hamlets during the first half of the year with some changes in-store, new products lines and better quality products.

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

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

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

### Opening & Closing Hours

Mon 8am-7pm  
Tue 8am-7pm  
Wed 8am-7pm  
Thu 8am-7pm  
Fri 8am-7pm  
Sat 8am-7pm  
Sun 9am-5pm



# Cradley Mathon Storridge

## Newsletter

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

OCTOBER 2023

### CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

October opens with our Harvest Festival celebrations - Cradley on the morning of Sunday 1 October and Storridge in the evening, Harvest Suppers in Cradley Village Hall on the Saturday (30 September) at 7.00 p.m. and in Storridge Village Hall, straight after the service in church; Cradley School in church on the morning of Tuesday 3 October; Mathon's service in church on Sunday 8 October at 6.00 p.m. October closes with the annual service of thanksgiving, hosted by Cradley Church, for those we love but see on earth no longer, just prior to the Christian celebrations of All Saints and All Souls. Both of these provide occasions for our parish churches, and the Church of England as a whole, to play a role which is as much about the local community as it is about the church.

Many will have seen the press coverage recently of an alleged widening of the gap between the Church of England and the communities we serve. A piece in The Sunday Telegraph, based on reports from the Diocese of Truro and in particular from the 'Save the Parish' movement, suggested that 'bishops and senior clergy' are determined to undermine and subvert the life of the parishes in favour of large amalgamations of congregations served by fewer and fewer professional clergy. The picture given of church closures is one I hardly recognise in our own Diocese of Hereford, where our current bishop has said since he arrived that 'the centre is the periphery' (i.e., the parishes); that the life of the church is in those parishes, and that he has no power to close down churches even if he wanted to, which he doesn't. Closure of churches, after all, solves nothing: it puts an end to contributions which might come from those churches towards their own maintenance, whilst the cost of maintaining the buildings in a state of repair still falls on the diocese. Church buildings are not generally as saleable as some might imagine.

I do, however, recognise the change that has come over the culture and character of our communities in the years during which I have been in ministry, and experience in myself some of the strain of trying to bridge the gap between the culture and understanding within which I was formed, trained and educated, and the demands and expectations of the society within which we now exist. I do detect the change in fundamental values and 'common', shared language, away from much that has been familiar for most of my life. According to interpretations of recent data from the Office for National Statistics, 'Christians now account for fewer than half of the English and Welsh population for the first time in census history': that is, since 1801. 'Ours,' say some, 'is no longer a Christian country': well, not exclusively, anyway. Though it seems to me that the roots of our history and of so many of our national institutions are so soaked and nourished by Christian thinking and ethics that there is still a particular character and inclination in our society which leans towards kindness, hospitality, and generosity, and towards treating others as we would want to be treated ourselves, which owes much to our Christian inheritance.

These matters, of course, are hugely complicated and controversial, and I have no hope of summing them up adequately in this or any other short piece. I am well aware, also, that our churches and church representatives have not always set the best examples of living out the kind of values we might like to espouse. Sometimes my own loyalties are strained to breaking point by some of what is said and done in the name of the churches, and doubtless I myself have sometimes been a cause of disillusionment and disappointment to some who have been looking for signs of hope in the world around them. But I hope that with your help and continuing goodwill we can work together to preserve and build on much that is still good and commendable in the places where we live, and contribute in whatever way we can to helping to keep it so.

Your Rector,  
ROBERT WARD

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|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Edition Editor:</b> | Robert Colledge, telephone 01886 880782                                     |
| <b>Rector:</b>         | The Revd Robert Ward, telephone 01886 880438                                |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>      | Emily Hodkin, telephone 07811 905492  |
| <b>Advertising:</b>    | Jan Dampney, telephone 01886 880316<br>Jackie White, telephone 01886 833802 |

Cover photo this month taken by Robert Colledge

## ***Church Services in October 2023***

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

|                           |                   |  |                |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>FIRST SUNDAY</b>       | 9:30 a.m.         | Live-streamed (Lay led)                                    | Benefice       |
| <b>October 1</b>          | 9:30 a.m.         | Parish Communion (BCP)                                     | Mathon         |
| <b>Trinity 17</b>         | 10:45 a.m.        | Harvest Festival Family Service                            | Cradley        |
|                           | 6:00 p.m.         | <b>Harvest Thanksgiving Service</b>                        | StorrIDGE      |
| <b>Wednesday 4</b>        | 10:00 a.m.        | Holy Communion (said)                                      | Cradley        |
|                           | 6:30 p.m.         | Evening Prayer - Live-streamed from The Rectory            | Benefice       |
| <b>SECOND SUNDAY</b>      | 9:30 a.m.         | Mattins  | StorrIDGE      |
| <b>October 8</b>          | 10:45 a.m.        | Family Communion - Live-streamed                           | Cradley        |
| <b>Trinity 18</b>         | <b>6:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Harvest Thanksgiving Service</b>                        | <b>Mathon</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday 11</b>       | 10:00 a.m.        | Holy Communion (said)                                      | Cradley        |
|                           | 6:30 p.m.         | Evening Prayer (said) - Live-streamed from The Rectory     | Benefice       |
| <b>THIRD SUNDAY</b>       | 9:30 a.m.         | Mattins (Lay led)  | Mathon         |
| <b>October 15</b>         | 9:30 a.m.         | Holy Communion   | StorrIDGE      |
| <b>Trinity 19</b>         | 10:45 a.m.        | Morning Service (Lay led)                                  | Cradley        |
|                           | 11:00 a.m.        | Morning Service - Live-streamed                            | Benefice       |
| <b>Wednesday 18</b>       | 10:00 a.m.        | Holy Communion (said)                                      | Cradley        |
|                           | 6:30 p.m.         | Evening Prayer - Live-streamed                             | Benefice       |
| <b>FOURTH SUNDAY</b>      | 9:30 a.m.         | Shorter Mattins  | Mathon         |
| <b>September 22</b>       | 9:30 a.m.         | Mattins (Lay led)  | StorrIDGE      |
| <b>Trinity 20</b>         | 10:45 a.m.        | Parish Communion   | Cradley        |
|                           | 6:00 p.m.         | Service of Evening Prayer - Live-streamed from The Rectory | Benefice       |
| <b>Wednesday 25</b>       | 10:00 a.m.        | Holy Communion (said)                                      | Cradley        |
|                           | 6:30 p.m.         | Evening Prayer - Live-streamed                             | Benefice       |
| <b>FIFTH SUNDAY</b>       | <b>10.45 a.m.</b> | <b>Benefice Communion for the Fifth Sunday</b>             | <b>Cradley</b> |
| <b>October 29</b>         | <b>4.00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Benefice Memorial Service (All Souls)</b>               | <b>Cradley</b> |
| <b>Last after Trinity</b> |                   |  |                |
| <b>(Bible Sunday)/</b>    |                   |  |                |
| <b>Trinity 21</b>         |                   |  |                |

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

|                          |            |  |           |
|--------------------------|------------|--|-----------|
| <b>FIRST SUNDAY</b>      | 9:30 a.m.  | Parish Communion (BCP)                   | Mathon    |
| <b>November 5</b>        | 9:30 a.m.  | Morning Prayer - Live-streamed (Lay led) | Benefice  |
| <b>All Saints Sunday</b> | 10:45 a.m. | Family Service                           | Cradley   |
|                          | 6:00 p.m.  | Evensong                                 | StorrIDGE |

## ***From the Registers***

|                                      |  |           |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>Holy Matrimony</b>                |  |           |
| 28 August                            | Nicholas Edward Bevan & Gillian Elizabeth Coward | Mathon    |
| <b>Funerals</b>                      |  |           |
| 23 August                            | Anthony Edward Brown ('Tony')                    | Cradley   |
| <b>Interment of cremated remains</b> |  |           |
| 21 August                            | Michael Richard Alfrey                           | StorrIDGE |



## 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

The Community Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy held on 22nd August in the church and churchyard was very successful and it was good to see so many parishioners, friends and neighbours as well as members of the Cradley Walking Group. We are grateful to you all for your support and donations. Thanks are also expressed to the helpers and the many who gave items for the various stalls.

As mentioned in the last *Newsletter*, our **Harvest Festival Service will be held on Sunday 8 October at 6.00 p.m.** Please come and join us and give thanks – you are all welcome (see separate notice).

Please note in your diary that the Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 25 November from 10.30 a.m. till noon in Mathon Parish Hall.** There will be various stalls with many bargains to be had!

SP

## MATHON CHURCH

### READERS

|            |                         |            |
|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 1 October  | Mrs Seymour             | Mrs Pugh   |
| 8 October  | <b>Harvest Festival</b> |            |
|            | Mr Walker               | Mrs Cutler |
| 15 October | Mr Crouch               | Mrs Crouch |
| 22 October | Mrs Seymour             | Mrs Pugh   |
| 29 October | Benefice Service,       | Cradley    |

### SIDESMEN

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 1 October  | Mrs Pugh                  |
| 8 October  | Mrs Cutler                |
| 15 October | Mr Crouch                 |
| 22 October | Mrs Pugh                  |
| 29 October | Benefice Service, Cradley |



We trust you all had a good Summer, despite the variable weather.

As Summer is nearly over, we are resuming our normal meetings.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24 October 2023 when we will be having a talk from Jill Southern on "Christian Experience". The meeting will be at Philip Hilderley's, at 1 Chapel Orchard, off Chapel Lane, Cradley, starting at 7.30 p.m.

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

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

ALAN JAMEISON  
01684 592600

## STORRIDGE CHURCH FLOWERS

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| 7 October  | Mrs S Palmer     |
| 14 October | Harvest Festival |

## 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**

## **CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL**

### **BOOKINGS**

**Hire our picturesque 15<sup>th</sup>-century venue  
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or book online at [cradleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://cradleyvillagehall.org.uk)

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[www.cradleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.cradleyvillagehall.org.uk)**

## **THE ART AND CULTURE OF CHINA**

Are you fed up with the disappointing summer this year? Would you like to be transported once a week to a completely different world? If so, you might like to attend a series of talks by Jill Salmons, M.A.

From the creation of the earliest ceramics, bronzes and painting to the invention of writing and the production of magnificent silk and cotton costumes, the peoples of China have set artistic standards that have amazed the world.

Jill says: "In this course I will explore the myriad aspects of Chinese culture, tracing the development of political and religious forms, China's interplay with other societies, and the emergence of distinctive artistic expressions. Today traditional arts still flourish and have been joined by exciting innovative art and sculpture produced by internationally renowned artists, such as Ai Weiwei and Cai Guo-Qiang, who will be studied in detail."

Although the talks will mostly be illustrated by slides and videos, artefacts will also be used. In addition, trips can be organised to Chinese collections in Bath, Oxford and London.

The course will take place every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. at the Cube, Albert Road, Malvern, starting on 10 October until 5 December (no class 31 October.)

The cost for the term is £80. Places are limited so please contact Jill at [salmons777@btinternet.com](mailto:salmons777@btinternet.com) before 5 October to reserve places.

## **FREE ROOM HIRE**

### **AT CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL**

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

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**for details and booking call Jan 01886 880316  
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## CRADLEY SURGERY NEWSLETTER

**Dr Peter Clegg**

**Dr Chris Spruce**

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

**OCTOBER 2023**

### Enhanced Access (EA) Appointments

THE NHS has added extra GP appointments at weekends and evenings in Herefordshire which hopefully will mean more people can access help.

The extra appointments come thanks to a recent expansion of the GP "Enhanced Access" service, operated by GP federation Taurus Healthcare.

It offers appointments with a wide range of healthcare professionals at eight hubs in Hereford, Bromyard, Ross-on-Wye, Kington, Leominster, Much Birch, Weobley and Ledbury. Enhanced Access appointments are also now available to **pre-book** at Cradley on a Monday evening. More appointments are available at different hubs on other weekday evenings and weekends. Please ask a member of reception staff for an "enhanced access appointment" to book one of these. Again these are pre bookable so please plan in advance if you would like one of these appointments.

To book an evening or weekend appointment, patients need to call their surgery during usual opening hours and request a Taurus appointment.

Thanks to shared records across Herefordshire, healthcare practitioners working in the evening and weekend clinics can view patients' records and update them with notes from their own consultations.

### Reducing DNA (Did not attend) appointments

In the past month alone, we have had 44 patients who did not attend their booked appointments. This equates to just over 7 hours of Clinician's time which could have been allocated to other patients.

Please could we request that if you cannot make your appointment, for whatever reason, you call the Surgery and let us know. That way the appointment will not be wasted and we can reallocate to others who need it.

It concerns us when patients aren't showing up to obtain the healthcare they need, as well as wasting (precious) NHS resources at a time where the need and pressure is at a high in all sectors.

Thank you.



### Flu Season is coming!

Planning is underway for the coming roll out of this year's flu vaccination programme. The flu vaccination is not perfect but it is the best defence we have.

Reminder letters have not been sent out for some years now, but uptake for our patients is very good for this important health prevention measure.

If you are eligible, we will contact you with clinic information and dates.

The first batch of invitations will be sent by text to all eligible patients with mobile phones, and you will be able to book via your phone. Patients without a mobile phone will be called on their landline or sent a letter if they do not have a phone.

**Our clinic dates are Saturday 7 October and Saturday 14 October which will be held here at the Surgery. These are not walk in clinics, you need to have an appointment booked to attend.**

**These are our only planned dates.**

### Photos

It can very helpful for both doctors and patients if a patient can send in a photograph of any physical symptoms, such as rashes, moles etc. (Providing these are not in intimate areas!)

We ask that you send these in via our online consultation tool (available on our website) or if more urgent, call the surgery and ask for one of the reception team to send a link to your mobile phone to attach the image.

Recently we have had patients come to the surgery, with their phone, wanting to show a GP their photo in person. This is not possible for a number of reasons:

Firstly, you need an appointment. GP's are very busy individuals and have booked patients and set clinics. It is never "a quick 5 minutes". Secondly, the GP will need adequate time to look at the photo, assess your symptoms and check your medical history. This cannot be done quickly and in passing. Finally, we need the photograph to be accessible on your medical history, meaning we need a copy of the photo to be put on your notes.

**Many thanks for your  
continued  
understanding and  
support.**



*Have a Happy Halloween!*





## A WORD ABOUT WINTER

We are all aware that our winters are getting warmer. This means that pollinators will be out and about searching for nectar earlier in the year. Now is a good time to plant some winter flowering plants – hellebores are exceptional, they will brighten a dull corner, come in many beautiful colours and can bloom right through until Easter. Along with winter flowering jasmine, early crocus and snowdrops, they are perfect for early bumble bees.

### DID YOU KNOW... THERE IS A COMMUNITY ORCHARD IN CRADLEY?

Tucked away behind the playing fields at Buryfields is a little patch of productive land that many Cradley residents aren't aware of. This is Cradley's Community Orchard, which has been planted with a variety of fruit trees, including several heritage apple varieties.

The orchard came about following a government initiative in 2018 to plant orchards for local people in parks. Diane Merker, who was a member of the working group of the Environmental Committee of the Parish Council at the time, remembers that £150 was granted to plant an orchard in the corner of Buryfields.

'This site was chosen as it was not used by anyone as it flooded regularly,' she says. 'So, in November 2019 we bought six fruit trees. These were Herefordshire Beefing, Warwickshire Drooper, Pitmaston Duchess (both apples), Worcester Pear, and Tewkesbury and Pershore Purple plums.'

In January 2021 these trees were supplemented by four Spartan apple trees planted in remembrance of the tree warden who had donated the money to pay for them, and in March 2023, a crab apple was planted to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The plan for the orchard is that the trees will supply free fruit for local people who wish to use it. It is managed organically and naturally, and the trees have just started to fruit. It is hoped that another orchard may be established in StorrIDGE in the future.

It is certainly well worth discovering next time you are out for a walk. There might even be an apple or two to pick and munch on your way home.

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: CREATING WILDLIFE CORRIDORS IN CRADLEY

Cradley Wild invites you to a talk by Tracy Price of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust on Creating Wildlife Corridors. This should be a fascinating and informative evening which will provide useful knowledge about how we can link our gardens and community areas to benefit wildlife.

It will be held on Thursday 16 November at Cradley Village Hall at 7 p.m. There is no admission fee but a donation to the village hall and to the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust would be appreciated.

## MATHON PARISH HALL



## EXERCISE CLASS

THURSDAYS

10.00 a.m to 11.00 a.m.

Do join us at our friendly exercise class:  
a tutored routine designed for the mature individual, covering the whole body and focusing on stretching.

You'll feel more flexible rather than exhausted!

£5 per session

For further information ring Sue on

**01886 880541.**

## NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESSES

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**Editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk**

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## CRADLEY, MATHON & STORRIDGE WEB SITES





***MATHON CHURCH***

***HARVEST FESTIVAL***



***SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER***

***6.00 P.M.***

***SERVICE IS FOLLOWED BY AN AUCTION  
OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR  
MATHON CHURCH FONT CHARITY  
AND DRY FOOD TO LEDBURY FOOD BANK***



***HARVEST DRINKS AND NIBBLES***

# NEWS FROM MATHON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

5 SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

**Mathon Parish Hall**

[www.mathonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.mathonparishcouncil.co.uk)

## Malvern Hills Trust

Mr David Baldwin and Mr Chris Rouse reported to the meeting. David Baldwin reported that elections to the Trust Board would be held on 1 November when 11 Trustees would be elected. A bracken removal programme was under way. "Rolling" the bracken crushes it and creates space for other plant species to grow, and helps to broaden the range of wildlife to flourish on the hills. The Trust had used a horse called Frenchie to pull the roller rather than machinery. This has a lower environmental impact and Frenchie could reach difficult parts of land that machinery could not. On 15 August Malvern Rotary Club had offered free Land Rover experience trips up to the Beacon for people unable to walk up there. The Charity Commission had now given permission for the release of some MHT funds to obtain a new Act of Parliament via a Private Members Bill.

## Nomination of Trustee to MHT Board

The Council unanimously voted for Mr David Baldwin to be appointed as the Mathon Parish Council Trustee on the MHT Board from November 2023 to 2027.

## Herefordshire Ward Councillor

Cllr Helen Heathfield reported her concern that the Government is stopping the regulations re environmental controls on housebuilding. This would obviously have an impact on pollution in Herefordshire. The River Wye Action Plan will be coming out from DEFRA shortly. A positive report on Herefordshire Council's children and adult social care had been received.

## Highways

A parishioner reported to the Clerk that a fallen tree and barriers surrounding the bridge and stream near entrance to Overlay had been displaced. The Clerk contacted Balfour Beatty (BB) on an emergency basis and our locality steward attended the scene. The barriers have now been put back in place, and we await remedial work to be carried out by the BB team.

## Cliffe Arms

Nothing further to report at the moment.

## Next Meeting Date

TUESDAY 7 November 2023 - in Mathon Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.

DIANA TAYLOR (MRS)

Clerk to Mathon PC

Tel: 01684 569430 E-Mail:

[dtaylormathonclerk235@gmail.com](mailto:dtaylormathonclerk235@gmail.com)

9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern, Worcs WR14 1NL

If you missed our Coffee Morning and would like a copy or copies of *Margaret's Cakes and Bakes*, these are available from:



The Village Hall

The Cradley Stores

Crumpton Hill Farm Shop

Or contact me:

[jan.dampney@outlook.com](mailto:jan.dampney@outlook.com)

**Price £7.50**

**All profits will go to  
The Motor Neurone Disease Association**



## Mathon Get Together

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

### When is it?

Every Friday 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon

**Where is it held?** Mathon Parish Hall

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

**FREE**

**Just turn up and enjoy**

## ON THIS DAY

### October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1983:

Following the Labour party's defeat under the leadership of Michael Foot in the June 1983 general election the so-called "dream ticket" was elected, with Neil Kinnock as leader and Roy Hattersley as his deputy. After defeats in the general elections of 1987 and 1992 John Smith was elected as party leader until his death in 1994 when Tony Blair took over the reins.

### October 4<sup>th</sup> 1965:

The BBC announced new programmes on radio and tv intended to help Asian immigrants settle into life in the UK. Broadcasts would be in Hindi, Urdu and English and would deal with everyday situations such as taking children to school and finding their way on the bus.

### October 11<sup>th</sup> 1987:

At the conclusion of a week-long search involving 24 boats and over a million pounds worth of sonar and other equipment the results showed no trace of the Loch Ness monster. Subsequent searches including an extensive one in August this year have yielded similar results.

### October 13<sup>th</sup> 1988:

The "Turin Shroud" had been preserved in the royal chapel of Turin cathedral since 1578. It was widely believed to have been the cloth used to wrap the body of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion. However, when it was subjected to carbon dating tests by three separate laboratories in 1988 it was found to have originated between 1260 and 1390. However, the controversy over its originality continues.

### October 19<sup>th</sup> 1216:

King John died at Newark. He had been crowned King in May 1199. His reign saw the loss of much of what had been crown lands in France and is perhaps best remembered for the signing of the Magna Carta even though it was rendered unworkable by the intransigent barons. He is buried in Worcester Cathedral, one of several churches to benefit from his benefactions.

### October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1962:

US President John F Kennedy announced in a TV address to the nation that Russian nuclear-armed missiles were now based in Cuba, just 90 miles from the coast of the USA. The missile bases had been identified in photographs taken from an American reconnaissance aircraft and were seen as a clear threat of a nuclear attack by the Russians on the USA. Several days of tense negotiations, with an all-out nuclear war a real possibility, followed before the Russians agreed to remove the missiles from Cuba on condition the Americans removed their missiles from Turkey and committed not to invade Cuba.

### October 29<sup>th</sup> 1986:

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher opened the final stretch of the M25 to complete the motorway around London - this was the section from Micklefield to South Mimms, junctions 19 to 23. Construction of the M25 had started in 1973 and it had cost around £7.5 million per mile to build. It was originally designed to carry 100,000 vehicles per day but the busiest section, between junctions 13 and 14, now carries double that level of traffic.

### October 30<sup>th</sup> 1973:

The Bosphorus Bridge, linking Europe and Asia for the first time, was officially opened. Now known as the 15 July Martyr's Bridge - named after an attempted coup in 2016 - it is over 1500m long and had taken 3½ years to build. It carries 3 lanes of traffic in each direction and it is used by around 180,000 vehicles every day. A toll is charged to travel from Europe to Asia but in the opposite direction the crossing is free.

### October 31<sup>st</sup> 1955:

Princess Margaret called off her planned marriage to Group Captain Peter Townsend who had been divorced. The Princess would have needed the consent of the Queen to marry before she reached the age of 25 (in August 1955) but the Queen had asked them to postpone their plans. Once over 25 she would have needed parliamentary approval and it had been made clear to her that this would not be granted. She therefore had to choose between proceeding with the proposed marriage or renouncing all her rights and privileges.

IAN THOMPSON

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## EXCERPTS FROM PARISH MAGAZINE

### Cradley Parish Magazine December 1899 part 1 Soldiers' & Sailors Families' Association.

A Branch of the above has been formed in the County of Hereford and is vigorously carrying on its useful work. We hope to be able to say in our next number that a hearty response has been made to the Appeal in aid of its Funds, which the Bishop desires should be made in the Diocese and County. It well deserves our generous support, for no one can help feeling warm sympathy with wives and families of those who have, in many cases, left good situations, and are now risking their lives in fighting their country's battles, and upholding her honour.

*Background---At this time Britain was at War with the Boers in South Africa.*

*The British Army was mobilised on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1899 and War was declared on the 11<sup>th</sup>. At first the British were outnumbered and the Boers placed Mafeking Ladysmith and Kimberley under siege. Increased numbers of British Army soldiers were brought to Southern Africa. Under the command of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener the three besieged cities were relieved in early 1900 at the head of a 180,000-strong expeditionary force. This is a very simplistic view as the siege of Ladysmith lasted several months and Mafeking 217 days. The records show that dysentery, and typhoid fever were common. The war ended in May 1902.*

*Contributed by  
JOAN PROSSER  
Member of Heritage Group*

## BIRTH, DEATH AND RECYCLING OF STARS

Saturn is the brightest object, in the south near midnight; through a small telescope you can see its beautiful open rings. The planet rising after midnight, quite brilliant high in the South before dawn, is Jupiter and steady binoculars will show the four largest Moons. Also, before dawn, Venus is the brilliant object rising in the east, showing as a crescent in a telescope. September and October are a good time to observe planets with a small telescope as the air is often steady, hence early morning mist. My apologies for last month's mistaken repeat of the previous month. My new computer is confusingly mis-managing files and other issues.

Two samples of recent news: The Indian Space Agency has had a great success with the first ever landing of an explorer rover near the South Pole of the Moon, where there is likely to be ice in the deep craters permanently hidden from sunlight. Water is needed for any future manned lunar base. It only had two weeks of exploring before the low temperatures of lunar night killed the electronics. A recent Russian Space Agency lunar lander attempt crashed.

The James Webb telescope has imaged many galaxies with supermassive black holes at their centres at great distances (that is far back in time), going back to only a few hundred million years after the 13.8 billion year-old start of the universe. How they formed so early defies all current explanation.

In this article I explain the birth, evolution and end of a star, leading to supernovae, and how we determine the universe's scale and expansion. The hydrogen and helium tenuous gas clouds in the universe were synthesised from protons which themselves are the product of decay of more massive 'e' particles at the first 2 minutes of the cooling fireball of the start of the universe.

Stars are the result of the gravitational collapse of those clouds. The collapse process results in increasing breakup of the clumps which then compress and heat up to the 15,000,000° core nuclear reaction temperature to form new stars. The remaining material orbits around the new stars to eventually condense to form planets.

The energy-releasing nuclear reaction in a star like the sun, is from synthesising helium in its core, from hydrogen at about 15,000,000° C. When the hydrogen eventually runs out in the core, it is no longer able to support the weight of the layers above it, so collapses; that generates more thermal energy causing the star to expand, then eventually shrink to become very hot white dwarf. For a star that is far more massive than the Sun, the hydrogen depletion core collapse can reach a temperature of over 150,000,000 degrees, then the helium fuses to form carbon (3 helium atoms together). A chain of reactions follows, successively synthesising heavier elements in layers within the star, each releasing thermal energy, which supports the star, until the formation of iron. That absorbs energy rather than releases it, and the core collapses violently; the outer shells of the star bounce off the collapsed high-density core as a supernova violent explosion. The heavier elements beyond iron are then created in that even higher temperature process, and all besides the core

are blown into the surrounding space. It can exceed the combined brightness of all the stars in a galaxy, for a few months. A new star is formed in a galaxy about every 400 years which is about the same rate as supernovae occur.

A star from a pair of a close binary system can go supernova a different way. The evolving star will gradually drag hydrogen off the surface of the companion star, until the hydrogen buildup gets to a particular critical mass on its surface, then explodes as a supernova. As the critical mass is fixed so is the true brightness, and so forms a brilliant 'standard candle'. By measuring the apparent visual brightness, and knowing the true absolute brightness, the ratio gives the distance. Also, by measuring the shift in spectral features towards the red end of the spectrum, gives the recession speed, and for supernovae over a range of great distances gives the recession speed to distance relationship of the expansion of the Universe. There is another method but there is a significant difference between the two results. Supernova surveys to extreme long distances show the expansion rate at a much earlier time; and it seems to be now accelerating, hence the theory of repulsive "dark energy".

We also know that the outer arms of spiral galaxies rotate far faster than would be expected, and galaxies in clusters interact with each other suggesting they have far more mass than is visible from their stars. A common idea is that it is caused by gravitational influence from mysterious "dark matter". But there are other theories. Only about 4% of the mass of the universe is accounted for in stars.

The ESA's 'Euclid' galaxy survey telescope art is now in its Earth-synchronous orbit around the Sun, deliberately shaded permanently by the Earth. The visible and infrared cameras are working well and will image about 15,000 square degrees of the sky. It will look back to an early era of the universe, for any departure from random groupings of galaxies and their orientations for clues of dark matter and dark energy. It will be joined by NASA's 'Nancy Grace Roman' space telescope in 2027; the two infrared space-based observatories will work together.

The very wide field of view extremely sensitive ground-based telescope 'Vera Rubin', will come on line in 2 years. It will scan much of the southern hemisphere sky every night, for detecting sudden brightness changes from supernovae and black hole emissions, also revealing previously unseen asteroids, including potentially hazardous ones. Its enormous data output stream will be processed automatically.

### PS.

If you are interested, you can access my series of PowerPoint illustrated recorded videos on astronomy, astrophysics and space research from the Malvern university of third age website, malvern3a.org.uk. The astronomy group link leads to a list of the 37 individual subject videos. Contact me at my email address listed there. I offer Zoom-based support if I get sufficient students. We have over 100 different learning/ discussion /activity groups. See the current U3A poster exhibition on Malvern church walk.

CHRIS BADDILEY



## POTHOLE OF THE MONTH

It was only a matter of time till I would have to resort to adding some fun details to my collection of pothole photographs. In Plymouth lives pothole Pete, a Lego man who regularly takes a dive in the many lakes that potholes offer and that Plymouth is blessed with as well.



The largest lake in the world by a long shot is the Caspian Sea. This massive lake is bigger than the UK in area, around 371 thousand square kms, which (if my high school calculus is right), is a circle with a diameter of around 350km, or just over 200 miles. It's saline, probably the reason why it's still called a sea. Some eleven million years ago it was connected to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

Located in Argentina, Ojos del Salado ranks as the world's highest lake. It sits at an elevation of 21,000 feet or 6,400 meters and is just over 300 feet or 100 meters in circumference. That's not a lake, that's a pothole in Chapel Lane!

The highest lake in England is a bit bigger than that: Red Tarn is a remote mountain lake sitting at 700 metres (2,400 ft) above sea level. That's not as high as the highest lake in Scotland (Loch Etchachan in the Cairngorms National Park) That is actually the highest waterbody of its size in the UK, the surface being 900 metres (3,000 ft) above sea level). Llyn Llyffant is the highest lake in Wales, about 800m above sea level. Its name translates into English as "frog lake".

The deepest lake in the world is Lake Baikal in Russia, which is almost exactly a mile deep (1,642 metres), although the Caspian Sea isn't much shallower at just over a km in depth.

The deepest lake in the UK is Loch Morar, Scotland at 310m depth. This is 80m deeper than Loch Ness, which is the second deepest lake in the UK and around the same height as the Shard in London, the highest building in the UK. In comparison, the Worcestershire Beacon, as the highest point of the Malvern Hills, is 425m.

Now for the linguists among you: the Germans call a 'lake' a 'See', and a 'sea' a 'Meer'. The Dutch word 'Meer' actually means 'lake'. No wonder very few Brits fancy learning foreign languages...

TOM VAN VUREN



## OUR OUTSIDE TOILET

At the bottom of our garden stood a rambling pile of stone  
No bigger than a cupboard, it housed the family throne.  
Where each of us would venture, often in a rush  
To sit upon its wooden seat, complete with built-in flush.

Oh yes! We had a posh one that stood in pride of place,  
Where after 'Rhubarb Tart' for tea, the lot of us would race.  
We'd queue up in a fluster pacing back and forth  
And if our need got desperate, we'd hammer on the door.

No sooner was it vacant, well a stampede would prevail  
Survival of the fittest meant – "the weakest used the pail."  
The toilet paper could be read whilst sitting on the throne  
And now and then you'd hear a big explosion then a groan.

By heck those were the good old days yet time moves on you know  
Our 'Loo' was not a listed building and sadly now is gone.  
But in its place we've planted there a lovely little tree  
And our old dog cocks up his leg where we used once to wee.

Contributed by  
CHRIS ORFORD

### DEADLINE DATE FOR PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

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

## CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL RICHARD MITCHELL POETRY PRIZE

This year's subject was 'LOL' which, as everyone (barring ex-PM David Cameron at any rate) knows means 'Laugh Out Loud', which can be used in an outright jovial or heavily sarcastic manner (Mr Cameron thought it meant 'Lots/Loads Of Love', just one of many things, alas, he managed to get wrong in his career).

There were three excellent entries. Joy Edwards had some lovely sentiments in her entry; the indefatigable Tom Van Vuren came up with a very clever acrostic, with a great final line.

But the winner was Judi Creed-Newton, whose verse was sharp, funny, and to the point.

Here is Judi's poem,



### L.O.L.

L.O.L. ARE LETTERS THAT CAN OFTEN BE MISUSED

SO THE TEXT OF LOVING MESSAGES CAN SOMETIMES BE CONFUSED

WE KNOW THAT CERTAIN LETTERS MEAN SEALED WITH A LOVING KISS

BUT EMOJIS "AUBERGINE" AND "PEACH" ARE ONES I'D RATHER MISS

WHEN WRITING TO A DEAR FRIEND I'D RATHER NOT ABUSE

I'M ALWAYS VERY CAREFUL OF THE LANGUAGE THAT I USE

FOR L.O.L. USED WRONGLY CAN APPEAR DISTINCTLY CRUEL

AND MAKE THE MESSAGE WRITER LOOK AN IDIOTIC FOOL


SO DO NOT WRITE IN ACRONYMS,

SAY WHAT YOU MEAN THAT'S TRUE,

WRITE "LOTS OF LOVE" OR "LAUGH OUT LOUD" AND CONFUSION WON'T ENSUE.

JUDY CREED-NEWTON

Cradley Produce Show poetry competition winner

|  | CLASS            | ENTRIES |
|--|------------------|---------|
|  | FLOWER CLASS     | 46      |
|  | VEGETABLE CLASS  | 67      |
|  | FRUITS           | 16      |
|  | JAMS & PRESERVES | 13      |
|  | OPEN FLORAL ART  | 14      |
|  | PHOTOGRAPHY      | 51      |
|  | ART              | 10      |
|  | POETRY           | 3       |
|  | COOKERY          | 22      |
|  | HANDICRAFT       | 20      |
|  | TOTAL ENTRIES    | 262     |



### CRADLEY PRODUCE SHOW 2023



| CUP & CLASS  | WINNER                | POINTS | RUNNER-UP        | POINTS |
|--|-----------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| EVERGREEN CUP<br>Flower Class                            | Liz Thomas            | 44     | Joy Edwards      | 40     |
| MUREL JOHNSON CUP<br>Single Rose                         | Nicky Hahue           |        | Pat Hessel       |        |
| FRANK SKINNER CUP<br>Vegetables                          | John Perkins          | 82     | Helen Fisher     | 62     |
| JOHN DEEN CUP<br>Fruit Class                             | Mark Davies           | 58     | Susan Collins    | 24     |
| LAWRENCE LITTLE CUP<br>Photography Class                 | Tom Van Vuren         | 64     | Louise Van Vuren | 60     |
| RICHARD MITCHELL<br>CUP<br>Poetry                        | Judi Creed-Newton     |        | Tom Van Vuren    |        |
| CRADLEY SURGERY<br>CUP CUP<br>Handicraft                 | Jane Munford          | 44     | Susan Collins    | 20     |
| JOY JOKINS CUP<br>Highest Male Score                     | John Perkins          | 82     | Tom Van Vuren    | 82     |
| PETER MORGAN CUP<br>Highest Female Score                 | Joy Edwards           | 222    | Jane Munford     | 158    |
| CRADLEY VILLAGE CUP<br>Highest Family Score              | Not awarded this year |        |                  |        |
| FRIENDS OF CRADLEY<br>SCHOOL CUP<br>Highest Junior Score | Not awarded this year |        |                  |        |







## 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.

(see separate notice for Dispensary)

## CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL PRODUCE SHOW 2023

Yet another weird and ghastly year, climate-wise as well as horticulturally (not to mention, so far as your correspondent was concerned, medically -- but that's another story).

So... terrible Spring; terrible Summer; and the week before the actual Show a blistering heat-wave, registering, I understand, not only the highest daytime temperature of the year, but one of the highest of the past decade. *Phew!*

And yet you lot out there continue to show your true mettle - and grow wonderful flowers, superb fruit and vegetables, make brilliant crafts and delicious food, paint excellent pictures, take extraordinary photos (and I mean *extraordinary*: some entries in the photo section were not simply breathtaking, but breathtakingly ingenious - we have some true Camera Fiends in the village!). And it can never be said that we remain static -- three individuals on the leader board are first-timers.

A huge amount of hard graft goes into the making and setting up of our little Show, and many grateful thanks, as ever, to all who beavered away behind, and in front of, the scenes. In no particular order: June Nason, Jane Munford, Gillian Lowder, Eloise Van Vuren, Tom Van Vuren, Ian Hyson, and our esteemed Chair Jeff White.

Special thanks, again as ever, to our hard-working Judges: Caroline Rayner, Keri Backhouse, Jane Munford, and our Chief Produce Judge (newcomer this year, who enjoyed himself immensely and, it is to be hoped, will be back next year) Robert Heigham.

But my biggest thanks go to my two colleagues Louise Van Vuren and Ken Nason -- without whom, frankly, there'd be no Show!

See you all next year!

CHRISTOPHER LOWDER

## 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

## MESSAGE FROM ELLIE CHOWNS



One of my roles on the council is Chairperson of the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee, which deals with issues including the economy and transport. Scrutiny committees are an important part of how the council runs. They are cross-party, with seats allocated in proportion to the size of the political groups. Their job is basically to ask lots of questions!

The committee that I chair covers many fascinating topics. For example, we lead on scrutinising the new administration's proposal to scrap the Maylord Orchards library project and put the library in the Shire Hall instead. You may remember I mentioned this in my column last month. My committee asked a lot of very detailed questions about this, and succeeded in persuading the administration not to cancel the Maylords project until a full business case had been prepared for the alternative site. We will be scrutinising that business case once it is ready, later this autumn.

Another topic that my committee is currently looking at is the development of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Today we had some very useful briefings on these emerging plans, and we will be discussing them at our next public meeting (date tbc, sometime in the next few weeks – I will post a notification on Facebook when the date is agreed). These transport strategy plans are really crucial – setting the direction for transport infrastructure for the coming decades.

This summer I went to the Nordic countries for the first time, and was enormously impressed with their transport infrastructure. I travelled by train because I avoid flying for environmental reasons – and train journeys are lovely, as you see the landscape change! It's also incredibly reasonably priced if you book in advance – for example, about £65 for a 17-hour overnight journey from Geneva to Copenhagen.

The infrastructure for walking and cycling in Denmark's capital Copenhagen is wonderful, meaning the city is incredibly easy to get around. Gothenburg on Sweden's west coast is equally good. I hired bicycles in both places and had a wonderful time exploring these vibrant, pedestrian-friendly and cyclist-friendly cities. What particularly impressed me was the fact that cars gave way to pedestrians rather than the other way round – the most vulnerable road users were prioritised.

This hasn't happened by accident – it's the result of long-term planning that recognises that places are for people! There are some fantastic resources online about this sort of planning. I especially recommend the YouTube channels

'Not Just Bikes' <https://www.youtube.com/c/notjustbikes> and 'Streetfilms' <https://www.youtube.com/@StreetfilmsCommunity>, both of which have some really informative and inspiring videos on this topic.

Here in Herefordshire, we have a great opportunity to do this long-term planning too, and to create a much

more effective transport system that gives people the widest possible range of options for getting around. In my work on the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee, I will be scrutinising the development of these plans to ensure that local people's views are heard, and that we learn from as many inspiring examples as possible!

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 11.30am to 1.00pm, and in Bishops Frome Village Centre from 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

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/>

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Relaxation Class

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£6 O.A.P./Student  
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POPPY APPEAL 2023  
DOOR TO DOOR  
COLLECTIONS

COMMENCE  
27 OCTOBER

THANK YOU!

LEST WE FORGET.....



Royal British Legion | Cradley, Storrridge & Malthon Branch | [rbl.org.uk](http://rbl.org.uk)  
Registered charity number: 219279



## IN PRAISE OF WASPS

Why do we love bees and hate wasps? I pondered this question when a friend said, "I always feel a wasp is out to get me because they have more opportunities to sting, whereas a bee can only sting once." I am sure a wasp plans no such thing, but my friend's perception is telling – wasps have a negative association in our collective consciousness. I have never seen the image of a wasp adorn a tote bag or tea towel or its black and yellow stripes dazzle in a piece of jewellery in the same way that a bee's does. Advertisements for the removal and destruction of wasps' nests are ever present and we think of wasps as a nuisance, so what makes us think that way?

Wasps live in proximity to humans; they nest near our houses and queen wasps sometimes hibernate in the house or loft. If we have a memory of being stung by a wasp, however, it is likely because we startled it – they are not naturally aggressive.



The term "wasp" covers a number of species and around seven varieties are common in our gardens. In Spring, queen wasps will emerge from overwintering and look to establish a nest. Initially the queen is on her own and does all the nest building and food gathering for the first batch of larvae. The queen lays eggs that give birth to (initially) worker wasps. She remains in the nest laying eggs and the workers go out to gather food for the increasing brood. Throughout the summer, the nest increases in size, as more larvae are hatched and grow.

After the worker brings food, the larvae secrete a sugary substance as a reward. The queen wasp releases pheromones (chemical messages) to the workers and these help to unite the colony. At the end of the cycle (which usually coincides with late Summer/early Autumn when we are eating outside and enjoying picnics) the queen stops laying eggs and eventually dies and worker wasps/ drones have no larvae to feed. Without the sugary secretion from the larvae and chemical messages from the queen, the drones lose purpose, are hungry and leave the nest. This is when we see them lurking in rotten apples, or hovering around our picnics.

Our perception is that they are generally having a good time. And, dear reader, have some sympathy for the worker wasp – they tire themselves out feeding the next generation and when no longer required, they are cast adrift to expire. Who could deny them the heady fructose opportunities our gardens offer?

So why should we love them? Wasps play a crucial part in our ecosystem. They are pollinators and some plants can only be pollinated by wasps. They control garden pests such as greenfly and caterpillars and our plants would not thrive without them devouring these invertebrates. It is estimated that every Summer they capture 14 million kilograms of insect prey. They help keep our ecosystem balanced – without them we would be overrun with spiders and insects. They are the gardeners' (and everyone's) friend, contributing significantly to biodiversity.

Wasps become agitated if their nest is disturbed but on the whole wasps will leave you alone. To avoid the picnic scenario, try and keep sugary foods covered. Some people set a wasp trap of sugar-based food/drink close by to divert the wasp from the main event. Should a wasp approach your gathering, staying still is better than jumping around.

There is no doubt that wasps have a bad PR. Try to remember the thousands of times you have eaten outside and not the rare occasion when a wasp or two showed up. You would have less fruit and vegetables in your garden without them – so keep calm and let the wasps carry on.

JESSIE MOORHOUSE

*With thanks to articles from RHS, BBC, National Trust for Scotland and National History Museum.*

### CRADLEY SURGERY

#### Dispensary Hours

from 25 May 2023

01886 880207

#### Dispensary open:

Monday to Wednesday and Friday:  
9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Thursday:  
3.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

#### Dispensary phone lines open:

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

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

(see separate notice for Surgery)

# Three Villages Volunteer link



All communities need interaction between its members to thrive and grow.

We have a Parish Council with its elected members that act in support of, and for the good of their communities. We have registered charities and religious institutions that do the same and community events that “magically” get organised.

Within a community there is the coming together of like minded people who enjoy the same hobbies, interests etc. All of these community groups have one thing in common: they generally only exist because people give their time, efforts and skills into making them happen. Not for their personal gain but for the good of our community.

**They are called volunteers!**

**Here's a novel idea!**

There are groups in the three villages desperate for volunteers

There are people in the three villages who would like to help out and take part but don't know how or where



**together**

## GROUPS

Fill in the form and let us have your details which we can list here for potential volunteers to see and contact you

LET'S MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM TO GET TOGETHER

**HOW?**



## VOLUNTEERS

Fill in the form and let us have your details which we can pass onto groups that are in need of your skills

**GO TO:** [cradlevillagehall.org.uk](http://cradlevillagehall.org.uk) or [okcradley.com](http://okcradley.com)  
and click the together link and fill in the form  
if you want to help out, join or need volunteers



## EVERGREEN CLUB

Well, we're into the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness for sure. But Rog and I did enjoy a few days away last week at our very favourite place, Lyme Regis, in our little campervan.

We took advantage of the mini heatwave and indulged ourselves in lots of walking (the new knee is great!) eating delicious ice creams, an odd Cornish pasty, paddling, picnicking, reading newspapers, and lots of people-watching. It was a bit too hot at times, but always managed to find some shade.

So back to reality....

Our first meeting after the summer break, on Monday 4 September, wasn't as well attended as usual but I think people were still taking advantage of the good weather. However about 17 of us participated in a couple of quizzes. One was Dog Leads whereby the word dog was in each answer e.g. Turned down at the corners ... dog-eared; and also girls' names among the anagrams. Everyone had a good laugh and enjoyed the light hearted, not too brain taxing quiz. The winning team won a box of chocolate goodies. Jacky and Sue did a lovely tea for us, tuna and sweetcorn sandwiches and a fantastic sponge cake and fruit cake. Members are really spoilt (they deserve it).

Jo did the raffle for us where lots of runner beans dominated the trolley. I think it's been a good year for beans!

It was lovely to have Janet and John back with us, John has made tremendous progress.

We send our love and best wishes to Margaret, Audrey, Elizabeth and other members who can't be with us anymore. We are still hoping that new members will join us in the future for a couple of hours of social time, fun and a good laugh. We would also love some new helpers to join our happy band.

A little thought to finish on:-

"Did you know? You don't stop laughing when you get old, you get old when you stop laughing"

Speak soon , lots of love, keep safe.

CHRIS ORFORD  
(Club leader)  
01886 880387



## OneAchord



The Cube, Malvern  
7:30pm

Friday  
November  
3

Tickets: £15 on door  
'Early bird' tickets £10  
£12 from September  
Available from [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com)  
'Early bird' offer available until the end of September only

## PLANNING AN EVENT?

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

## CALLING ALL GARDENERS

The Cradley Village Hall Committee, alongside the WI and the church, is planning to hold a plant sale in the Spring.

Now is the time when gardeners will be thinking ahead to next year, sowing seeds, dividing plants, or even lifting plants with a view to giving them a new home. Perhaps you're already poring through catalogues and seed packets.

Please keep the plant sale in mind when doing any of the above. You may have exactly what someone else is looking for!

We also hope to have experienced gardeners on hand to answer any questions you might have. Refreshments will be available, and cakes and bakes will be on sale.

Date to be confirmed, but watch this *Newsletter* for updates!

JOY EDWARDS  
on behalf of the Village Hall Committee





## FRAUD UPDATE FROM WEST MERCIA POLICE ECONOMIC CRIME UNIT **MOTORISTS BEWARE!**

Here we are focusing on two scams that are targeting the car driver, DVLA scams have been around for some time now, but also criminals have now found a new way to scam motorists since the advent of cashless parking systems and parking Apps.

### **How do you spot a DVLA Scam?**

Scammers often pose as the DVLA using a variety of avenues to glean your personal details, banking details and ultimately your money.

- **DVLA texts** – the DVLA does not send out text messages with built in links asking for payments or offering refunds, so beware of any such texts with “Final Requests” or offering a vehicle tax refund, or even stating DVLA have been trying to contact you.
- **DVLA Emails** – the DVLA does not send out emails with links; always check the sender’s email address and that it ends with “[@dvla.gov.uk](mailto:@dvla.gov.uk)”. The fake emails usually relate to either “Failed Payments” or “Vehicle tax not up to date”
- **Driving Licence renewal** – And finally always be vigilant when renewing your driving licence online that you are using the genuine website ending in “[.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)” and not one of the websites that sometime appear in search engines which will charge unnecessary fees.

### **Car park charging scams**

With many App based and cashless parking systems being introduced by local councils, a new opportunity has opened up for scammers. Whilst Parking Payment machines often carry scannable QR codes to help you download the Operator’s App, please be aware that that scammers are also adding fake QR codes to the machines, taking you to a false website and asking you for your payment details. Motorists may then find they have signed up to a recurring payment each month.

**As ever, be vigilant**

***Please feel free to share these messages with any vulnerable friends, relatives or neighbours.***

### **Take Five to Stop Fraud**

**STOP:** Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.  
**CHALLENGE:** Could it be fake? It’s OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

**PROTECT:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you’ve fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud

### **ALWAYS REMEMBER:**

- **Avoid disclosing security details**
- **Emails, Phone Calls and Texts may not be authentic**
- **Always make direct contact with any organisation by using a genuine phone number**
- **Stop and Challenge any unexpected requests**
- **Protect others by reporting Fraud and Scams**

---

**If you’ve fallen for a scam, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via [actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk)**

Scam Text messages can be forwarded to **7726** to help phone providers take early action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks.

Forward Fake Emails received to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

## **STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**is available for hire by residents and non-residents of the parish**

There are three rooms available, one large, suitable for up to eighty people. Both smaller rooms are suitable for meetings or use as an occasional office. A well equipped kitchen for the use of hirers is included in the hire charge. **All** rooms have a hearing loop.

### **CHARGES**

£10.00 per hour

Use of car park, without hall £10.00 minimum  
(£1.00 per car if more than 10 cars.)

**Further information/bookings please contact our Bookings Secretary, Liz Kabani:**

**Phone: 07518 328435**

**E-mail: [svhbookings@fastmail.co.uk](mailto:svhbookings@fastmail.co.uk)**

### **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)

### **Mathon Parish Hall Management Committee**

## **Hire Rates Mathon Parish Hall**

**\*\* Minimum booking two hours**

|                                     | Per Hour** | Per Day |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------|
| Mathon Residents/<br>Organisations  | £10        | £75     |
| Outside Organisations/<br>Residents | £15        | £120    |

Rates effective from 1 July 2022

Commercial bookings by negotiation

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

Linen service (additional charge).

Tables and chairs available to hire out.

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

01886 880824

or email [mar.ainsco@btinternet.com](mailto:mar.ainsco@btinternet.com)



## **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](mailto:sue@ronan.me.uk)

**Jill Nicklin** on 01886 880920





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### **HOLIDAY PET FEEDING SERVICE**

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**Viewings are most welcome**

**[www.facebook.com/SevilleCottage](https://www.facebook.com/SevilleCottage)**

### **DEADLINE DATE FOR PAID ADVERTISEMENTS**

Payment and advertisement to be received by  
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**Cradley and Storridge 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 up to **£250** for matters **YOU** feel will be for the enhancement or benefit, of the area or its residents.

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

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

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

For further details along with guidance:  
Contact the Parish Clerk: [clerk@cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Visit the website and download the application form, or fill in the online form  
[www.cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)



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**Jackie on 01886 833802**  
**or email:**  
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**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

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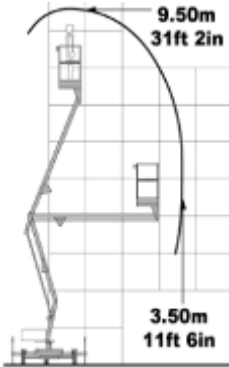
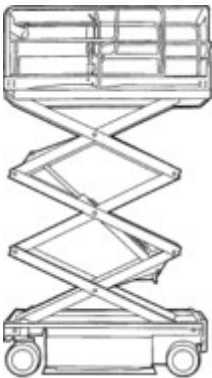
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|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Monday    | 9.00 a.m. ~ 5.00 p.m.  |
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| Thursday  | 9.00 a.m. ~ 5.00 p.m.  |
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**Mondays**

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 10.40am and 2.30 pm | Ballet         |
| 11.45am             | FitSteps       |
| 1.30pm and 8.00pm   | Tap            |
| 5.45pm              | Grade 6 Ballet |
| 9.00pm              | Modern         |

**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**

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| 10.30am | Ballet   |
| 11.45am | FitSteps |

**Sundays**

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| 8.45am  | Pilates  |
| 10.00am | FitSteps |
| 11.15am | Tap      |



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## THREE VILLAGES DIARY OF EVENTS 2023

### OCTOBER

|      |    |            |   |
|------|----|------------|---|
| Sun  | 1  | 7.00 p.m.  | Harvest Supper – Storridge Village Hall   |
| Thu  | 5  | 7.30 p.m.  | Cradley WI – Talk about 'Eastnor's Lady Henry Somerset' - Cradley Village Hall.   |
| Sat  | 7  | All day    | Flu Clinic - Cradley Surgery – by invitation/appointment only   |
| Sat  | 7  | 4.45 p.m.  | Rugby World Cup England v Samoa – at RBL  |
| Thu  | 12 | 7.30 p.m.  | Storridge W.I. Members' Night   |
| Thu  | 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) |
| Sat  | 14 | All day    | Flu Clinic - Cradley Surgery – by invitation/appointment only   |
| Mon  | 16 | 11.30 a.m. | Ellie Chowns Ward Surgery, Cradley Village Hall, until 1.00 p.m.  |
| Mon  | 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).                  |
| Tues | 24 | 7.30 p.m.  | Christians Together meeting – 1, Chapel Orchard, off Chapel Lane, Cradley   |
| Thu  | 26 | 10.30 a.m. | The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon  |
| 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.  |
| 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  |
| Thu   | 9  | 7.30 p.m.  | Storridge W.I. Christmas Craft Evening  |
| Sat   | 11 | TBA        | Royal British Legion. Quiz Night in aid of the Poppy Appeal   |
| 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 postbox 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   |
| Mon   | 20 | 11.30 a.m. | Ellie Chowns Ward Surgery, Cradley Village Hall, until 1.00 p.m.  |
| Sat   | 25 | 10.30 a.m. | Christmas Fair in Mathon Parish Hall, until noon.   |
| Thu   | 30 | 10.30 a.m. | The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon  |

### DECEMBER

|      |    |            |   |
|------|----|------------|---|
| Sat  | 2  | 10.30 a.m. | Cradley Christmas Fair – Cradley Village Hall, until 2.30 p.m.  |
| 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  |
| Thu  | 14 | 10.30 a.m. | The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon  |
| Sat  | 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).                  |

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).

Please send all advertising bookings and enquiries to the advertising team at: [adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk)

Documents emailed to the team should be in Word or JPEG format. Hard copies can be left in the *Newsletter's* mailbox fixed to the wall of the old village shop in Bosbury Road, Cradley. Every effort is made to verify the authenticity of statements made in the *Newsletter*, but neither the Editor nor anyone connected with its production and distribution can accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies, or for the opinions expressed within it. Neither do they guarantee or endorse the services and products advertised.

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

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|-----------|---------|
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| Wednesday | 9am—4pm |
| Thursday  | 9am—4pm |
| Friday    | 9am—4pm |
| Saturday  | 9am—4pm |
| Sunday    | CLOSED  |

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