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MATHON

STORRIDGE

NEWSLETTER



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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)



Cradley Mathon Storridge Newsletter

£10.00 for 12 issues (or £1.25 per single copy)

NOVEMBER 2024

'I'M NO SAINT!'

In his books on Everyday Speech, the writer Don Cupitt explores how the way we speak, the ordinary, common phrases of everyday and the way our use of language changes over time, reveal our values and the religious outlook, if any, that currently belongs to us all.

'I'm no saint!' Do people still say that? Or even *'He's no saint', 'She's no saint'?*

In traditional Christian language the saints of God are saints *by grace*, that's to say, by the work of God within them, and not by merit or deserving. In Catholic thought they are people recognised by the community of the church and approved, 'canonised', after a process of inquiry, by the church's authorities. The Bible refers to every member of the church, all Christian people, as 'the saints', the 'sanctified.' All of us, I suspect, have people in our own lives who are 'saints' to us, or to those we know.

All Saints Day, in older language 'All Hallows', is 1 November. These days people keep the day before, All Hallows Eve, 'Hallowe'en', with an enthusiasm that might have surprised our forebears. November 2 is All Souls' Day, when we remember all who, in terms of this life, have died. This year we keep the nearest Sunday, 3 November, as All Saints' Sunday, rolling together in our churches the All Saints celebrations of Sunday morning with the Commemoration of All Souls at Cradley, on behalf of all three villages, in the afternoon. By the time this Newsletter appears all of that will be upon us, but all are welcome, nonetheless, to remember those they have loved, then or at any other time, in our churches.

'There, but for the grace of God, go I.' Do people still say *that*? Young people, that is, growing up?

I was shocked in my late teens to hear a schoolteacher say in an off-hand way, in the course of an ethical discussion, 'Of course, I don't believe that.' He was someone for whom I had enormous regard. I couldn't understand how he could cast away so lightly a principle I'd always thought foundational, an ethical rule that I had always thought to be self-evident: that we, confronted with someone whose situation in life was in some way tragic, unenviable or less fortunate than our own, should bear in mind that our own good fortune depended on factors utterly beyond our control. As a way to acknowledge that, if things worked out for us, 'the grace of God' seemed to me an eloquent shorthand. Looking back, I can see how much of my own understanding of the world came from the fact that I was surrounded by people who had grown up in a distinctively religious culture, with phrases and sayings that I thought were part of everyone's world view, but which, I've come to realise, are very clearly not. The more I've come to appreciate the real meaning of 'the grace of God', the more it seems to me that the old maxim I started with has much to commend it, not least in the world of public affairs: whether we take it just as a way of speaking, or whether we take it more seriously, as a comment on our own individual journeys 'under God.'

There, were it not for God's goodness and grace, is where I'd be. Not a bad place to start from, in a world that seems so filled with negative judgements, with unkindness and indifference to the plight of others. Let's fill our world with generosity, with kindness and, yes, with *grace*, nonetheless.

Your Rector
ROBERT WARD

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Cover photo this month:
Courtesy of The Cradley British Legion

Church Services in November 2024

SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	Live-streamed service (Lay-led)	Benefice
3 November 2024	9:30 a.m.	Parish Communion (BCP)	Mathon
All Saints Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Church 4 All	Cradley
	4:00 p.m.	Annual Benefice Memorial Service	Cradley
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
6 November 2024	6:30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer from the Rectory	Benefice
SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	Mattins with Act of Remembrance	Storrridge
10 November 2024	10:55 a.m.	Service of Remembrance with The Royal British Legion	Cradley
Third Before Advent/ Remembrance Sunday	6:00 p.m.	Evensong with Act of Remembrance	Mathon
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
13 November 2024	6:30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer from the Rectory	Benefice
SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	Mattins (Lay-led)	Mathon
17 November 2024	9:30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Storrridge
Second Before Advent	10:45 a.m.	Morning Service (Lay-led)	Cradley
	11:00 a.m.	Live-streamed Morning Service	Benefice
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
20 November 2024	6.30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer	Benefice
SUNDAY	9.30 a.m.	Mattins (Lay-led)	Storrridge
24 November 2024	9.30 a.m.	Shorter Mattins	Mathon
Christ the King/ Sunday Next Before Advent	10:45 a.m.	Parish Communion	Cradley
	6:00 p.m.	Live-streamed Service of Evening Prayer	Benefice
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
27 November 2024	6.30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer	Benefice

Church Services in December 2024

SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	Parish Communion	Mathon
1 December 2024	10:45 a.m.	Advent 'Church 4 All'	Cradley
First Sunday of Advent	6:00 p.m.	Evensong with Advent Carols	Storrridge

From The Registers

Holy Matrimony			
21 September	Denis Nifontov & Lydia Anthea Redman		Mathon
Interment of Ashes			
21 September	Maureen Elizabeth Burley		Cradley



MATHON CHURCH MATTERS

Our Harvest Festival was held on Sunday, 13 October. Thanks are expressed to all those who donated produce, which was auctioned.

The proceeds, together with the tinned food, will be given to the Ledbury Food Bank.

We are grateful to all those who supplied the light refreshments which were served at the end of the service. The church was beautifully decorated, for which many thanks.

Our Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday, 10 November at 6.00 p.m.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our **Christmas Fair** will take place in **Mathon Parish Hall on Saturday, 30 November, at 10.30 a.m. till noon.** There will be various stalls, with many bargains. Do come and support us - see separate notice.

SP



STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Saturday, 12 January saw the hall hosting the Harvest Supper, a joint venture between the hall and Storridge Church. It was a sell-out, and everyone enjoyed a lovely meal and lively conversation. Thanks must go to the organising committee and volunteers for all their hard work.

This is advance notice to put into your diaries that the next supper will take place on Saturday, 11 January 2025.

More information will be provided in the next edition of the Newsletter.

The October draw of the 100 Club took place at the Village Hall Management Committee meeting held on 15 October. The lucky winners were:

First	Kathleen Munrowd
Second	Patricia Fouque
Third	Gerry Fry

Congratulations to them all.

JACKIE WHITE
Storridge Village Hall Management Committee



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 26 November 2024, when we will be having a talk from Mary Causer, a Pastor in the West Midlands, talking about her interesting past.

The meeting will be at Roy & Jo Smallwoods', Oakleigh Lodge, Chapel Lane, Cradley, starting at 7.30pm.

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

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

Roy Smallwood 01886 880858 or

Alan Jameison 01684 592600.

ALAN JAMEISON

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.

STORRIDGE CHURCH FLOWERS

2 November	Miss J Alfrey
9 November	Miss J Alfrey
16 November	Mrs P Hawkings
23 November	Mrs P Hawkings
30 November	Mrs P Hawkings

ON THIS DAY

November 1st 1848: William Henry Smith opened his first station bookstall at Euston. His father, William senior, had created a newspaper distribution network based on using the mail coaches but his son was quick to appreciate the potential of the growing railway network and set up a national business. Since the 1840's many stations had vendors in place, but some were selling soiled or less reputable publications. By the 1860's Smith's stalls were established in all mainline stations, and he lived up to his nickname of "Old Morality", vetting the standards of the books he sold and the contents of the advertising.

November 8th 2016: Despite trailing in the polls to Democrat opponent Hilary Clinton and despite losing the popular vote by 2,8 million, Donald Trump was elected to serve as the 45th President of the USA.

November 11th 1920: The Cenotaph, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and built of Portland stone, was unveiled by King George V. It had replaced the original, constructed from wood, plaster and canvas which had been built in 11 days and served as one of the focal points for the victory parade held in London on July 19th 1919. The Cenotaph has been the focus of national remembrance ever since. During the Second World War the national service of remembrance was moved to the nearest Sunday to November 11th – a date which was formally adopted as Remembrance day in 1946.

November 14th 1994: The first public rail services ran through the channel tunnel. Trains departed from London, Brussels and Paris, running at speeds up to 187 mph. The train from Paris to London, carrying nearly 800 passengers, was scheduled to take just over 3 hours and the cost was comparable to the air fare. Waterloo served as the terminus in London until the new St Pancras station was opened in 2007.

November 18th 1967: Restrictions on the movement of farm animals were introduced in England and Wales in an attempt to halt the spread of foot and mouth disease. At this stage, a total of 495 cases had been confirmed. The epidemic lasted for 32 weeks, with 2,228 confirmed cases and 434,000 animals were slaughtered. The outbreak was traced to infected meat legally imported into the UK from Argentina and legally introduced into the animal food chain.

November 21st 1974: Bombs planted in 2 Birmingham pubs, the Mulberry Bush and the Tavern in the Town, killed 21 people and injured more than 180. In 1975 6 people were convicted of causing the bombings and sentenced to life imprisonment but their convictions were overturned by the court of appeal in 1991. One journalist has claimed to know the identity of those responsible but refuses to disclose the information. The Crown Prosecution Service has ruled that there is insufficient evidence to justify any further proceedings.

November 22nd 2003: England won the rugby world cup, beating host nation Australia. Late into extra time the scores were level at 17-17 when Jonny Wilkinson's drop goal gave England victory by 20-17. On their return the squad were treated to a champagne reception at 10 Downing Street and went on to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

November 24th 1951: The merger of the Austin and Morris car manufacturing companies was agreed, taking effect in early 1952. The new British Motor Corporation, based at Longbridge in Birmingham, accounted for 39% of British car output in 1952. Its car brands at the time included Austin, Austin Healey, MG, Morris, Riley and Wolsley, although in some cases only the badge distinguished one brand from another. Now all those names, along with Triumph and Rover, have disappeared leaving just MG, now under Chinese ownership.

November 30th 1968: The Trades Descriptions Act came into force. Vociferous objections came from car dealers who could now be prosecuted for selling cars with incorrect mileage readings. The act also covered, for example, records incorrectly sold as stereophonic, and also how sale reductions could be described. Some of the earliest complaints covered a 9d cup of tea sold for 1s 3d, a pair of washable trousers which weren't, and a toupee sold as invisible when it wasn't.

IAN THOMPSON

CRADLEY SINGERS

Having had a break for the summer, we are pleased to have restarted our rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at Cradley School, and we held our AGM in early October. The last year has been a great achievement of wonderful and varied concerts, ranging from Romanticism to jazz, from carol singing in the streets of Ledbury to Durufle's Requiem in Malvern Priory.

It was great to be part of the Storridge Literary Festival earlier this year, alongside many talented local musicians and singers, including the children from Cradley School choir.

We are looking forward to singing in the community afternoon at Cradley Church this month on 9 November. Do come and join us if you can.

ANNIE MEAGER



*AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR THE COMMUNITY TO MEET*



CHRISTMAS FAIR

ON

SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER

10.30 A.M. UNTIL NOON

IN MATHON PARISH HALL



STALLS include

Cakes, Plants, New Items, Books

Tombola, Raffle, Refreshments

Coffee, tea, soft drinks and cakes

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

In aid of Mathon Church Funds



Cradley, Mathon and Storridge ART GROUP

abstracting the Landscape

Acrylic

with local artist Ivan Maxwell Jones

on Wednesday, November 20th, 10am – 3pm

at Storridge Village Hall

Cost: £20

All abilities welcome and materials can be provided

If you would like to take part and for more details, please contact Margaret on:

07936051604

or margaret.cross@ifdev.net

From Ivan:

This workshop provides an introduction to creating abstract landscape paintings.

We will explore and discuss different approaches to abstraction, where we aim to capture the essence of a landscape without getting hung-up on detail.

We will explore composition, mark-making, colour, shape and texture through a variety of techniques, and we'll analyse the works of artists to help you develop a style and approach of your own.



Examples of Ivan's abstracted landscape



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN



A double Autumn helping of WI news this month covering September and October - we have been busy as usual.

On 5 September, it was almost standing room only in Cradley Village Hall for the monthly WI meeting. We welcomed 35 people, including one new member and two visitors, to hear a talk and see a demonstration of flower arrangements using garden flowers, presented by Chris Lynch. Chris is a qualified NAFAS judge and demonstrator.

Chris started by giving hints on how to make our own garden flowers last longer by conditioning them as they are cut. She advised that early in the morning or later in the evening, when it is cooler, is the best time to cut. Cutting the stalk at 45 degrees ensures the flower can take in the maximum amount of water. Daffodils need to be kept in water on their own for several hours before mixing them with other blooms – even those of us who are Welsh didn't know that! And Chris advised that when displaying coloured flowers in a white vase the final display will be more pleasing if a few white flowers or variegated foliage are included.

Using foliage and flowers, both fresh and dried, many from her own garden, Chris then proceeded to create six flower arrangements of various sizes and shapes. She mentioned several plants we could grow to enhance our own arrangements, and we all looked on in wonder at how easy she made it seem! Remarkably, she told us that less structured arrangements are the current fashion and perfectly acceptable, a relief to many of us. Our raffle prizes were the resulting beautiful arrangements - what lucky winners!

September was a busy month for the WI with events for WI Day taking place throughout the country and a whole week of River Action supporting our campaign for improving water quality in rivers. Sue circulated a letter we had written to our new MP, Dr Chowns and to the Environment Agency. This recognised the importance of water quality in tributaries and our concerns regarding the current state of Cradley Brook. We look forward to those replies.

On 3 October, we welcomed 19 members and one visitor to one of our regular Open Meetings and listened with fascination and merriment as Justine Peberdy recounted the stories behind Hellens Treasures - the history of a Tudor manor, which dates back to 1057. Until recently Justine was the

general manager at Hellens Manor and kept us spellbound with how some of the 'mythical history' came to be interwoven with actual facts. Not so surprising when we learned that the last owner of Hellens, before it became a charitable trust, was a renowned spy and saboteur in the SOE (Special Operations Executive) Edward Munthe, who served in the British Army in occupied Norway during WW2.

During the Blitz, many paintings were brought to Hellens from the National Gallery for safe keeping. Through the 'family', the current trust was gifted a huge important collection of many valuable paintings by the grand masters, including Van Dyke, Gainsborough, Goya and Tintoretto, by a chap known as Uncle Johnny. He was, in fact, no relation at all. So many red herrings and a lot of smoke and mirrors in this historical tale, though many treasures have been verified including the toilette box belonging to Anne Boleyn. Even those who had visited before and taken the house tour were eager to return. New treasures are being discovered all the while by staff and volunteers, whom Justine said are the true treasures of Hellens Manor. There is even a group of skilled ladies seven years into an eight-year project, to create a huge tapestry depicting the history of Hellens - what a dedicated team of treasured folk!

In the business part of the meeting, we shared our plans for Christmas preparations including a Crafting Session, Christmas Wreath Making, visits to the Christmas markets at Birmingham and Cardiff, Supper and Lunch Clubs. The fun and friendship continue apace.

The next meeting is on **WEDNESDAY, 6 November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.** (not our usual Thursday owing to the local council election)

The speaker for the evening is our member, Jill Salmons - Carnival Around the World. A Global Trip around the World in Costumes and Artefacts.

PAM MOSS - Press Officer

SUE HUMPHREYS – President

LESLEY GREGORY – Secretary

Cradley_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk

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Apologies to the Cradley WI Committee that we didn't include your last month's report in our October Newsletter.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

EVERGREEN CLUB

What a dreadful October we've had so far. I'm having withdrawal symptoms...I do need a dose of sunshine on a regular basis and, to add to the disappointing sunshine deprivation, Roger and I have both got the most awful coughs and colds we've ever had. We're hoping that some antibiotics will soon clear it up.

Anyway, on to business. On 16 September, we met at the hall where we entertained ourselves with our popular game of Scatteregories. I first became acquainted with this game when I visited my sister and her husband who were at Holme Lacy enjoying a Warners break (not for me!). On such breaks, the guests are kept entertained all the time and this was one of their games. A letter of the alphabet is chosen and an answer to various questions must begin with that letter. For example, the question might be "Something you would buy for a 40th birthday present" or "a town or city in the UK". Each team is given points if their answer is unique but gets none if another team has given the same answer. The winning team gets a prize – hooray!! It was good fun, and everyone had a good laugh.

Jane prepared a delicious tea with sandwiches and yummy treats.

On 30 September, Bob organized the meeting with a test of the group's knowledge of leaves. He and Val had collected a great selection of foliage from his own property and beyond and produced 30 different specimens for us to identify. It was surprising how knowledgeable everyone was, and the winning team recognized 21 out of the 30. Well done them!

Sue and I provided tea of ham sandwiches, chocolate and fruit cakes and plentiful cups of tea and coffee.

Now in the Newsletter, it did say in the Diary that our Harvest Lunch was on 28 October, but it was in fact at our next meeting on Monday, 14 October, which unfortunately I had to miss because of this dreadful bug I have. I never miss a meeting and certainly not a Harvest Lunch! But the girls coped brilliantly, as they always do (Jo, Jacky, Lindsay, Sue, Caroline and Jen) and a lovely meal was enjoyed by the members and friends. Thanks to you all for your hard work. I'd booked David Beale, professional guitarist and singer from Bromyard, for the afternoon's entertainment. His performance was much enjoyed by everyone.

So, at our next meeting on Monday, 28 October, we shall be enjoying the expertise of a local fungi expert, Jean Claude Foukes.

It was very nice to have Judi CN come back to join us at Evergreen. She was a helper many years ago with us but, due to family commitments, had to leave us. Lovely to have you back, Judi.

Our very best wishes and love go to Janet and John who are both suffering bad health. We all wish you both a speedy recovery.

A little thought to finish on –

"The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams".

Speak soon, take care, lots of love

CHRIS ORFORD

MALVERN HILLS TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

Our group of volunteers has been refurbishing donated tools and sending them to projects in developing countries in Africa since 2016. We work with Tools For Self Reliance, an established charity, and have recently focused on training projects in Malawi and Zambia, two of the poorest nations on Earth.

We have had a very successful summer and have been able to raise almost £7,000. The Open Garden Day at Guarford was particularly successful as was the recent Colwall Art and Craft Fair, so thanks to all who helped make these a success. We have also just sent off a pallet of refurbished tools and sewing machines to our HQ and will send another load soon.

At the moment, we particularly welcome donations of handtools and equipment for carpenters, electricians, mechanics and tailors. Sewing machines are always welcome, too. We also accept quality garden handtools, which we tidy up and sell to raise funds.

Once again, let me thank all the local people who have donated unwanted tools to us over the past few months rather than consigning them to destruction at the tip: recycling is far better! Just last week we received a huge donation of tools from a couple who are emigrating to New Zealand. Please visit the TFSR website for stories of the difference that your donations can make.

Finally, we would also like to hear from someone with the skills and time to sell surplus tools, not needed by projects, on Facebook or other online sites.

Please call Martin on 01684 540491 if you have a donation or skills to offer.

Thank you.

MARTIN BLAMIRE
Chair of MHTFSR

CRADLEY SURGERY

Dispensary Hours
from 25 May 2023
01886 880207

Dispensary open:

Monday to Wednesday and Friday:
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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)

**SATURDAY,
7th
December**

**Cradley
Village
Hall**



Christmas Fair

10.30am to 2.30pm

Admission 50p Children free



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

Books

**Jigsaw
puzzles**

**Children's
books
and toys**

**Children's
Games**

Raffle

**BBQ &
hot food**

**STALLS
GALORE**

Refreshments

Tombola



**Visit Father
Christmas in
his snow cave**



A HEREFORDSHIRE LAD

The Housman Society illustrated lecture on 28th. September at Cradley Church (part of the Autumn in Malvern Festival) was an outstanding event, attended by nearly fifty local residents and members of the Society from far and wide.

Max Hunt, Secretary of the Society, began his talk by reminding us that just a few yards to the north of the church is a plain and unremarkable grave slab. The story behind it is anything but unremarkable. It is the memorial to a gifted and privileged young man, Henry Clarkson Maclean who lived in Cradley (at The Halesend) in the early 1890s. His father (a retired Major-General) was also a highly-respected Cradley Churchwarden. During the afternoon of August 6th. 1895 Henry Maclean booked into London's Charing Cross Hotel and, later that evening, in Room 300, he shot himself in the head.

Harry Maclean's story and the events leading up to his suicide tell us a lot about the intolerance and hypocrisy of late Victorian society. Two other people were famously affected by that same intolerance. They were both writers and intellectuals – one a successful playwright, and the other a successful academic. They were affected very differently by the attitudes that drove Harry to kill himself. One ended up in prison for two years and then left England never to return. The other wrote powerful poems about injustice and intolerance – one specifically about Harry's suicide, and two others which also allude to him.

And who were these writers? The dramatist was Oscar Wilde, famous for "The Importance of Being Earnest" which was first performed in February 1895; in April and May of that year he appeared in court and convicted of gross indecency. The poet and classical scholar was A.E. Housman. Born and brought up in Bromsgrove, he became Professor of Latin at University College London and is famous for his anthology of 63 poems entitled "A Shropshire Lad", which was first published in 1896 (the year after Harry Maclean's death) and has never been out of print.

Max explained how Housman's poetry was influenced by these events of 1895 and his own private feelings for a male friend, before focussing on poem 44 of "A Shropshire Lad". This poem begins with the line "Shot, so quick, so clean an ending?" and was written very shortly after Maclean's death. Indeed Housman kept next to the poem in his own copy of "A Shropshire Lad" a newspaper cutting from the London Evening Standard reporting the inquest.

Max's brilliant and deeply moving talk was greatly appreciated by the audience. Poem 44 ends with the lines:

"Now to your grave shall friend and stranger
With ruth and some with envy come:
Undishonoured, clear of danger,
Clean of guilt, pass hence and home.

Turn safe to rest, no dreams, no waking;
And here, man, here's the wreath I've made:
'Tis not a gift that's worth the taking,
But wear it, and it will not fade"

And so, most fittingly, we then walked to Harry Maclean's grave in the north churchyard where Max laid a commemoration wreath, and Rev. Robert Ward spoke movingly and led prayers.

We are most grateful to Max and Linda Hart for all their research and detailed preparation, to The Housman Society which generously gave the most of the attendance takings to Cradley Church's toilet appeal, and also to those who prepared and served the excellent tea, which closed the event – in the best Cradley tradition!

MIKE HAMES

DECEMBER COPY DEADLINE DATES

FOR INCLUSION IN THE JANUARY ISSUE

Paid Advertisements: Payment and advert to be received by 9th December

Notices: by 9th December

Local Events: by 9th December

Articles: by 12th December

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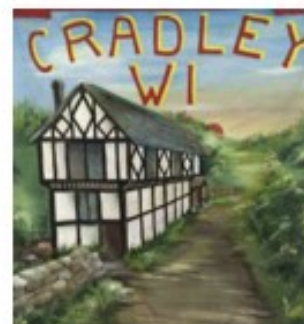
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theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



CRADLEY WI

Established 1938



Wednesday 6th November 2024

at 7.30pm

Cradley Village Hall

A Carnival Around the World
A Global Trip in Costume and Artefacts

with Jill Salmons

Do come along to our monthly meeting to see what we are all about.

You will be assured of a warm welcome.

First meeting is complementary.



**Cradley WI has many other regular activities and clubs to enjoy
and we take part in other village and Herefordshire Federation activities
and events too.**

If you would like to know more about Cradley WI please contact -

Cradley_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk or

Sue Humphreys, President, 01886 880165 or

Lesley Gregory, Secretary, 01886 880525

CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL

BOOKINGS

**Hire our picturesque 15th-century venue
for your event**

Cradley, Mathon and Storridge
Residents/Organizations £7 per hour

For those outside
the three villages £35 per hour

For further details and bookings contact
Jeff White on **01886 880000**
or book online at cradleyvillagehall.org.uk

HERITAGE COLLECTION

**EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON
2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

TRACE YOUR ANCESTORS
EXPLORE LOCAL HISTORY
LOOK AT OLD MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
USE OUR REFERENCE LIBRARY OF LOCAL AND
NATIONAL HISTORY BOOKS AND LEAFLETS

FREE COMPUTER USE AND SUPPORT FOR ALL

**MONDAY MORNINGS
10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**
PHOTOCOPYING
INTERNET ACCESS
SIMPLE HELP AND TRAINING

POST OFFICE

**MONDAY MORNINGS
9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
1.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.**

CRADLEY 'LIBRARY'

FREE BOOK EXCHANGE, OR TAKE AWAY
FOR A SMALL DONATION TO HALL FUNDS.
HARDBACKS, PAPERBACKS,
DVDS AND CDS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS

**You can book the Hall,
buy tickets for events,
and sign up for email notification of
up and coming events online at
www.cradleyvillagehall.org.uk**

POTHOLE OF THE MONTH

Continuing on last month's theme of transport models – don't you sometimes wonder how much that cherished Dinky Toy or Matchbox car would be worth now, if only you had never played with it and had kept it pristine in its box?

In my youth we had Dinky Toys, Corgi Toys and Matchbox Toys. Dinky Toys were produced by British toy company Meccano Ltd, from 1934 to 1979. And for the avoidance of doubt – no, my youth was not in the 1930s. One story about the origin of the "Dinky" name is that it derived from a nickname that a friend gave to the owner's daughter. Another version is that when one of his daughters-in-law first saw the models, she called them "dinky", a Scottish word meaning "neat" or "fine".

Corgi Toys were made by Mettoy and this company is now owned by Hornby, better known of course for their model trains. I owned a gold James Bond Aston Martin, apparently number 261, with a little man (not James Bond, obviously, but his adversary) that would shoot out of the ejector seat. That was of course the first thing that I lost! That man may be worth more now than the actual car... Other iconic vehicles that they made were Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and the Beatles' Yellow Submarine. Expect to pay over £1,000 for a new in box version.

Matchbox cars were the perfect birthday present from your auntie, and as far as I can recall, cost less than a pound to buy. The brand was introduced by Lesney Products in 1953, and is now owned by Mattel Inc, which purchased the brand in 1997. Apparently, Matchbox cars are nowadays made in Macau. The largest collection of Matchbox toys can be found in the Matchbox Road Museum in Newfield, New Jersey, which is packed with around 60,000 different, and often identical-looking, tiny metal cars and trucks.

My children mainly played with Hot Wheels, perhaps currently the most popular toy car brand. But they are also very collectable. The 1969 Prototype Rear-Loading Volkswagen Beach Bomb in Spectraflame Hot Pink is the holy grail for collectors, holding the title of the most valuable Hot Wheels ever made at \$150,000. Only two examples exist, making them incredibly hard to find.

Something I particularly liked about Hot Wheels were the tracks that you could race them on (usually with cars flying off in all directions...). And of course, there is a Guinness world record for the longest track ever built: in Australia in 2020. It had more than 75 speed boosters to propel a Hot Wheels car so that it covered sufficient distance to set the record at almost half a mile. If you like that kind of thing, there is a video on YouTube.



TOM VAN VUREN



MATHON GET TOGETHER

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

When is it? Every Friday 10:30 a.m. - 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



MATHON CRADLEY & STORRIDGE (MCS) TENNIS CLUB.

Our club finals were held last month, and despite a rather damp day, we had a good turn out and everyone was in bright spirits – players, umpires, car park assistants, BBQ chefs and spectators alike. All matches were incredibly exciting to watch, as they were so closely fought out.

Unfortunately, due to injury and illness our men's doubles had to be postponed, but everyone who did play in the finals gave 100% and it showed! Thank you to everyone who supported the day.



One of our junior members, Leila Meager, started her tennis journey at MCS and recently played her way to Wimbledon! From 1000s of initial 'Play your Way to Wimbledon' competitors, Leila was one of 48 players to make it to the national u14 finals at SW19. She won several matches, making it through the round robin stage, in to the knockouts and on to the final 16 where she was knocked out by one of the top 8 seeded players. She was so pleased with her results, not to mention the food card to spend in the Wimbledon players' restaurant and an interview with Tim Henman.



At MCS we welcome players of all ages and abilities. We have three courts on Harcourt Road, with views towards the Malvern Hills. Find us at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/MCSTennis> or contact our membership secretary Tony Poyner on 07801 926434 if you are interested in coming along.

THE MCS TEAM

FREE ROOM HIRE

AT CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL

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


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

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

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

CRADLEY CRAFT & CHAT
VILLAGE HALL 10am to 12pm
EVERY FIRST & THIRD MONDAY

Free and Now twice a month





the WI
 INSPIRING WOMEN
CRADLEY WI
 Established 1938



Cradley WI meets monthly in the Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm (except December)

We have a speaker or other activity, a short business meeting and plenty of time to catch up over refreshments

We also have many other activities and clubs to enjoy...

BOOK CLUB
 SUPPER CLUB
 COFFEE MORNINGS
 CINEMA/THEATRE/CULTURE GROUP

LUNCH CLUB
 NIMBLE FINGERS
 GARDEN CLUB

We take part in other activities and events too...

- Stalls at local Fairs
- Herefordshire Federation WI events
- Village community events
- Fund-raising for a charity of our choice



Do come along to our monthly meeting to see what we are all about. You will be assured of a warm welcome. First meeting is complementary.

If you would like to know more about Cradley WI please contact -
 Cradley_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk
 Sue Humphreys, President, 01886 880165 or
 Lesley Gregory, Secretary, 01886 880525



STORRIDGE, CRADLEY & MATHON
TEENY TOTS PLAY GROUP

☺ We are open to parents/carers with children aged 0-5 from all surrounding areas

🧸 Come along for play, crafts and nature walks on Thursdays during term time
 10.30am - 12 noon

Only £2 per family, which includes a drink and a snack

Cradley Scout Hut, The Old Rectory Rooms, Churchfields Lane, Cradley, Herefordshire, WR13 5LL

Please see our Facebook group for regular updates and news or contact Rachel on 07790890183

Please note: Parents/carers are responsible for their own children at all times

WANTED
 for
Cradley Village Hall Christmas Fair
 Saturday 7th December





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



Contact:
 Jan ☎01886 880316
 ✉jan@dampney.plus.com

ANY OLD IRON?!!

We will be collecting scrap metal in aid of

**Cradley Scout Group and
Cradley Church**

on

Saturday, 30th November



We will collect any old washing machines, bikes, lawn mowers, pipework, batteries, etc. We are unable, however, to accept fridges and freezers.

**To arrange collection, please call
Chris Roberts on 01886 884553 or
email: csroberts@talk21.com**

MORE RECENT SPACE AND ASTRONOMY NEWS

There has been a lot of space and astronomy news recently, so I am deferring the articles I mentioned last time.

Comet C/ 2023 A3 Tsuchinshan – ATLAS has hit the headlines. In September it was clearly visible in the southern hemisphere before it went round the Sun to be visible in the northern hemisphere. As I write this in early October, it is expected to be a spectacular naked-eye object with a long tail, soon after sunset from 12 October to the end of the month. Amazingly, a second comet, **C/2024 S1 ATLAS**, is expected to be even more brilliant after Sunset from 29 October before fading. They then eventually leave the solar system, returning in tens of thousands of years time.

From October to November, a piece of rock, **asteroid catalogue No. 2024 TPS**, the size of a bus, is passing the Earth in its orbit around the Sun and was pulled out of its usual orbit by the Earth's gravity, making it swing around the Earth one full loop and then head off in another direction. It has been misleadingly publicised as our temporary second moon! It is too small to be imaged by amateur telescopes. There must be huge numbers of tiny asteroids that have looped round us in the past that have gone undetected.

In October, a **SpaceX rocket** launched four astronauts into Earth-orbit using a SpaceX Dragon capsule. It did not have an airlock but they opened the hatch as they were trying out the new SpaceX light-weight spacesuits, before returning to Earth. The project called Polaris-Dawn was privately funded by billionaire, Shift4 CEO, Jared Isaacman, and raised \$240 million for charity.

Jeff Bezos has announced that his **Blue-Origin** space company is intending soon to send an unmanned mission to **Mars**. SpaceX has built the largest most powerful rocket ever made, starship, hoping to launch to Mars in 2028. All launches require a Federal Agency licence, meeting strict safety and environment pollution standards. Elon Musk disputes the validity of the criticism causing the hold up, now involving a lawsuit. He says the verification paperwork is taking longer than building the rocket. He has announced that SpaceX will send unmanned spacecraft around Mars and back in 2026; also, he intends to have a permanent human colony on Mars in 20 years' time. This seems highly over optimistic. Many people, like me, think sending humans to Mars is currently crazily expensive and a one-way terminal ticket.

China's space agency CNSA is to send a **robot mission to Mars** at the next Earth- Mars lowest energy transfer window in 2026, to gather regolith (soil) samples, China has been making building bricks out of simulated Lunar regolith material for construction work on the Moon and will be testing the process on the International Space Station. They plan to build a base at the lunar south pole by 2035. Amongst many other space projects, CNSA is planning to build a huge mirror orbiting telescope for exoplanet research. They have just demonstrated a reusable vertical return landing rocket like those used by SpaceX.

NASA's Parker probe is on its way to the Sun into a very close solar orbit for data recording and imaging. It is swinging round Venus, and briefly fired its directional thrusters, changing its velocity to set its trajectory to image Venus at 380Km above its cloud-covered surface.

NASA's probe Psyche on its way to survey the same-named giant asteroid, which is believed to be made of solid metal, the remaining core of a small now shattered planet. It is taking images of many asteroids on its route and has already imaged an asteroid's previously unknown small moon with an even tinier moon orbiting that moon.

ESA's Bepi Colombo probe is to close-up image and survey Mercury. It has made 4 of its expected 6 Mercury speed-changing elliptical flybys of the planet, to gradually get into circular orbit around it. Its last close approach to the planet was only 165 kilometres from the surface and it took very detailed images while doing so. They show in high resolution, craters formed from ancient impacts with splash rings where the impact-causing lava was ejected and fell back to the planet's surface.

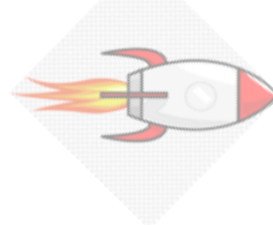
NASA's Europa Clipper is on its way to Jupiter. It will use a gravity assisted swing around Mars and the Earth, before arriving at Jupiter in April 2030. It will then repeatedly do velocity changing looping elliptical orbits around Jupiter, minimising exposure to the powerful radiation belts, and then on to Europa, repeatedly plunging close to Europa's surface to investigate its ice covered ocean. It carries cameras for visual and thermal imaging, ground penetrating radar, and detectors for measuring magnetic fields and particle radiation. To generate sufficient power at Jupiter's solar distance, it has a very large solar array, 14 meters long by 4 meters high, unfolded after lift-off.

ESA's probe JUICE is on its way to Jupiter's Icy moons. It will reach Jupiter in July 2031 after 4 gravity assist swings by the Earth and the Moon. On arrival at Jupiter, it will do a series of increasing gravitational loops to reach Europa and then onto Ganymede for close-flyby data gathering. Ganymede is larger than Mercury and is thought to have a rocky molten iron core and a huge salty ocean under its thick ice-covered surface. A very sensitive magnetometer, built by Imperial College London, will study its delicately changing magnetic field from its ocean currents.

Finally, for now, I like this one. JWST has identified distant mysterious warm sources as **hot dogs!** Hot Dust Obscuring Galaxies.

Next time, extraordinary exoplanets; really weird worlds stretching the imagination!

CHRIS BADDILEY





CRADLEY WILD NATURE WALK

On a welcome sunny day in October, a group of nature-loving Cradley residents set off on the first Village Nature Walk organised by Cradley Wild. The route took us from the school over a field brimming with late summer wildflowers including clover and field scabious, through woodland and farmland, and across Cradley Brook. Trees of interest were pointed out by local Tree Warden John Collins – did you know that the branches of Holly

were once used as arrows because they are so straight and hard? Mike Hames, with binoculars, equipped for bird spotting and a wealth of local history knowledge brought the landscape to life with tales of a former mill on the Brook and a military encampment in a field during the Civil War.



Along the path we spotted fungi, badger trails, new tree

planting, old and venerable oaks and spotted a buzzard hanging in the sky. More of a saunter than a hike, it was a rewarding, sociable and illuminating way to spend an hour or so. Look out for details of Cradley Wild's 2025 Spring Village Nature Walk in future issues of the Newsletter.

CLARE GOGERTY

LETTING NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE

In a recent issue of BBC *Wildlife* magazine, Richard Mabey, the well known naturalist and nature writer (*Food for Free*, *Flora Britannica*, *Birds Britannica*, etc) describes how his relationship with his Norfolk garden has changed and evolved over the past 20 years. He points out that we are all 'in charge' of our own gardens and how we decide to manage them affects all the other inhabitants of the garden – a kind of colonialism!

As gardeners we decide what stays and what goes.

During the past two decades, Mabey has become more accepting of the plants that find their way into his garden.



He hasn't let his garden run wild, but he has become much more inclined to let nature take its course – often with surprising and pleasing results. One of the delights of this approach is that the planting changes every year. He never quite knows what's going to appear where – often resulting in serendipitous and lovely combinations. Virtually all these plants are beneficial for pollinators and wildlife unlike the bedding plants commonly sold at garden centres. Dave Goulson, Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Sussex, founder of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and author of *Silent Earth: averting the insect apocalypse*, discovered that many plants sold with a logo indicating that they were beneficial for pollinators had been treated with neonicotinoids which are toxic to the nervous systems of bees.

Over this timespan, more than 80 native plant species have found their way into his garden. These include cowslip, germander speedwell, knapweed, agrimony, scabious, valerian – the last of which has attracted hummingbird hawkmoths which delight with their prodigious aerobatics.

Changing lifelong gardening habits isn't easy but it is possible. When I lived in Birmingham, a neighbour and dear friend was horrified by my acceptance of rosebay willow herb – a plant many of us associate with railway cuttings; however, it is really very beautiful – both in flower and in seed. It isn't difficult to stop it from taking over. Purple loosestrife, which often appears in garden ponds, is very popular with bees. If, as gardeners, the idea of accepting 'invaders' causes uneasiness, we could consider starting with just one or two. Richard Mabey encourages all of us to consider taking advantage of the natural world's creativity – to become 'welcomers at the gate'.

BILL VAN MARLE

CRAFT EVENING

Join us for a Craft Evening on 14 November from 6.30-9pm in the Village Hall, where we shall make items to sell on our stall at the Christmas Fair (7 December). Learn how to make wildlife-friendly items and Christmas decorations. Everyone is welcome. Free.

NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESSES

Send articles and enquiries to

Editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk

Send advertisements and notices to

Adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB – UPCOMING EVENTS

Poppy Appeal Quiz Night! Saturday, 16 November 8:00pm start



It's time to get the 'grey matter' in gear and get those thinking caps on as our quizmaster returns with his last quiz of 2024. Why not join us and see if your team can take the trophy from the current holders. (Winning team receives a bottle of wine for each player) Entry is £10 for a team of 4; has your team got what it takes to win...

RACE NIGHT! Saturday, 23 November from 7:30pm (races start at 8:00pm)



If excitement and adrenalin are what you're after, then join us for the return of our infamous race night giving you the opportunity to see if you can pick the winner. Experience 8 races on our big screen, giving you the feel of being down at the Derby. Starting gates open at 8:00pm, a great night of entertainment not to be missed.

BINGO! Saturday, 7 December 8pm start



Grab your dabbers, it's BINGO time! Join Kath Munrowd for a summer special Bingo. Great prizes are on offer and a fun and sociable evening will be had by all.

COMEDY NIGHT Saturday, 14 December at 8:30pm



Tickets now available, get yours before they sell out.... £15 including a delicious ploughman's supper.

There'll be fantastic comedians, and an MC. Call us on 01886 880552 or 07929 225390, or pop in Monday to Saturday, to secure your tickets.

Carols on the Car Park! Saturday, 21 December from 5pm

Join us for a fun night of Christmas festivities as we bring back our enjoyable carols on the car park. Baz and his students will perform Christmas Carols from 6:30pm for a jolly good sing along. There'll be mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and cookies served from 5pm, a great start to the Christmas holidays for all the family. The night will continue indoors with a festive shindig to keep the Christmas





mood going all night long.

(Continued)



FANTASTIC FUN PARTY NIGHTS - EVERYONE WELCOME!

Christmas Eve-Eve - Disco and Draw!

Monday, 23 December 8pm onwards

Join us on Monday, 23 December for a night of festive fun including our annual Christmas Draw, lots of prizes to be won!

Tuesday, 31 December New Year's Eve Party!

Time to party from 7:30pm till 1:00am

As well as our events, join us any Monday – Saturday from 7:30pm. Our members' facilities include snooker, pool, skittles, and darts. You don't need to be ex-service to be a member; you can join for around 5p a day and membership includes annual Royal British Legion Membership, a quarterly magazine, and other benefits only available to members!

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 this Newsletter, click on the village diary, subscribe to our newsletter, and find us on Facebook.



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: 1 car: £10.00 minimum
(More than 1 car: £20 per morning, afternoon or evening session; £50 whole day)

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

Text: 07518 328435

E-mail: svhbookings@fastmail.co.uk

CRADLEY SURGERY

01886 880207

www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk

Surgery hours:

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

Closed weekends and Bank Holidays

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

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

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

(see separate notice for Dispensary)

CRADLEY SURGERY NEWSLETTER

Dr Peter Clegg

Dr Chris Spruce

www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk

Covid and Flu Clinics Autumn Boosters 2024

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

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

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



Dispensary

Apologies for mentioning the "C word", just a reminder to please not order extra medication over Christmas.

We are open to pick up routine monthly orders every day except the bank holidays and asking for it early puts huge pressure on our dispensing staff. Please don't panic. We are open between Christmas and New Year and after New Year and you won't run out!

Thank you for your help with this.

The Dispensary opening times are stated below:

Monday	09:00 -13:00
Monday	15:30 -18:00
Tuesday	09:00 -13:00
Tuesday	15:30 -18:00
Wednesday	09:00 -13:00
Wednesday	15:30 -18:00
Thursday	15:30 -18:00
Friday	09:00 -13:00
Friday	15:30 -18:00
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

Newsletters

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



Scan Me! →

Spotlight on: Online Services

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

Please use the NHS app to book blood tests online.

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

A polite reminder to our patients who use our online consultation tool. These are actioned within 3 working days. **Please do not use an online consult for anything urgent.**

If you have a request for medications that are required WITHIN 7 days, online consultations are not an appropriate communication tool. Please allow 7 days for medication requests to be actioned via this method.

The GP will read or respond to an online consult within 3 working days but it may take our dispensary an additional few days to be able to dispense it.

Please do continue to use online consultations for non-urgent medical or admin queries.

As always, if you require same day treatment, please call the Surgery. If you need help out of hours, visit NHS 111 online or call 111. In an emergency call 999.

Cradley Surgery is on Facebook!

We have finally joined Facebook. Whilst we are embracing the change we would like to make it clear that the Facebook page will only be used to communicate information to our patients.

If you need to contact the Surgery or Dispensary, please do so in the usual ways of; calling us on 01886 880 207 during our opening hours, or sending us an online consultation for anything non urgent relating to medical or admin queries.

Please like, share and support our page to ensure we reach as many patients from the Surgery as possible, also if you get a few minutes, please leave us a review reflecting a recent experience with us.

To visit our Facebook page, scan the QR code opposite.



IT'S CHRISTMAS PUDDING TIME

STIR UP SUNDAY



**Sunday
24th November
3pm-5pm**

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

We supply the ingredients (at cost)

***You supply the bowl and the elbow grease
(no mixers here!)***

**Further information: Julia ☎ 01886 880402
Email: ✉ julia.maclagan@btinternet.com**

Halloween WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



HALLOWEEN	PUMPKIN
GHOUL	WITCH
WIZARD	GHOST
DEMON	BOO
CREEPY	FRIGHTEN
EVIL	FANGS
BONES	MONSTER
WICKED	SKELETON
TOMB	VAMPIRE
SPELLS	BLACK CAT



Can you find all the words?

A BIT OF HUMOUR

A man visited his doctor; the doctor checked him over then commented, "It looks as if you get a fair bit of exercise."

The man replied, "Oh yeah. In fact, just the other day I walked 5 miles over rugged terrain as I climbed over rocks and trees. I also waded along the edges of a lake, pushing my way through tall thistles, and even slid down sandy slopes while getting sand in my eyes."

The doctor was quite impressed and said, "Well, you are certainly a dedicated outdoor enthusiast".

"Not exactly, doctor," the man replied, "I'm just really bad at golf".

Contributed by
CHRIS ORFORD

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

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.

GUNS

On the whole my father, William Henry 'Bill' Lowder, had a life that was, if not entirely satisfactory (whose is?), at least reasonably full of interest and incident, and pretty regret-free - apart from the time he and Bobika heaved his twin Purdey shotguns into the Nile, obviously. He certainly regretted that.

Father could also be counted a lucky man. A very lucky man. Called up in January 1918 with (although he wasn't to know it) another eleven months of bloody mayhem and slaughter in France and Belgium still to come, the mandarins at the War Office decided that the situation in Ireland after the 1916 Uprising was still volatile enough to require a good half of Father's regiment, the Duke of Wellington's, to be shunted over to Dublin to keep the peace. Father included.

So instead of facing creeping barrages of high explosive, with trench mortars and Big Bertha disrupting his young life, he ended up spending much of his time patrolling up and down O'Connell Street in an armoured tram with IRA sharp shooters taking pot-shots at him. Result!

I was once chatting to an Irishman of a certain political persuasion in a North London pub at around the time the IRA were bidding fair to laying waste the entire capital (as a journalist, one tended to bump into all kinds of odd and interesting folk) and happened to mention the armoured-tram business, and he chuckled and said, 'Oh yes, you could tell that one in any Dublin pub today and nobody'd drag you round the back. That was considered legitimate warfare.' I decided not to mention my Uncle Reg Father's elder brother, who, along with a considerable bunch of thugs, in 1920, in an act of extremely illegitimate warfare, had endeavoured to burn Cork city to the ground.

In fact, Father was by no means a bad shot, as my brother and I could attest -- we had a plethora of regimental cups and trophies scattered around our respective houses. All silver too. Which prompted the thought that when times became hard, a visit to 'uncle' would almost certainly prove productive.

Even so, you couldn't say he was fixated to an unhealthy degree on firearms. He used them to shoot something for the pot, hit the bullseye every time in regimental contests ('or you'll be on a fizzer, lad!'), and kill the King's enemies. He simply managed to accumulate various lethal bits and bobs during the inter-war years - a practice much frowned upon by his eldest son, my brother, once a Military Policeman in Hong Kong, who used to get decidedly twitchy in later years about what he termed 'illegal ordnance in civilian circumstances'. During one firearms truce in the late-1960s he raced down from Guildford to Cradley just to take Father's old Lee-Enfield

.303 bolt-action plus bayonets (two wicked pieces of steel with which my friend Pete Godfrey and I used to have sabre-clashing duels up the back garden) to the nearest cop-shop.

It was only with the greatest difficulty that we stopped him getting rid of two magnificent 18th century horse-pistols Father had picked up in his travels, and he never knew about Mother's little .32 revolver with the black grip I managed to squirrel away. Which reminds me - Mother too was no mean shot, especially with Father's .22 rifle, with which she waged more or less constant war through the kitchen window against the multitude of rats running around the vegetable garden by our pig-sty. Seven in one day was her best score. I also managed to retain Grandfather Lowder's single-barrelled shotgun,

which hangs over our fireplace to this day. Mind you, had I ever tried to fire it, it would certainly have blown my hands and much of my face away, such was its state of degeneration. Still, much as I loved my brother, it must be said that he was always a bit of a law-abiding, rules-and-regs wuss.

So. Father's twin Purdey shotguns. Father's very expensive twin Purdey shotguns. The Nile. In God's name - **why??!!** It has to be said that Father was always slightly defensive about the matter, his main excuse, roughly, 'You had to be there at the time', and yes, I can certainly see his point.

The time was 1941, a bad year for the Allied forces, two years into World War Two, which very swiftly gear-shifted up from bad to very bad to outright disastrous, mainly because Erwin Rommel was appointed commander of Afrika Korps, which landed in Libya and almost immediately began a purposeful advance into Allied territory. It then proceeded to capture great swathes of Allied troops (British, Indian and Australian) and in less than a month besieged Tobruk and headed into Egypt. The speed of this movement was almost miraculous, and certainly put the wind up the Allied High Commands in both Cairo (Egypt) and Khartoum (Sudan).

Father arrived in Egypt in 1922, Ireland having recently partitioned and thus in no need of his services, or the rest of his regiment. He was seconded to the Sudan Defence Force (SDF) after the assassination of the Governor-General, Sir Lee Stack, and the Uprising in 1924, staying there in one military job or another for the next two decades and finally ending up as a minor *aide-de-camp* (armed forces) on the Governor-General's (Sir Hubert Huddleston) staff with a small - a very small ('more like a ruddy broom cupboard!') - office in Khartoum Palace.

The general feeling in 1941, Father recalled, was basically that this blighter Rommel looked like he was going to be sweeping across the whole of North and Northeast Africa. This view was strengthened when the *Luftwaffe* bombed Cairo. In Khartoum military and civilian government staff were told to 'get their affairs in order' - ie hide everything of value you can't take with you in case of the ultimate catastrophe of Panzers trundling through the streets of Khartoum.

What to do with his precious Purdeys (bought on leave in London and shipped over in 1938)? In a moment of madness (as Father admitted years later) he decided to sink them in the Nile, to be resurrected when times were calmer, and Rommel defeated. Accordingly, he and his chief servant, a tall Dinka tribesman called Bobika Ahriff, wrapped the shotguns in strengthened oilcloth and heaved them off the Nile bridge ('first fixed arch on the left looking east').

Alas, by the time Rommel had finally been sorted out it was two years later and Father was two thousand-odd clicks away in Cairo, never to return to Sudan.

'Good Grief!' I said (though possibly I'm misremembering, and my outburst was clothed in far stronger language), 'then they're still there!'

'I doubt it,' said my father, through gritted teeth. 'Years later I heard my man Bobika had come into a family legacy and opened up a courtyard shop in the city centre. **Hah!** Family legacy my foot! The so-and-so probably pulled 'em up out of the river the day after we sank 'em. They were worth a small fortune even then!'

CL

LITTLE FLOWER FARM AND KAT'S FLOWERS

Well our first Eco Church workshop in Storridge church was a huge success. We were joined by several lovely ladies from as far away as Leicester! We had lots of lovely chats about different sustainable methods of flower arranging without using floral foam and we demoed a gorgeous arrangement using a bundle of twigs, a grid and a willow frame, a beautiful window display and various pew ends.

Thank you to everyone for joining us.



Our next workshop is on Friday 8th November from 10-12 pm at Jemima's flower farm in Cradley when we will be making a big spray as a funeral tribute. We will also be showing you an arrangement made up of lots of seasonal plants. Coffee and cake included. Do come and join us. £20 pp.

All Workshop bookings through Kat's website under Events.

And for beautiful, fresh, locally-grown cut flowers; www.katscutflowers.co.uk

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PLANNING AN EVENT?

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



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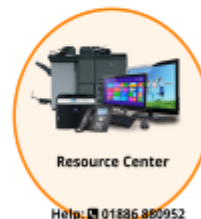
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- Church and graves records

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

Jill Nicklin on 01886 880920





Cradley, Mathon and Storrige

ART GROUP

Do you wish that you could paint or draw but need encouragement and guidance?
Come and have a go with us!

We are a small group, meeting in Storrige Village Hall
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

every 2nd and 4th

Wednesday of the month

Just turn up for a free taster session,

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

For a chat about it, please phone:

Margaret 01684 569019 or Mary 01684 574120

Cradley and Storrige Parish Council

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our
community



Funding now available
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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

Funding

Funding

Funding

For further details along with guidance:

Contact the Parish Clerk: ✉ clerk@cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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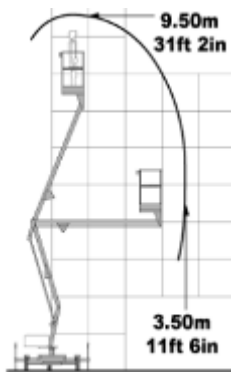
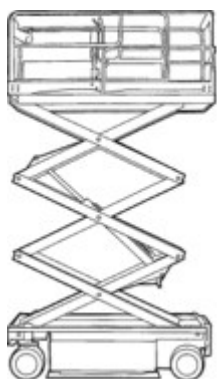
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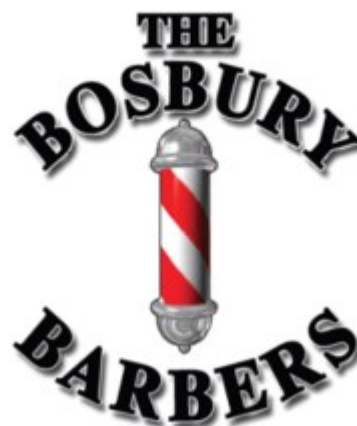


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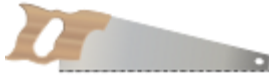
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9.20am	Pilates
10.30am and 3.00pm	Tap
11.30am	FitSteps
1.50pm and 7.00pm	Ballet

Wednesdays

9.10am	Pilates
10.15am	Modern
11.20am and 1.45pm	Ballet
12.30pm	Flamenco
2.50pm	Pilates
6.45pm	Ballet

Thursdays

10.00am	FitSteps
11.15am and 7.30pm	Ballet
2.15pm	Silver Swans Ballet
6.30pm	Zumba

Fridays

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Paid Adverts: Payment and advert to be received by 12th of the month prior to insertion
(Except December: 9th of the month).

Local Events: 12th of the month
(Except December: 9th of the month)

Articles: 16th of the month
(Except December: 12th of the month)

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2024

THREE VILLAGES DIARY OF EVENTS 2024-2025

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

NOVEMBER

Weds	6	7.30 p.m.*	Cradley WI Monthly meeting. Talk by Jill Salmons - Carnival Around The World.
Thurs	7	7.00 a.m.	Cradley Ward Councillor By-election. Until 10.00 p.m.
Thurs	7	10.30 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon.
Fri	8	10.00 a.m.	Jemima's Flower Farm. Floral Funeral Tribute Workshop. Until 12.00 noon.
Weds	13	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group. Storridge Village Hall. Until 4.00 p.m.
Thurs	14	10.30 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon.
Thurs	14	6.30 p.m.	Cradley Wild - Wildlife-friendly Craft Evening. Cradley Village Hall. Until 9 p.m.
Thurs	14	7.30 p.m.	Storridge WI. Christmas Craft Evening
Sat	16	8.00 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal Quiz Night.
Weds	20	13.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group, Abstracting the Landscape with Ivan Maxwell-Jones. Until 3 p.m.
Thurs	21	10.30 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon.
Sat	23	7.30 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Race Night.
Sun	24	3.00 p.m.	Cradley Church – Stir Up Sunday – Stir up your own Christmas Pud. Until 5 p.m.
Tues	26	7.30 p.m.	Christians Together, at Oakleigh Lodge, Chapel Lane. Talk by Mary Causer
Weds	27	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group. Storridge Village Hall. Until 4.00 p.m.
Thurs	28	10.30 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until noon.
Sat	30	All Day	Cradley Scout Group – Scrap Metal Collection in aid of Scout Group and Cradley Church.
Sat	30	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Fair in Mathon Parish Hall, until 12.00 noon.

DECEMBER

Thurs	5	7.30 p.m.	Cradley WI Monthly meeting.
Sat	7	10.30 a.m.	Cradley Christmas Fair and Santa. Cradley Village Hall. Until 2.30 p.m.
Sat	7	11.30 a.m.	Cradley Handbells – at the Cradley Christmas Fair in Cradley Village Hall. Until 12:30 p.m.
Sat	7	8.00 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Bingo Night
Weds	11	2.00 p.m.	CMS Art Group. Storridge Village Hall. Until 4.00 p.m.
Thurs	12	7.30 p.m.	Storridge WI. Christmas Party and Secret Santa
Thurs	19	10.30 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until 12.00 noon.
Sat	21	5.00 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Carols on the Car Park. Mince Pies and Mulled wine from 5 p.m.
Sat	21	6.30 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Carols on the Car Park with Baz and his students.
Tues	23	8.00 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Christmas Eve-Eve Disco and Draw.
Tues	31	7.30 p.m.	Royal British Legion – New Year's Eve Party. Until 1 p.m.

2025 JANUARY

Thurs	2	Cradley WI Monthly meeting.
Sun	11	Supper at Storridge Village Hall

ANNUAL CMS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

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.

Please send all advertising bookings and enquiries to the advertising team at: 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 December issue will be Antonia Musgrove.
Compilation Team: Pauline Diplock, Patrick Fleming, Jackie White.

Nov 14 - Dec 12

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