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MATHON

STORRIDGE

NEWSLETTER



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FEBRUARY 2025

LET ROME IN TIBER MELT

'Let Rome in Tiber melt, and the wide arch of the rang'd empire fall!' Thus says Shakespeare's Mark Antony, responding from Cleopatra's court in Egypt to the messengers sent from Rome with news to call him home. 'Let Rome in Tiber melt....Here is my space.' Why should these words come back to me so persistently in the opening weeks of 2025?

This Christmas saw church attendance figures higher than any we have seen for years, both here in our own parishes and across the Church of England more widely. That, you might think, is good news for those responsible for running our churches. Yet the headline news stories in the national press and the media regarding the church's senior management, and especially our archbishops, have been desperate. Even the Church Times, which I've read for forty years, carried letters assuming that everyone in our churches shared a sense of shame and culpability for shortcomings in safeguarding practice attributed to some of our senior leaders, leading to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. As those absolutely appalling stories rolled over us in waves in November and December, and one church leader after another fell to the scythe of public opinion, some must have wondered who and what we could possibly trust.

I can only put on record, not for the first time, that my experience of pastoral care and of clergy management in the Diocese of Hereford has been entirely positive. That may not have been true for every colleague in every part of the Church of England, but I can only speak of my experience here. The reports in the Church Times have stressed that much excellent work continues in our parishes and communities, not least in the field of safeguarding, the legal term for keeping people safe from harm, in particular the young and the vulnerable. As reports in the Church Times have highlighted, the main area for concern has not been in the local churches, but in what some might call the 'higher echelons' of the church's authority structures, and by and large there, the errors have been errors of judgement and of oversight, 'sins of omission', if you like, not 'sins of commission'. As the parishes here enter in the coming months into the process of recruiting and appointing a new Rector, it seems important to know that we can have confidence in those who lead and oversee the church in this diocese, our bishop, archdeacons and others, that indeed they have the best interest of all our people, our parishes and communities, at heart.

'Let Rome in Tiber melt, and the wide arch of the rang'd empire fall! Here is my space'. Yes, there were times in recent weeks when I felt something similar to Shakespeare's Mark Antony in that speech from 'Antony and Cleopatra'. Facing retirement, I felt I was glad to be done with the politics and hierarchies of it all, whether in church or state, in national or international affairs. Yet *'here is my space'*, and here in these villages, in this corner of Herefordshire, it has been and continues to be a very good place to be.

Your Rector,
ROBERT WARD

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Cover photo this month taken by Jan Dampney

Church Services in February 2025

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

SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	NO SERVICE IN STORRIDGE	StorrIDGE
2 February 2025	9:30 a.m.	Live-streamed Service (Lay led)	Benefice
Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)	9:30 a.m.	Parish Communion (BCP)	Mathon
	10:45 a.m.	Candlemas Church 4 All	Cradley
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
5 February 2025	6:30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer from the Rectory	Benefice
SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	Mattins	StorrIDGE
9 February 2025	10:45 a.m.	Live-streamed Family Communion	Cradley
Fourth Before Lent (BCP Epiphany 5)	6:00 p.m.	Evensong	Mathon
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
12 February 2025	6:30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer from the Rectory	Benefice
	9:30 a.m.	Mattins (Lay led)	Mathon
SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	Holy Communion	StorrIDGE
16 February 2025	10:45 a.m.	Morning Service (Lay led)	Cradley
Third Before Lent (BCP Septuagesima)	11:00 a.m.	Live-streamed Morning Service	Benefice
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
19 February 2025	6:30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer	Benefice
	9:30 a.m.	Shorter Mattins	Mathon
SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	Mattins (Lay led)	StorrIDGE
23 February 2025	10:45 a.m.	Parish Communion	Cradley
Second Before Lent (BCP Sexagesima)	6:00 p.m.	Live-streamed service of Evening Prayer	Benefice
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (said)	Cradley
26 February 2025	6:30 p.m.	Live-streamed Evening Prayer	Benefice

Church Services in March 2025

SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	NO SERVICE IN STORRIDGE	StorrIDGE
2 March 2025	9:30 a.m.	Live-streamed Service (Lay led)	Benefice
Sunday Next Before Lent	9:30 a.m.	Parish Communion (BCP)	Mathon
	10:45 a.m.	Church 4 All	Cradley

From The Registers

Funerals

2 January 2025	Simon John Oliver	Hereford Crematorium & Cradley Church
7 January 2025	Douglas Reginald Horne ('Doug')	StorrIDGE Church

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.



What does it mean to be ecofriendly? A few years ago, a friend of our family referred to our eco-warrior teenage daughter as a 'tree-hugger', which of course made her fuming mad to say the very least! Well, to be more level-headed about it, our understanding of being eco-friendly probably means something like 'living in a way that is not harmful to the environment'. If we're going to combat climate change and environmental destruction, action is needed from people at local level, but even more so from the big players – governments, industry etc.

Many people suffer from eco-anxiety, but *taking action* makes us feel we're contributing to a better future, and that makes us more positive and hopeful. Making changes in our lives, along with countless numbers of like-minded people around the world, will make a BIG difference!

But what can we do here in our sopping wet [frozen solid, at the time of writing] villages in Herefordshire?

Over the next few months, we'll be exploring ways in which we might make changes, and protect the beautiful world and home that God has given us. Much of it will be 'old hat', but some hints might be new to you, or at least a reminder, so, please stay tuned!

JOHN PARSONS

STORRIDGE CHURCH FLOWERS

- 1 February Mrs A Mosley
- 8 February Mrs A Mosley
- 15 February Mrs C Washbrook
- 22 February Mrs C Washbrook



MATHON CHURCH MATTERS

It was good to see such a large congregation at the service of Christmas Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 22nd December, including a number of children. Thanks are expressed to the Men of Mathon who sang the opening carol We Three Kings of Orient Are.

Thanks go to Nick Walker for organising the singing, to those who supplied the mulled wine and mince pies and to those who decorated the church so beautifully. It was most enjoyable.

Our Bellringers rang a Quarter peel before the service to mark Nick and Jan Walker's departure from Mathon and at the end of the service they were presented with a painting of Mathon Church, in recognition of their devotion to the parish for many years.

SP



Our New Year Turkey Dinner on the 7th January went very well and everyone enjoyed the Dinner and Fellowship.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th February at 2.30, at Phil Hilderley's, 1 Chapel Orchard, Cradley. The speaker will be Jill Southern, formerly a director of Prayer Ministries at Farnham. Jill now lives in Malvern.

We are trying to have a meeting from time to time in the afternoon, especially these cold winter days. Please come if you can as responses to prayers are absolutely exciting.

We look forward to seeing you and don't forget the change of time

.ALAN JAMEISON

POTHOLE OF THE MONTH

I thought you'd like me to return to the original subject of my monthly Pothole of the Month articles. A lot has happened in the world of potholes since I started writing, although very little to make you happy.

Rod Stewart was filmed back in March 2022 picking up a shovel to fill the potholes along a damaged road near where he lives in Harlow. He got into trouble over that. Rod has now stated that he may have to sell his five beloved sports cars because there are still so many potholes on the roads near his home.

He said, "People are bashing their cars up. The other day, there was an ambulance with a burst tyre, my Ferrari can't go through here at all". My heart bleeds, but when I tried to contact him, he sang, "I don't want to talk about it".

He might be interested that Lancashire County Council has begun trialing a process which aims to prevent potholes from reappearing. The technique, involving the use of recycled tyres, was deployed following last year's wetter than usual winter, which was blamed for a huge increase in highway defects. The new approach has helped the backlog return to what a cabinet report described as "usual levels". I'm sure that many of you would say that the usual level is definitely not what Herefordshire Council should aim at!

The warm rubber-based material used as part of the process waterproofs the area surrounding the filled-in hole. This removes the risk of fresh water seeping beneath the surface, causing it to open up again, thus ensuring a longer-lasting fix. The use of the new technique helped the council to exceed the repairs target that it had set for itself. In the first seven months of the year they achieved a 56% increase in pothole repairs compared with the same period last year.

Things could be worse; A Freedom of Information (FOI) request has revealed that a pothole reported to a council more than 10 years ago has still not been repaired. The 11-year-old road defect is in Hockley, which apparently has five of the 10 oldest potholes reported to Essex County Council. (I think some of the potholes in Chapel Lane are actually older...).

And finally, here's what was left after a pothole was repaired somewhere in Gloucestershire. Who cares about that C and that K? Just look at the state of that letter R!



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 Parish Hall Management Committee

Hire Rates

Mathon Parish Hall

** Minimum booking two hours

	Per Hour**	Per Day
Mathon Residents/ Organisations	£10	£75
Outside Organisations/ Residents	£15	£120

Rates effect 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

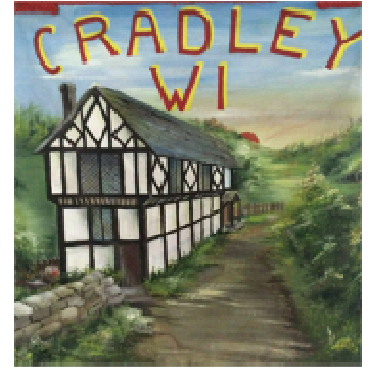
07964 376180

or email mar.ainsco@btinternet.com



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

CRADLEY WI



Cradley WI invites you to join us for a

Pancake Lunch

(in aid of our chosen charity)

Shrove Tuesday, 4th March 2025

12.00 prompt - 1.30pm

Cradley Village Hall



**Homemade soup with crusty
bread and delicious pancakes
with a variety of toppings**



(most dietary options available - please specify when booking)

Tea or coffee

Tickets £10 including raffle ticket

Advance Bookings Only

Please pay in advance by bank transfer (or cheque to Cradley WI)

OR on the day (Cash Only)

Please contact Ann on 01886 880042

or Lesley on 01886 880525

to book your ticket and for bank details.

Email: Cradley_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk for more information



CRADLEY WI

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2024 - 25

It was freezing outside the Village Hall as members arrived for Cradley WI's first meeting of 2025, thankfully it was slightly warmer inside! The icy roads, especially down Rectory Lane, did however, reduce the number of members who were able to attend.

We had a bring-and-share supper arranged but there was some business to complete before we were allowed to tuck in. Initially we discussed this year's four options for the national WI campaign before Lesley, our Secretary, collected our individual voting slips. Cradley's votes are added to those of all other WIs in Herefordshire before being forwarded to the national headquarters, where the final selection for a campaign is agreed. In a few months we will have the opportunity to vote again to find out if Cradley WI wishes to support the selected campaign, when it is discussed at the Annual Conference in June.

Sue, our President, then updated us on recent activities, particularly our successful stalls at the village Christmas Fair. It was agreed that following our fundraising we would make a further donation to our chosen charity for 2024, St Michael's Hospice, increasing our total donation during 2024 to £1000. We would like to pass on our sincere thanks to everyone in the villages who has helped us to raise this amazing amount by supporting our events.

Members were asked to suggest charities that we may consider supporting in 2025, and we will discuss this at the meeting in February. Sue also reminded us that 2025 is the 110 year anniversary of the UK WI, and we have plans to work with Cradley Wild to create 110 Planters for Pollinators throughout the village. Again, there will be more information on this at our February meeting – and from Cradley Wild, elsewhere in this magazine.

Ann, our Treasurer then gave a full report on our financial situation at the end of 2024. Treasurer is probably the toughest officer role in any WI. Ann has done a great job of keeping everything on track and providing clear detailed regular reports, in this her first year in the role.

Lesley told us of forthcoming events including the dates for the regular clubs, Coffee, Lunch, Supper and Book Club (did you notice the emphasis on food and drink there?) as well as talking about suggestions for trips in the summer months, and the opportunity to learn new crafts. We also discussed our – increasingly popular – annual Pancake Lunch, taking place in the Village Hall on Shrove Tuesday 4th March 2025, with a request for members to help out

on the day and to assist with making soups. Please see the poster elsewhere in the newsletter for details. Plans are also in place for another Cradley WI Skittles competition to win the Skittles Trophy!

At last, it was time for the bring-and-share supper. As usual with such an event, we had a great variety of home-made treats to sample, all served with tea and coffee, and copious amounts of chat.

Eventually Sue managed to get us back together for an auction of items donated by members. I think it's fair to say that some of the items were Christmas gifts requiring new homes! Lesley was our informal auctioneer – informal, as she actually made a successful bid for one of the items – and I'm not sure they're allowed to do that on Bargain Hunt! We raised more than £30, which will go to worthy activities.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 6th at 7.30pm. Our speaker will be Di, who is one of our members and is treating us to a second talk about her passion for Bee-keeping. It will be a great evening, so why not come along and see what we're about? You don't have to pay for your first meeting, but you'll be most welcome to join if you decide the friendship and support we offer is for you.

For more information please contact:
Cradley_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk

PAM MOSS, PRESS OFFICER

SUE HUMPHREYS, PRESIDENT



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN
CRADLEY WI
Established 1938

CRADLEY WI

Monthly Meeting

Thursday 6 February 2025
at 7.30pm
Cradley Village Hall

Beekeeping Adventures (Part 2)
With Di Hefferan

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

You will be assured of a warm welcome.

Your first meeting is complimentary.

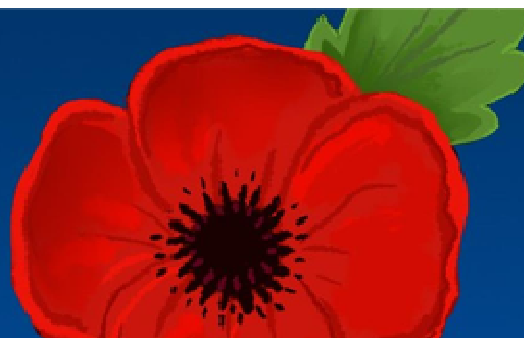


Cradley WI has many other regular members' activities and clubs to enjoy. We take part in other village and Herefordshire Federation activities and events too.

If you would like to know more about Cradley WI please contact -
Lesley Gregory, Secretary at

Cradley_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk
Or Sue Humphreys, President, 01886 880165

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB – EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Friday 21st February from 8:00pm

AGM
Annual General Meeting

The club committee would like to invite you to join us for our Annual General Meeting. This is your opportunity to have an input on how the club is run or share ideas for the future. We are actively seeking volunteers for the committee, so please put your nominations on the sheet posted on the noticeboard.

The rules regarding the AGM state we should not include Any Other Business nor include items raised from the meeting floor (16.2.5). However, we will take questions on the annual accounts and answer them if the information is readily available. Should you wish to raise any other matters to be considered for discussion, please forward them in writing to the secretary no later than the 15th of February 2024 by emailing cradleylegion@gmail.com **please arrive early to ensure an 8:00pm prompt start.**

Six Nations Returns from Saturday 1st February.



Join us for all the matches being screened on our large screen TV. We're open 30 minutes before kick-off with drinks offers running until the end of the match. Come along for that and the match atmosphere from the comfort of your own village club!

Ireland Vs England! Saturday 1st February: KO 4:45pm (open from 4:15pm)

Join us for round one as Ireland take on England live from Aviva Stadium

Saturday 8th February KO 4:45pm (open from 4:15pm)

England take on France live from Allianz Stadium Twickenham at 4:45pm, doors open from 4:15pm.

Saturday 22nd February KO 4:45pm (open from 4:15pm)

England take on Scotland live from Allianz Stadium Twickenham at 4:45pm, doors open from 4:15pm.

Sunday 9th March KO 3:00pm (open from 2:30pm)

England take on Italy live from Allianz Stadium Twickenham at 3:00pm, doors open from 2:30pm.

Saturday 15th March KO 4:45pm (open from 4:15pm)

Wales take on England live from Principality Stadium at 4:45pm, doors open from 4:15pm.

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

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

We look forward to welcoming you to all our events,

JOANNE
Club Secretary / Treasurer

ON THIS DAY

February 1st 1984: The Chancellor announced that the ½ p coin would be withdrawn from circulation as it was now costing more to make the coins than they were worth. It would cease to be legal tender by the end of the year. The treasury had previously argued that this might have an adverse effect on inflation as prices were rounded up. The cost of a second-class stamp was expected to rise from 12½ p to 13 p and a dog licence would rise from 37½ p to 38 p.

February 3rd 1998: In the Italian Alps an American military aircraft carrying out an unauthorised low-level manoeuvre hit a cable car line with its tailplane, severing the cable. A cable car plunged to the ground killing 20 foreign tourists. The damaged aircraft made an emergency landing at its base 60 miles away. The pilot was court-martialled but involuntary manslaughter charges were dropped. However, he was later sacked and jailed for 6 months for concealment of video evidence of the incident.

February 6th 2023: Two earthquakes measuring 7.8 and 7.6 on the Richter scale hit southern Turkey and also caused significant damage in northern Syria. At least 57,000 people were killed and 120,000 were injured. In Syria the civil war made the job of the rescue teams even more difficult. Much of the historic provincial capital Antakya was destroyed and an estimated total of 300,000 buildings were demolished. In some cases, substandard materials had been used in the construction process with the result that buildings were at higher risk of collapse.

February 10th 2005: Clarence House announced that Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles were to be married. The wedding was to take place on April 8th, with a civil ceremony to be followed by a service of blessing at St George's chapel, Windsor. At the time it was announced that when Prince Charles acceded to the throne Camilla would be known as the Princess Consort, not as Queen.

February 20th 1958: The government announced that the Royal Dockyard at Sheerness was to close. The first ever secretary of the Admiralty, Samuel Pepys, had established the dockyard in the 17th century after a Dutch fleet overwhelmed the defences at Sheerness and sailed up the Medway, destroying British warships moored there in 1667. By 1672 a fort and an adjacent dockyard had both been completed. Today Sheerness port mainly handles vehicle imports and exports, fresh fruit and forest products.

February 23rd 1923: The Flying Scotsman entered service with LNER. The locomotive cost £7944, is 70ft long and weighs 97 tonnes. Originally simply number 1472 it was renamed the following year for the 10.00 daily London to Edinburgh route, reducing the journey time to 8 hours. It was the first locomotive to be officially credited with reaching a speed of 100 mph. British Rail retired it from service in 1963. Since then the Flying Scotsman has changed

ownership and been restored several times. It has visited the USA and Australia where in 1989 it set a record for the longest non-stop run of 422 miles by a steam locomotive. It is now a working museum exhibit and the oldest mainline working locomotive in Britain.

February 27th 1953: The Spelling Bill passed its second reading in Parliament. The Private Members Bill was passed by 65 votes to 53. It proposed a feasibility study on the simplification of introducing a simpler version of English to make it easier for young children to learn to read. Spelling reform had been a passion of George Bernard Shaw who put up money to fund a competition to devise a simplified version of English. 72 years later, has anything changed?

February 29th 1984: Pierre Trudeau resigned after more than 15 years as Prime Minister of Canada. Rumours of his departure began circulating after he started building a swimming pool at his Montreal home. He was known to make full use of the pool at his official residence in Ottawa, so why would he need one at his home? He died of cancer at the age of 80 in 2000. His son, Justin Trudeau, also became Prime Minister of Canada, resigning in January 2025 after 9 years in office.

IAN THOMPSON

TEENY TOTS

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

CRADLEY SURGERY NEWSLETTER

Dr Peter Clegg

Dr Chris Spruce

www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk

Thank you

"We would like to send out a huge thank you to patients who very generously gave our staff, Christmas cards and Christmas Gifts. It was very kind of you and they were all much appreciated! We wish you all a healthy and happy New Year."

From all the team at Cradley Surgery.



Winter Pressures

We would also like to thank patients for their patience and understanding over the last couple of months, as we, (among all healthcare services) have had a huge increase in demand for appointments and medications. We have tried our best to accommodate all needs and hopefully we can look forward to a (slightly) calmer 2025.

In true Cradley style we have "Kept calm and carried on" and we appreciate your support as always.

Appointments

Urgent appointments are done via a triage system, our reception team will take a history, ask for symptoms etc. to get patients the appropriate clinician, it is likely to be a telephone call initially.

We offer URGENT on the day appointments with the designated Duty Doctor.

Phone us on 01886 880 207, Monday to Friday from 8am to 6.30pm.

When you call us, we will use the information that you provide to the receptionist to help direct you to the most appropriate health professional that can help you.

Please do not use our online consultations for urgent requests. Our online consults are responded to within 3 working days, this is why it is not suitable for urgent matters.

The Friends of Cradley Surgery (PPG)

We are really excited about lots of new ideas and ways for the Friends to become more involved in Cradley Surgery.

Thank you to our new and current committee members! If you're interested in becoming a member of our PPG, please write to Kirsten Jonathan (Chair of the PPG and practice manager) and address the letter to the Surgery with your contact details (an E-mail address is preferable as our meetings will be mostly virtual) or fill in an online consult stating you'd like to join!

We're always on the lookout for new members, watch this space for further information about upcoming meetings.

Staff News

Cradley Surgery have some very welcome additions to our reception team that we would like to introduce:

Firstly we would like to welcome the lovely Natalie who joined us in January.

We would also like to give a warm welcome to the delightful Lucy who has recently also joined our reception team.

Arriving on time for appointments

A polite reminder to our patients:

If for any reason you are going to be late for an appointment, please ring and let us know and we can inform the clinician that you are seeing.

If you do not inform us, you will automatically be marked as "did not attend" and you will have to rebook. You will be seen if you arrive within 5 minutes of your allotted time. After this, you will have missed your allocated appointment and will be asked to re-book.

We can ask the clinicians if they can still see you, however when a patient is late to an appointment, this pushes back everyone else's appointments or means that you will not get the adequate time required for your appointment.

It is up to the clinician if they think you still have time for a suitable appointment or if they would like you to rearrange.

Please try to arrive on time. If the check-in screen is not working please alert a member of staff as soon as possible, technology does fail us from time to time.



**Planters for Pollinators:
will you help make Cradley bloom this summer?**

As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, Cradley Wild is collaborating with the WI to create 110 planters around the village to celebrate 110 years of the WI in the UK. The aim is to raise awareness of the loss of insect-friendly plants locally, and to work towards remedying this by filling 110 planters with pollen- and nectar-rich flowers.

We can't do this alone so are calling on local people and local groups to pitch in to make Cradley bloom with flowers and buzz with insects. We are still in the initial stages of the campaign but would love to hear from any individuals or organisations willing to have a planter filled with pollinator-friendly plants in their front garden or on the roadside. Planters could be as small as a plant pot, a hanging basket, or a window box or something grander and more spectacular. Participants are to provide their own planters, but we hope to provide a starter pack and compost to help people get started. (If you don't have a planter handy, still get in touch, we may be able to help.) Each planter will be numbered, and prizes for the best will be awarded at the Food and Produce Show in September. More details to follow as they are confirmed.

We are really excited about this project and would love to get as much of the local community involved as possible. Ideally, every road and every corner in Cradley will burst into bloom! If you are interested, drop us a line at plantersforpollinators@gmail.com and help us to help nature.

Next Cradley Wild event: 13 February: Sally Webster, Verging on Wild

We are delighted that Sally has agreed to come and talk to us about the valuable work she and her team of volunteers are doing to protect and manage Herefordshire's roadside verges. Roadside verge flora, including plants like harebell, field scabious and ragged robin, is vanishing. The way verges are cut, and the increasing fertility of roadside soils means that they are disappearing and weed species increasing. This is bad news for wildflower species and the populations of bees, beetles and butterflies that depend on them, and for the birds who eat these invertebrates.



Sally will explain what Verging on Wild is doing to reverse the decline, talk about the successes so far, and give us pointers on what we can do to boost our verges in Cradley. She started Verging on Wild with two friends and the way it has grown and the effect it had is inspirational, as is she! Looking forward to seeing you there.

13 February, 7-9pm, Cradley Village Hall, £3 (includes tea and biscuits). Everyone welcome.

To contact Cradley Wild, email cradleywild@cradley.org.uk and look out for updates on cradley.org.uk/cradleywild

CLARE GOGERTY

**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 Storrige : 01886 884063

**Royal British Legion
Cradley Storrige & Mathon
Outside Bar**



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

Weddings, birthday parties, anniversaries, etc.



CRADLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our children have settled into Cradley School life well again after the Christmas break. We have lots of exciting learning and activities planned for this term, as well as some fantastic trips.

We do currently have spaces in some year groups, so if you would like more information, or would like to come and visit us please do contact the office on admin@cradley.hereford.sch.uk.

Wintry Weather



The children have thoroughly enjoyed the frosty weather we've been having lately. When it snows we embrace it and have extra playtimes!

Holiday Club



Over the Christmas holidays our Holiday Club was, once again, a huge success, both with children currently at our school and those from other local schools attending. Lots of different activities were on offer including tae kwon do, tennis and multi-sports. The children all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We will be running another Holiday Club during the Summer holidays so keep your eye out for booking information nearer the time.

Handy Person Required

We are looking for a Handy Person who lives locally and would be available at short notice to complete small jobs around the school, as and when needed. If you or someone you know could help please contact the office on admin@cradley.hereford.sch.uk. We would be delighted to hear from you!

Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a School Governor. For more information please contact the Clerk to the Governors, Di Merker, on dmerker@cradley.hereford.sch.uk.

MALAWI TALK

We had a very successful talk about our trip to Malawi last year. About 50 people attended the event in the village hall on a Sunday afternoon. Instead of charging an entrance fee, we asked for donations and raised £300 which was very pleasing. This will be divided between Help the Aged Wyvern and a project in Malawi.

We spoke about the population of Albino people that were being persecuted until not that long ago. Boots in Malvern donated £250 of factor 50 suntan lotion to take out with us to donate to this community. They suffer a high death rate due to skin cancer and are too poor to buy suntan lotion.

Malawi is the 11th poorest country the world. We donated an old laptop, some children's books, and two mobile phones for use by the local school in Northern Malawi. We also took cards and pictures that children at Cradley School had made. The local school did the same in return and we were able to bring them back for the children at Cradley School.

The trip was not without incident however. Unfortunately Ann fell on steps going into, not out of the bar! There were about four guests and three children in the bar area. An American nurse came and helped Ann, saying she needed stitches. It was agreed she could not go up the steps to the car and then be driven on a very rough dirt road to the Mission hospital. So in the end it was 'Bush Surgery'. One of the guests was an experienced General Surgeon at Mzuzu. He went to collect what he needed and brought back a friend who was a Trauma Surgeon! Ann had ten stitches in her head and three in her arm, whilst she tapped her feet on the bench to some African dance music, by way of an anaesthetic. Ann was extremely lucky to have 2 American surgeons to operate on her in the middle of nowhere.

We visited three wildlife parks during our trip and showed an appreciative audience in Cradley the pictures and videos we took of lions, elephants and other animals. If Malawi wants to increase tourism however they will have to increase their infrastructure. The roads are extremely poor and we travelled on rough dirt rutted roads for miles

It is a very friendly country and we were lucky to have a good guide and driver.

We would like to thank those who came, the people that helped us set up the presentation and those who helped with the tea and brought cake.

DEREK AND ANN CARVER



Nelson Mass - Haydn

Cantemus Igitur - Rory Boyle

Composed for our centenary year in 2020

with

Overture to Egmont - Beethoven

Laudate Dominum and Ave Verum - Mozart

Malvern Festival Chorus

Conductor Jonathan Brown

Soloists from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Soprano Louise Hales *Alto* Mairi McGillivray

Tenor Daniel Marles *Bass* Charles Murray

with Malvern Sinfonia

Saturday 8 February 2024 at 7 pm

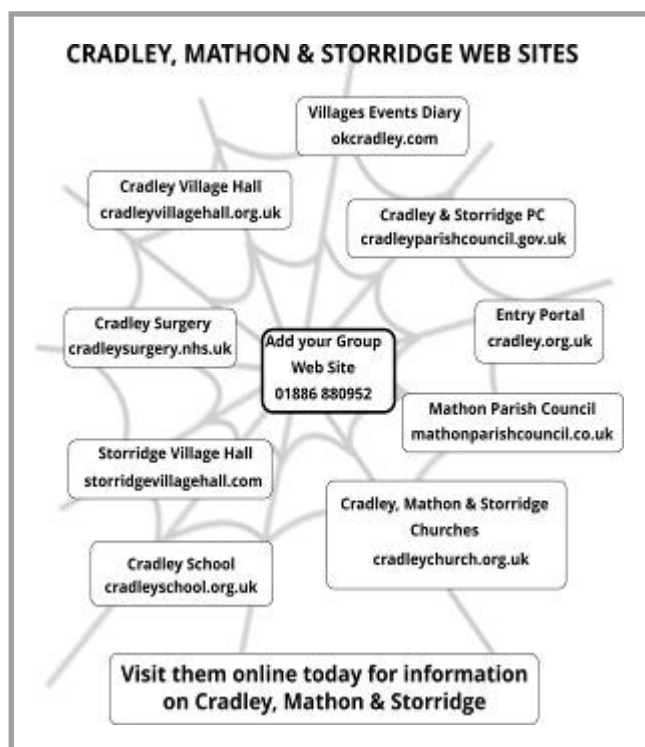
in Great Malvern Priory

Tickets £18 / £12 for 17-21s / 16 and under Free with paying adult

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EDCJ> and on the door



For more information visit malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk



NEWS FROM REBECCA TULLY

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Hello there

A quick update from me this month, it's been busy!

I'll be out with the locality steward (the Balfour Beatty liaison for our area) this week to at least 15 different locations, covering road surfaces, drainage, flooding and hope to get some action where it's needed. Thanks so much for your emails letting me know various areas.



I've joined the River Lugg IDB (Internal Drainage Board) whose catchment covers the Five Bridges section of the A4103, near Bishops Frome, which gets regularly flooded. My role is as county councillor, and I'm also learning more about what options are available for our local area.

I've been getting details on the access for residents and locals on the closure of the A4103 this month, and passing the clarity as best I can! From all your experience you've kindly taken the time to share I'll be feeding back the issues many of you had with communications. Many people very local to the closure had no letter, and letters were focused (from what I can see) mainly on deterring HGVs from attempting to get through. This is a good thing, but my suggestion will be that we needed a separate communication for locals.

I've spoken to the Parish Council about options for maintaining / reducing speed on both Cowleigh Road and through Cradley, and understand that in both places there will be 'SID's (displays that show the speed you're going) in place by March. I'm aiming next to speak to the West Mercia Police about other options, in the coming month.

I'm continuing with meeting residents at ward surgeries, usually on first MONDAY (Cradley) and first THURSDAY (Bishops Frome) of the month. I'll endeavour to help with anything I can. Rebecca.tully@herefordshire.gov.uk

Stay warm and dry,

REBECCA



CRADLEY, STORRIDGE & MATHON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SOCIAL CLUB

Bosbury Road, Cradley, WR13 5LT
T: 01886 880552

Opening Hours: Monday – Thursday, 19:30 – 23:00, Friday – Saturday, 19:30 – 23:30

Did you think that British Legion membership is not for you? Think again!

The Royal British Legion has been supporting service men and women, ex-serving personnel and their families since 1921. The RBL club in Cradley may well be your nearest and most active club, and there is no need to be ex-service to join.

The Cradley club regularly holds comedy, bingo, film, live music, and quiz nights. There are teams who compete in skittles competitions, and other amenities include snooker and pool tables, darts, and a large screen TV on which we show many major sports events.

There is a bar area where the drinks are reasonably priced, plus free off-street parking. Family events last year included Halloween and New Year's Eve parties. The club can also cater for special events and offers an outside bar facility.

The combined annual membership fee for both the RBL branch and the club is £30 per annum, and there is no need to be ex-service to join the club, in fact most members are not.

Pop in and find out for yourself! To discover what events are planned, please go to our Facebook page (#TheRBLatCradley) and for any membership enquiries or applications, please contact Kevin Rawle on 07929 225390, or email Lin at lindabrighton@hotmail.co.uk

**SNOOKER + POOL | FAMILY FRIENDLY
LARGE SCREEN TV | BAR AREA
QUIZ NIGHTS
FREE OFF-STREET PARKING**

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,

NEWS FROM MATHON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

7th JANUARY 2025 At 7.30 pm Mathon Parish Hall

Website: www.mathonparishcouncil.co.uk

Malvern Hills Trust - Mr D Baldwin gave a report to the meeting from Deborah Fox, the CEO of Malvern Hills Trust.

The Trust deposited its Parliamentary Bill on 27 November 2024. This follows 10 years of hard work on identifying the problems with its outdated legislation and identifying the best solutions. An eight week public consultation was taken during the summer in 2024 followed by an intensive period of considering and analysing nearly 500 pieces of feedback from members of the public and organisations. This in turn helped to inform the Trust's decision-making process. Changes were then made to the draft bill, some of which included: having a trustee as a named point of contact with each local area; improving the drafting of the proposed general power to address concerns as to how it could be used; removing the provision to allow fencing for animal health reasons; a six month break period between taking down temporary fencing for grazing; strengthening the language of the Bill to reflect concerns about licensing activities on its land which could lead to commercialisation. The petitioning period runs to 6th February. Anyone with questions or concerns is urged to talk to the Trust staff, email: info@malvernhills.org.uk. The Bill can be viewed on the Parliamentary website or a hard copy can be purchased from the Malvern Hills Trust Office.

There has been a noticeable increase in sheep worrying with some devastating consequences after a pregnant sheep was attacked by a dog. Livestock worrying is a criminal offence. Dogs should always be kept under close control and on a lead where grazing cattle and sheep are known to be. Tree safety works are also under way, and each year a third

of the trees near to highways, properties and car parks are inspected by a professional independent tree inspector. Tree management will be taking place at a number of locations. The Trust is also asking for donations to help support the response to tree disease.

Find out more via: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/MalvernHillsAshDieback>

CSO/Police Report - Nothing to report on the crime front in Mathon.

Resignation - The Chairman reported that he had received a resignation from Councillor Nick Walker, due to his move away from the Parish in January. The Chairman paid tribute to Councillor Walker who had worked tirelessly for the Council since his appointment in November 2001.

Footpaths - Nothing further to report on Footpaths. However, the Council is still looking for a Footpaths Officer. If you could be interested please contact the Clerk, Diana Taylor, details at the end of this article.

Highways - A number of new highways issues covering hedges/drains/flooding in Mathon will be reported to Herefordshire Highways. The Chairman and Clerk to liaise re map locations.

Cliffe Arms - nothing further to report at the moment.

Next Meeting Date - Tuesday 11th March at 7.30p.m. in Mathon Parish Hall.

DIANA TAYLOR (MRS)

Clerk to Mathon PC

Tel: 01684 569430 E-Mail:

dtaylormathonclerk235@gmail.com

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)

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

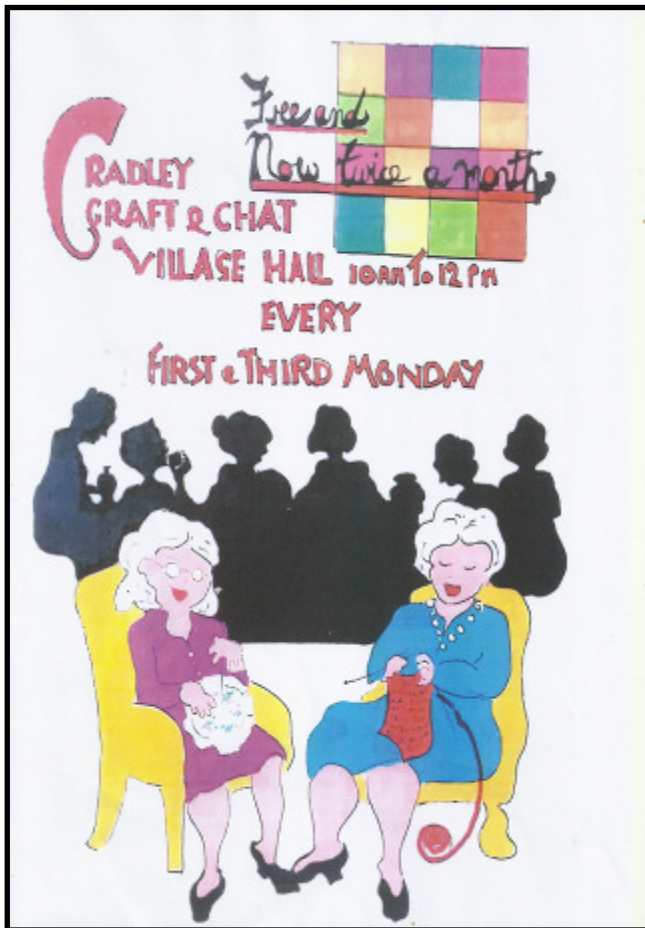
£10.00 per hour

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 CHURCHYARD

Many thanks, yet again, to the team of 30 volunteers who regularly mow the lawns and help harvest the hay. The hay was used by villagers and sheep in Cradley and Ledbury and the grass compost will be available for the 2025 WI/Cradley Wild planters project. In 2024 the old petrol mower was replaced by a battery model – much lighter and more ECO-friendly; I am relieved that it works so well.

On February 2nd, Candlemas, we will have cleared the Christmas decorations from the graves so, if you are tending any plots, please help to tidy them.

The yellow rattle sown last year in the summer meadow did not take, apparently the ground is too phosphorous-rich, but the quality of the hay seems to improve annually. Meadow flower mix, sponsored by Cradley Wild, was sown by the Lychgate and the poppies thrived.

The area for the proposed Garden of Remembrance just north of the tower continues to be developed. This area will be in addition to the burial plots and the ashes memorial area by the Lychgate and the west wall.

The Maclean & Clementina Maxwell graves were tidied for the well attended Housman society talk in September and a Worcester historian is showing interest in the Ayscough graves. If someone would like to help look after the historical graves in the churchyard please let us know!

If you would like to assist in the churchyard please contact me or anyone on the PCC. Many thanks.

TONY C.
07976 969537

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 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)

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ASTRO RESEARCH AND SPACE INDUSTRY NEWS

The Atacama Large Millimetre Array (ALMA), in 2023 imaged at high-resolution, the surface of the giant star R Doradus, 57 times the size of the Sun. Recent time-lapse processing shows giant gas bubbles gradually changing. The video is on the internet. See my previous article for the imaging of other giant stars.

A black hole, 9 times the size of the Sun, has been detected by the European Southern Observatories' Very Large Telescope (VLT) in the Large Magellanic cloud, a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way, 158,000 light years distant.

Astronomers have confirmed that some recently discovered very distant infrared sources are hotdogs! This is an acronym for Hot Dust-Obscured Galaxies. They contain lots of dust around a central black hole, causing huge thermal emission which obscures the visible star-light.

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has imaged an extremely distant galaxy in the very early universe. This is similar to our Milky Way, at the early stage of its formation and shows a string of stars forming close together. This imaging has been achieved because it is behind a cluster of massive galaxies creating a gravitational lens which distortedly magnifies and brightens the image beyond. It has also imaged a single field of view containing several gravitational lensed multiple-images of galaxies at between 7 and 12 billion light years away.

The Event Horizon Telescope consists of a number of radio telescopes distributed over the whole Earth, microwave-linked together to act as one very high resolution instrument. It was used a few years ago to radio image the accretion disk surrounding the 5.4 billion solar mass black hole in galaxy M87 and also the image of the accretion disk surrounding the 4.3 million solar mass black hole at the centre of our Milky Way galaxy. It has now mapped the rotation of their accretion disks, and found the Milky Way central black hole is offset with respect to the rotation axis of our galaxy. It is thought to be due to the assimilation of another galaxy into our own about 9 billion years ago with a black hole, one quarter the size of the Milky Way black hole, which merged together at that tilt angle. The Gaia position mapping survey satellite has identified streams of stars, from their motions in the Milky Way that came from that merger. Gaia, the hugely successful satellite, is running out of fuel and is soon to be retired.

A startup company, Interlune, has \$15 million seed funding for a prototype demonstrator to harvest and refine Helium3 from the lunar surface regolith, in order to bring it to Earth for commercially paying customers. It is to be tested in zero gravity on the international space station. There is a high demand for Helium3, which is very rare on Earth but common on the Moon. It is needed for the technology involved in quantum computing, and also as a catalyst for future nuclear fusion-based electricity generation. It could be supplied at a fraction of the current cost of \$20 million/kg.

The UK Space Agency has awarded funds to two consortia, Astroscale and ClearSpace to continue developing their servicing spacecrafts; to demonstrate

the removal of two UK satellites from low Earth orbit. There are currently over 9,000 active satellites in Earth orbits. This has increased near 30% in the last three years. There could be over 60,000 active orbiting satellites by 2030; currently 36,500 objects are larger than 10cm, 1 million between 1-10cm, and 130 million between 1mm to 1cm, typically travelling at an orbit speed of 8km/second. They are a major hazard.

China's reusable experimental spacecraft was launched last December aboard a Long March rocket from Jiuquan Launch Centre and successfully returned to Earth.

From measurements by NASA's Juno spacecraft, researchers estimate the ice crust on Jupiter's moon Europa is about 35 km, far thicker than thought. So its ocean below won't be warm enough for chemical reactions leading to organic life that the current NASA probe Europa Clipper, on its way to the Jovian system, is looking for.

NASA's Parker probe has been orbiting the Sun gradually closer and closer to the edge of the Solar Corona, in a very elliptical orbit, in order to spend as little time possible close to the Sun but still get data without overheating. The heat-shield temperature reaches about 1000°C and the electronics is briefly exposed to potentially damaging extreme radiation. In December it got to 3.8 million km from the surface, which is really close compared with our distance of 140 million km. The tenuous solar Corona is at millions of degrees, compared with the surface which is about 6000 degrees. We still don't fully understand why, and the data from the Parker probe will help resolve this. The Sun's rotation is slightly greater at the equator than at the poles. The internally-generated Solar magnetic field consequently spirals and twists, breaking up and reversing every 11 years. Magnetic loops are formed between the oppositely magnetically-polarised sunspot groups, twisting and creating huge electric currents which themselves form opposing magnetic fields, and at times of reversal, spring out huge Coronal mass ejections of electrons. If they hit the Earth's magnetic fields, as last year they cause Aurorae. A huge blast reaching the Earth's surface could kill all electronic communication devices.

Donald Trump has selected billionaire businessman self-funding astronaut Jared Isaacman as NASA's head administrator, who is already making controversial statements. Trump witnessed with Elon Musk the latest test firing of a SpaceX Starship rocket. The first stage was intended to return to the launch tower as was achieved previously, but that had to be called off and instead gently splashed into the ocean; the upper stage continued into orbit.

The Artemis III crewed Lunar landing has been put back to mid-2027 still just ahead of China's similar programme. NASA has a major reduction in government funding, and has been contracting out rocket and space-probe building to private companies. It has cut projects and jobs, and abandoned its mission plan for the collection and return of the Mars Perseverance rover deposited samples, due to the high cost.

Next time, possible fates of humanity!

CHRIS BADDILEY

CRADLEY BELLS

The original ring of six bells was installed in 1724 by Abraham Ruddell of Gloucester. Two additional bells cast by Taylors of Loughborough were added at the turn of the millennium to make today's peal of eight. To commemorate the 300 years the original bells have been rung at St. James, an extended quarter peal was rung on the original 6 bells on 21 December at 10:15am by a band of local ringers.



left to right:-
Neil Toussaint, Frank Seabright, Keith Anderson,
Sarah Macdonell, Chris Roberts, Anne Toussaint

A quarter peal normally consists of 1260 rows or changes. This was extended to 1724 changes to commemorate the 300 years. The composition is based on a method called Plain Bob Minor and was created and conducted by our ringing master Neil Toussaint. The commemorative ringing lasted just over an hour and hopefully was heard within the village.

If you are interested in learning more about ringing or if you fancy having a go at this ancient art that stimulates both brain and muscle feel free to contact Neil on 07981 268675 or myself Chris Roberts on 01886 884553. Alternatively, introduce yourself to us at the back of the Church whilst we are ringing.

CHRIS ROBERTS

Plant sale 2025

Following the success of last year's plant sale, the 2025 plant sale will take place on Monday 5 May.

Look out for further details next month.

WELL BEING
Relaxation Class

伸

Tai Chi & Qigong
Zen Practice
Gentle Stretching
Breathing Exercises

松开

WEDNESDAY
12-1PM
£8 per session
£6 O.A.P./Student
(Discount Block Booking Available)
@
Cradley Village Hall
Rectory Lane
Malvern
WR13 5LH

身心神

NO Booking Required
For Further Details
Call Kev 07725161178

**Cradley Mathon
and Storridge
Art Group**

We are a small group, meeting in Storridge Village Hall every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 2pm to 4pm.

Whether you are a beginner or already painting, please feel free to just turn up for a 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 contact Margaret on 07936051604 or:

See our new website:
www.cmsartgroup.org.uk

"If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced." – Vincent van Gogh

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, Ghana and Zambia.

First of all, 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! Please visit the TFSR website for stories of the huge difference that your donations are making to the lives of young people in some of the poorest countries on Earth.

We welcome donations of handtools for carpenters, electricians and mechanics and sewing machines for tailors. We also accept quality garden handtools, which we tidy up and sell to raise funds for the charity.

Right now, we are urgently looking for someone who might be able to host an OPEN GARDEN EVENT in the summer to raise funds and provide an opportunity for us to sell refurbished, quality tools that are not wanted by our projects in Africa.

Please call Martin on 01684 540491 to donate tools or give suggestions about open garden events.

Thank you.

MARTIN BLAMIRE
Chair of MHTFSR

NEWS FROM CRADLEY SINGERS

It seems a long time ago now that Cradley Singers performed their Music for Advent concert in Bosbury Church in early December...the festive season and a lot of weather has happened since then! However, we wanted to thank all the local villagers who attended for braving the storm and coming to listen. We hope you enjoyed the concert as much as we did.

Our next concert will be in Great Malvern Priory on 12th April at 7.30pm. Rehearsals are well under way for the performance of Joseph Haydn's much-loved "The Creation", to be shared with Bromyard Choral Society under the musical direction of Kate Cheetham.

Please email cradleysingers@gmail.com for more information.

Meanwhile, we are enjoying rehearsals in Cradley School every Wednesday evening and are looking forward to singing in the inspiring surroundings of the Priory.

VICKY GATLEY,
member of Cradley Singers

Our December's meeting was, as usual, our Christmas party. Business was kept to an absolute minimum so that our entertainment could commence.

We had invited a local Ukulele Band to provide that entertainment. They played a mixture of carols and Christmas songs and music from the 1960's. Before they started, they had distributed musical instruments to us all and we were encouraged to join in. Everyone enjoyed the evening immensely.

WI members had been asked to provide food for supper and the Ukulele Band members were invited to join us.

Our competition for the evening was to make a Christmas table arrangement. These were used to decorate the supper table which all added to the enjoyment of our members and visitors.

The only sadness of the evening was saying goodbye and thank you to our ex-president, Catherine Best. She has been in office too long for anyone to recall and has worked tirelessly throughout this period for us all. Her presence will be sadly missed, but she has promised to visit us for a meeting in the summer months. We send our very best wishes to Catherine and Geoff and hope that they will settle quickly into their new home.

We do not hold a meeting in January, but by tradition we meet for lunch on the second Thursday of the month. This year we made our way to the Bell Inn at Lower Broadheath where we enjoyed great food and great company.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 13 February.

JEAN DAVIES

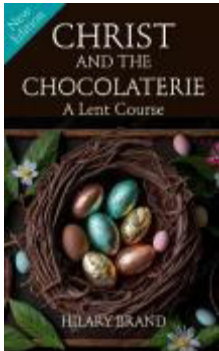
"WILL THIS HAPPEN TO US?"

The husband was falling asleep but the wife was in a romantic mood and wanted to talk. She said: "You used to hold my hand when we were courting." Warily he reached across, held her hand for a second and tried to get back to sleep. A few moments later she said: "Then you used to kiss me." Mildly irritated, he reached across, gave her a peck on the cheek and settled down to sleep.

Thirty seconds later she said: "Then you used to bite my neck." Angrily, he threw back the bedclothes and got out of bed. "Where are you going?" she said.

"To get my teeth!"

CONTRIBUTED BY CHRIS ORFORD



THE BENEFICE OF CRADLEY WITH MATHON & STORRIDGE

A Six week Lent Course written by Hilary Brand
CHRIST AND THE CHOCOLATERIE

On Wednesdays at 7.00 p.m.
from 5 March to 9 April
At Cradley Village Hall

Led by Jane MacFarlane BA(Hons), Lay Minister

Pre-course meeting – Wednesday 5th March

Watch the film *Chocolat* and hand out information

Week 1 of the Course – Wednesday 12th March

Giving up – the prelude to change

Week 2 of the Course – Wednesday 19th March

Giving out – the power of a gift

Week 3 of the Course – Wednesday 26th March

Getting wise – the possibility of change

Week 4 of the Course – Wednesday 2nd April

Getting real – the power of acceptance

Week 5 of the Course – Wednesday 9th April

Growing up – the process of change

Followed by a short Taize service

Each week we will look at different scenes from *Chocolat* plus Bible readings, discussions, meditation and prayers.

Followed by refreshments. Donations for 'Farming Minds', 'Tear Fund' and 'Médecins sans Frontières'

JANE MACFARLANE

Tel:07582 931158

email: jbthebirdsnest98@gmail.com

Lent Lunch dates:

Tuesday 11th March – Cradley Church

Tuesday 18th March – TBA

Tuesday 25th March – TBA

Tuesday 8th April – Cradley Church



DEMENTIA MATTERS HERE **fordshire**

Dementia Matters Here(fordshire) is a charity based in Herefordshire offering support and information to people with a diagnosis of dementia or MCI, and their carers and families. We are committed to raise awareness, build Dementia Friendly Communities, and deliver supportive and meaningful services across the county.

Our Services

Telephone Support Line

If you are worried about your memory, or you, or a loved one, has dementia or MCI, give us a call on **01432 804480 (Mon- Fri 9am-5pm)** to speak to an advisor for information, support or signposting.

Memory Cafes

A social opportunity to gain support through activity, and build friendships over a cup of tea and slice of cake, with professional advice always available. Get in touch for more information.

Carer Support Groups

Get together to share experiences, information and advice with likeminded people, alongside gaining support from a member of the DMH team.

One to One Support

Arrange for a home visit from a trained member of staff for an assessment of need, advice and information, as well as signposting to other services.

Care Home Support

Our Care Home Outreach Worker is available to support staff and residents within care settings in accessing dementia specific resources and advice.

CAMBUS & Life Stories

Our **Coffee And Memory BUS** visits Herefordshire villages offering support and advice with a cup of tea, with the opportunity to record your own Life Story using the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Life Stories Platform, assisted by our friendly Outreach Worker.

Community Development

We are working to create Dementia Friendly Communities, campaigning to raise awareness and prevention of dementia, and to highlight the benefits of early diagnosis. Community Development is about having your voices heard.

Meeting Centres

Our Meeting Centres provide support for people with dementia, and family carers, helping them to live well and to adjust to their changing needs.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP—CALL US

01432 804480
www.dementiamattershere.co.uk



Talk Community is department within Public Health at Herefordshire Council, and we have a network of Talk Community Champions. We would like to grow this by inviting people in your parish as great way of connecting with residents.

Do you have a passion for helping others and want to support your community by becoming a Talk Community Champion?

A Talk Community champion is someone who can support the wellbeing of those around them by sharing information and connecting people to services and support.

Perhaps you run the local playgroup or work in the village shop, and already have connections within the community? Maybe you're a local business and you'd like to find a way to connect your employees with information and advice, to help them to live healthier and happier lives; from supporting them to quit smoking to accessing advice around housing, or cost of living support. Or you might just be a helpful friend and neighbour!

All Talk Community Champions will be offered training opportunities, support, and guidance.

If you think this could be for you, or perhaps you would like to nominate someone you know, or to find out more, please contact the team on: talkcommunitychampions@herefordshire.gov.uk

LORNA WILLIAMSON

Talk Community Development Support Officer
Plough Lane | Hereford | Herefordshire | HR4 0LE
01432 383189

CRADLEY NEEDS YOU FOR THE 2025 POPPY APPEAL

The Poppy Appeal is the main fund-raiser for the Royal British Legion and their amazing charitable work done for serving and ex-Services personnel and their families.

Cradley, Mathon and Storrige need a new Poppy Appeal organiser to continue our village's contribution to the almost £50 million raised annually.

As an individual, or a representative of a group, club, or business you will help co-ordinate the Poppy Appeal in the wider Cradley area. The Poppy Appeal organiser can be a single person or group of 2 or 3 people working together.

PLEASE contact Darren Maynard, Herefordshire Poppy Appeal organiser at dmaynard@britishlegion.org.uk, or 07808263915.

TOM VAN VUREN

EVERGREEN CLUB

Hello everyone, welcome to 2025, a very cold start to a new year, hope you're all managing to keep nice and warm. The AGA and the wood burner have both been working overtime, and the woodstore is looking very depleted, but in this big old farmhouse we've kept really cosy. The birds are there every morning waiting for their winter treats and the ice to be removed from their water bowls. Let's hope this cold snap kills off some of these dreadful bugs that are going round. Hope you all had a good Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

The New Year didn't start off too well for Evergreen. The first meeting was due on Monday 6th January. The snow fell on the Friday prior to the meeting and it was very cold. I thought no way are we going to be able to have a meeting on Monday with the ice, snow and cold so rang round everyone to cancel. And what did it do on the Monday, the sun shone and the sky was blue, although it was still a bit nippy. It was disappointing, but I thought it was something that needed to be done.

Again, another disappointment, on Monday January 20th, we were due to go to The Royal Oak Broadwas for our postponed 'Christmas Lunch' due to a bereavement at the venue. I'm afraid it's had to be postponed yet again due to the imminent road closure of the A4103 and members' concerns about getting to Broadwas. However, it has been re-booked for Monday February 17th when I hope the weather will have improved and there won't be any more impending inconveniences.

No meetings to report on I'm afraid due to all these cancellations but, fingers crossed, we are hopefully meeting on Monday February 3rd at 2.00p.m. at Storridge Village Hall.

I would, however, like to thank everyone who helped at and organised the Sausage Supper on Sunday January 11th at Storridge, where we all enjoyed a fantastic supper, huge sausages, a wonderful array of glorious puds, cheese and biscuits and coffee, all for £10 !!!... and very pleasant company.

A little thought to finish on: -

"You are never too old to set a new goal, or to dream a new dream"

"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

Good health and great happiness to everyone in this New Year.

Speak soon, take care, lots of love.

CHRIS ORFORD
(club leader)

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 Storridge Art Group

PAINTING SKIES AND WATER in Watercolour

A workshop with local artist Ian Ridley
on Wednesday, March 5th 2025 10am – 3pm

at Mathon Village Hall

Cost: £24

Everyone welcome

If you would like to take part, please contact Margaret on:

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or doctorsmum@gmail.com



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Joy Perkins for Mathon : 01886 880301

Mary McQueen for Storrige : 01886 884063

NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE DATES

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

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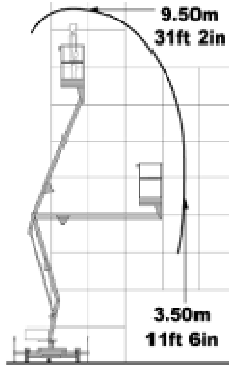
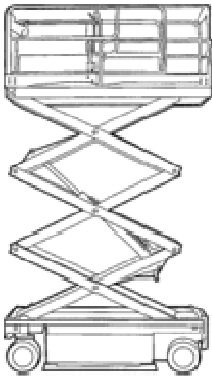


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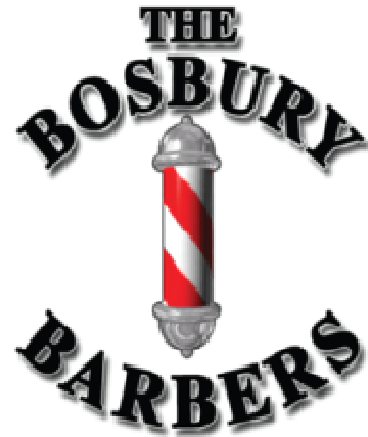
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THREE VILLAGES DIARY OF EVENTS 2025

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

FEBRUARY

- Sat 1 4.45 p.m. Six Nations: Ireland vs. England, Royal British Legion Club. Doors open at 4.15 p.m.
- Mon 3 10.00 a.m. Craft and Chat. Cradley Village Hall. Until 12.00.
- Mon 3 2.00 p.m. Evergreen Club meeting. Storridge Village Hall.
- Thurs 6 10.00 a.m. Exercise Class. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 11.00 a.m.
- Thurs 6 10.30 a.m. Teeny Tots Play Group. Cradley Scout Hut. Until 12.00 noon.
- Thurs 6 7.30 p.m. Cradley WI Monthly meeting. Beekeeping Adventures (Part 2) with Di Hefferan
- Fri 7 10.30 a.m. Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 noon.
- Sat 8 4.45 p.m. Six Nations: England vs. France, Royal British Legion Club. Doors open at 4.15 p.m.
- Sat 8 7.00 p.m. Malvern Festival Chorus, in Great Malvern Priory
- Weds 12 12.30 p.m. **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to postbox on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
- Weds 12 2.00 p.m. Cradley, Mathon & Storridge Art Group. Storridge Village Hall. Until 4.00 p.m.
- Thurs 13 10.00 a.m. Exercise Class. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 11.00 a.m.
- Thurs 13 10.30 a.m. Teeny Tots Play Group. Cradley Scout Hut. Until 12.00 noon.
- Thurs 13 7.00 p.m. Cradley Wild, Verging on Wild, Cradley Village Hall. Until 9.00 p.m.
- Fri 14 10.30 a.m. Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 noon.
- Sun 16 12.30 p.m. **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for copy of event notices and new advertisements (hard copies to postbox on wall of the Village Store, Bosbury Road, Cradley)
- Mon 17 10.00 a.m. Craft and Chat. Cradley Village Hall. Until 12.00 noon.
- Mon 17 Evergreen Club Christmas Lunch.
- Thurs 20 10.00 a.m. Exercise Class. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 11.00 a.m.
- Fri 21 10.30 a.m. Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 noon.
- Sat 22 4.45 p.m. Six Nations: England vs. Scotland, Royal British Legion Club. Doors open at 4.15 p.m.
- Weds 26 2.00 p.m. Cradley, Mathon & Storridge Art Group. Storridge Village Hall. Until 4.00 p.m.
- Thurs 27 10.00 a.m. Exercise Class. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 11.00 a.m.
- Thurs 27 10.30 a.m. Teeny Tots Play Group. Cradley Scout Hut. Until 12.00 noon.
- Thurs 27 10.30 a.m. The Leys Coffee Stop, until 12.00 noon.
- Fri 28 10.30 a.m. Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 noon.

MARCH

- Mon 3 10.00 a.m. Craft and Chat. Cradley Village Hall. Until 12.00.
- Tues 4 12.00 p.m. Cradley WI Pancake Lunch. Until 1.30 p.m.
- Wed 5 10.00 a.m. Cradley, Mathon & Storridge Art Group. Painting Skies and Water. Until 3.00 p.m.
- Thurs 6 10.00 a.m. Exercise Class. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 11.00 a.m.
- Thurs 6 10.30 a.m. Teeny Tots Play Group. Cradley Scout Hut. Until 12.00 noon.
- Fri 7 10.30 a.m. Mathon Get Together. Mathon Parish Hall. Until 12.00 noon.
- Sun 9 3.00 p.m. Six Nations: England vs. Italy, Royal British Legion Club. Doors open at 2.30 p.m.
- Weds 12 2.00 p.m. Cradley, Mathon & Storridge Art Group. Storridge Village Hall. Until 4.00 p.m.
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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 March issue will be Antonia Musgrove.
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