

APRIL 2020 Emergency Edition!

Details of cancellations, postponements and offers of help on following pages!

Lenten Ruminations.

Fed up with London's untamable busyness and rapidness, I desperately wanted out! At the time, I frequently dreamt of, and yearned to read on a hill where all I would see, would be greens occasionally dotted with whites – green hills, white sheep! My slogan then was, “*I just want to go up the hills and read!*” Life happened and four-and-a-half years later, I am writing this letter by a window, in a residential hall on Malvern Hills, with surrounding greens and, more dots than whites. Truly, West Malvern has granted me more fulfilments than reading on the hills amid greens, and white dots.

Moreover, she (West Malvern) has infused my life with an abundance of blissfulness, even through her animals too – her myriad of friendly dogs and cats, trotting horses, fleeing deer, vigilant pheasants, wary sheep, nipping rabbits and much more... Furthermore, I have lost count of the many dinners which I have been privileged to, since I joined the community in September 2015. The awesome conversations and lifelong friendships which did result from such dinners, remain tremendously enriching to me, a once frustrated and reclusive Londoner. Consequently, “*I am grateful!*”, will forever remain my huge understatement! Nevertheless, I am grateful, especially for the *sacrifice* many have made towards these *sumptuous* dinners, in the *soul-nourishing* conversations which ensued as we dined, and in the friendships too! *Sacrifice...*

April 2020 launches itself within the penultimate week of *Lent* – a period often synonymous with *sacrifice* among a number of West Malvern residents. Likewise, some Christian denominations consider Lent to be a period of sacrifice (abstinence, fasting) when their members, solemnly prepare for the celebration of Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection – Easter. Noteworthy is the fact that the Christian faith is founded on Jesus' sacrifice! Therefore, an apt question for this period would be “*What can my sacrifice be?*” or even less complex or daunting, “*What can I do?*” From experience, I have discovered that a warm, and non-fictitious smile enriches the human soul much more than a dozen well-crafted pleasantries ever could. Thanks to the very many friendly smiles of West Malvern residents!

So, for this period of Lent, I aim to make my smile more genuine and infectious. I strongly believe we all can do the same! May our smiles remain beautifying and enriching to all within and beyond the West Malvern community! Happy Easter! **Leo Nduwueze Ezeogu On Leo: see p.12**

2.

THE LYTTTELTON WELL Café and Bookshop(Tel: 573702): The Well is keeping going for the time being, but looking for new ways to fulfill some of its crucial functions.

The Lyttelton Well Counselling Service: If you know of anyone who might feel they need counselling, they can contact the service on Malv. 563456, weekdays 9.30-4.30.

H2O Café – at the Malvern Hills Geocentre (at the Wyche), Locally sourced homemade food. Run by Jamboree, a cooperative of adults with a learning disability.

Currently closed.

Sugar Loaf (Tel: 588971)

Sugar Loaf Shop still open Monday - Friday 10:30-2:30 until further notice. We have fresh milk daily, bread, eggs, butter and cheese and other food items. We will also have some fresh fruit and veg.

If you are unable to come to the shop we have volunteers ready to deliver shopping to your home.

Stay well everyone, and we look forward to serving you. Pauline and Emma 01684 588971

Malvern Cube Garden Café Albert Road North - just a few minutes from the library, optional outside seating overlooking our beautiful Peace Garden. To check on present position: Website www.malverncube.com

Computer tuition for all ages and abilities, given in your home. Tuition to meet your specific requirements,

using your own computer and software, given to an individual or a small group. Perhaps you want to learn something new, or to develop your existing skills further. Over 20 years experience teaching children and adults, and working in the local area (ex-DERA computer scientist). EDBS checked as a STEM Ambassador. Specialities include Apple, Linux, Raspberry Pi the internet and networking, and all versions of Windows. Please get in touch and let me know how I can help you. For further information, email Mark at: tuition@ancientwoodland.org.uk

3.

We wish everyone in the village and beyond a Healthy, Happy Easter, and do remember the Easter message: Beyond tribulation there is new hope and new life.

Services in April are now as elsewhere suspended, but St James's will remain open for private prayer and we commend to you this prayer for the present times:

Almighty and All-loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we pray to you through Christ the Healer
for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19
here and across the world.

We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn
the loss of each and every person who has died as a result
of contracting the disease.

Give wisdom to policymakers,
skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,
comfort to everyone in distress
and a sense of calm to us all in these days
of uncertainty and distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
who showed compassion to the outcast,
acceptance to the rejected
and love to those to whom no love was shown.

Amen.

Details are also now becoming available of various "virtual" services and events, locally and nationally.

A regular short Sunday morning service at 10.30 has been set up via a telephone conference: the Editor can email details if you haven't had them yet.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting was scheduled for Sunday 26. – we await alternative arrangements

4.

Silverfish Designs: Handmade Contemporary Silver Jewellery

Pop in and see Carol at work or visit the gallery for lunch or tea!

At: The Little Studio, Blue Ginger Gallery, Cradley (wed – fri)

www.silverfishdesigns.co.uk or 01886 880006 (studio) for details.

ABBEYFIELD WHISTON COURT. Not-for-profit assisted living, where people come first.

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Whiston Court is a quality new assisted living development for the over 55's in Worcester, built for Abbeyfield Worcester Society Ltd, a charity dedicated to the needs of older people.

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All ages, beginners to advanced. Classical, jazz, folk, blues.

Mary Pitchford LRAM GRSM

07769 299138 mspitchford@hotmail.com

“Greenlink 2”

Visit the new zero waste shop at Cowleigh Road, WR14 1QD! Open

Tues 10-7, Thurs 10-5, Sat 10-3 – all organic; food and cleaning products etc. Take your own containers or buy their reusable bags and glass containers. It's in addition to the organic shop and cafe

Greenlink in Graham Road. Highly recommended (Ed.)!

(If you are in Worcester there is a similar centre in the Market Hall in the Shambles...)

West Malvern Village Hall 100 Club: Support your village hall with a chance to win cash! Admin: 100club.wmvh@gmail.com

Tel: 574007

Malvern Hills Repair Café: (10.00 am – 1.00 pm third Saturdays, Quaker Meeting House, Orchard Road. Very busy early on, come a little later if possible!) **Currently suspended!**
themalvernhillsrepaircafe@gmail.com.

Messages from various groups in the shut-down!

The Village Hall Committee: Any enquiries our website is www.westmalvernvillagehall.net, or call the Secretary - 891650. All Hall bookings and enquiries to Jen Close - jenclose2@icloud.com 100club: wmvh@gmail.com

Garden Club: Contact – Helen Tudge is the Club Secretary; she can be contacted via Hills Echo Editor.

West Malvern Voices will be singing solo for a while...

West Malvern Friends of Majani Mapana: We had hoped to invite you this April to our annual charity update with photos and accounts of Alison Wright's and Emma Jackson's visit last October to our link primary school in Tanzania. However, given the current circumstances we must now postpone this to a future date - more details here when things become clearer. For further details contact Catrin Osborn on 01684 569220 meredith.catrin@gmail.com

Better News!

- Carol of Feast (see advert inside front cover) plans to take orders and deliver 1/2 times a week.
- The farm shop Roots at Rushwick is looking to construct a website with a view to taking orders.
- The Village Variety Show raised over £500 for charity, and the Friends of St James's have received a lovely thank you card on behalf of the Primary School over in Tanzania.

6.

MINI ADS! (Email the Editor to be included gratis!)

1. Wonder Woman of West Malvern Cleaning & Gardening Services. Call or text Kerry on 07811441321.-

2 The Ledbury Pet Co. Natural & ethical pet supplies. Free delivery to West Malvern 01531 634834

www.TheLedburyPetCo.co.uk

3 Plasterer/Decorator: Patrick Pugh, Tel: 574325

4. Holiday Cottage W Malvern: FULHAMFISH@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: Old carpenter's work bench with vice. Offers invited
564050

If anyone has a bass drum and foot-pedal for sale, please contact Mary on
01684 564050.

Malvern Hills Beauty on Westminster Bank

Step into Spring with our fabulous new offer: Express Facial and Express Pedicure just £29.00. Get a free mini make-up when you book this offer. Treatment time 75mins.

Phone the salon 07854171540 or visit www.malvernhillbeauty.co.uk

Landscapes, Seascapes, Flower Paintings and more can be created for you for special occasions, birthdays and so on. Ideal gifts!

Kathryn Burnham, BA Hons. London-Goldsmiths

Contact Tel: 563700

West Malvern Playgroup is at the Village Hall 10-12 every Friday (in Term time). Please come along and meet a friendly bunch. £1:50 entry per family. This includes a cuppa for the grown ups and snack for the little ones. **Will resume when possible!**

A Word from the Editor, the Hills Echo:

Well, dear readers, this is the strangest edition of this magazine I have ever been called upon to compile, as it is so much about what is not happening in the village. It is not yet clear when the next edition can be produced – if you have a view on this do email me! What does cheer me up, in nearly complete isolation like so many others, are the many offers and schemes to help one another locally.

From now on please email in copy AT ANY TIME, then I can try to judge when a next issue is viable. Stay well! David Matthews Tel; 567328 email: matthews.greenbank@virgin.net

West Malvern Village Show

Many thanks to everyone who performed or helped back in March. Over £500 was raised for charity, shared between the Friends of the Church and the Primary School's link with Tanzania.

Also: "Can anyone find my silver reindeer brooch? Lost between Dirtworks cycle shop and the Village Hall on the night of the Village Varieties. It is about an inch high and two inches across. Small reward offered! Contact Mary Constable 572437.

Brewers Arms (Tel: 302761)

Our village pub will need all the support we can give it once normal life starts to resume...

AD
Empty

WEST MALVERN WI

At our March meeting, Howard Robinson, a direct descendant of Oliver Cromwell, delivered a fascinating talk about Oliver Cromwell and the Battle of Worcester. Cromwell was prominent at a pivotal point in our history; a man of the people believing in the 'great cause' of ruling with the consent of parliament. It is undisputed that he was an inspirational army leader and battle strategist, and an establisher of Parliamentary supremacy over the monarchy. Howard set out to educate us as to the complexity of Cromwell's life, army career and political role, seeking to disprove many misconceptions about him.

Charles 1st, the last English King ever to set foot in the House of Commons, through his arrogant refusal to give way to any of Parliament's requests, effectively signed his own death warrant.

The English Civil War first saw fighting at Powick, then Marston Moor and Naseby, where Cromwell was made Captain of Horse and had now trained his New Model Army. The second phase saw campaigns in Wales, and the Scots changing sides and invading England. Cromwell was not actually involved in the 1648 decision to have Charles tried for 'Treason against the people' but gave his sign and seal to the King's death warrant. Charles II was then crowned King in Stirling and fled to England with his army of 16,000, whilst Cromwell had an army of 25000 when approaching Worcester on 22nd August 1651. The fighting in Worcester was vividly depicted - from the strategic manoeuvres by the Parliamentarians such as the building of the bridge of boats across the Severn and The Teme, and Cromwell's meeting with the devil (when he supposedly asked for 7 more years to complete his mission, and died 7 years later to the day, September 3rd). The King's men were decimated by a decisive pincer movement and Charles II fled north. Two years later Cromwell became Protector of Parliament. He died in 1658 leaving the grounds laid for a restrained monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. It was to the crucial battle site of Fort Royal Hill, where Cromwell had the captured guns turned round to bombard the city, that John Adams and Thomas Jefferson came in 1786 and berated the people of Worcester "And do Englishmen so soon forget the ground where liberty was fought for?. All England should come in pilgrimage to this hill once a year."

We all hugely enjoyed this vivid and enlightening talk, learning not only more about the real Cromwell, but also gaining an appreciation of the role that Worcester played during a key moment in history.

You can email us westmalvernwi@gmail.com

10.

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horwoodlucy@gmail.com

Malvern Independent Bookshop on Red Lion Bank off Belle Vue Terrace. There's a wonderful range of books - and they serve drinks and delicious cakes, too. This is our bookshop, so do support it! And look out for the great programme of special evening events! Tel: 01684 564788

The Virus!! - When help is needed:

Catherine Bower and the Parish Council have set the ball rolling and we have a list of “good neighbours” who have given us a telephone number that anyone in West Malvern in difficulties can ring them up (for getting food, medicines etc) and they will help if they can. Anyone with such a request can also go through me as Editor of the Hills Echo, and I can be reached on 01684 567328.

Here are the numbers of those who have made this kind offer and are happy to have their telephone number in the Echo:

891650 – 568474 – 562222 – 07721758356 – 07712184448
565301 – 07850914487 - 303985

If you wish to discuss this initiative with Catherine she is on 01684 891650, or catherineinharmony@hotmail.com.

Also our two Councillors, Natalie McVey and John Raine, have prepared a very helpful leaflet, which you should by now have received, or will do soon!

On a Happy Note:

On May 7th, Colin Hammond, who has lived all his life in West Malvern, celebrates his 90th birthday. Colin was involved with the local British Legion Club for over 65 years before its closure last year.

Later in May Ann Girling will celebrate her 100th birthday. She has lived in Brockhill Road and been involved with St James’s Church for over 60 years, attending services regularly until she gave up driving last year. Ann began driving during the Second World War, as a driver for the government.

Congratulations to them both!

12 . On Leo, from Page One : Currently, Leo is a Masters by Research student in Theology at Regents Theological College, West Malvern. He has been part of the West Malvern community since September 2015. Leo was born in the United Kingdom but grew up in Western Africa – Nigeria. However, he has been back to, and based in the United Kingdom for close to two decades now.

IN MEMORIAM: We remember with thanksgiving Elsie Tandy, formerly of West Malvern, who died in February, and Annette Whittaker (nee Baker), formerly of West Malvern, who died in March, and send our love and sympathy to their families and friends.

Also:

Older residents of West Malvern may remember Gordon Ruck who has sadly passed away in Australia. Gordon grew up on Lamb Bank with his parents and sister Winnifred. In the early sixties he married Viv and they stayed on Lamb Bank in Chetwynd. After the birth of their daughter Joanna they then moved to Tewkesbury where they lived for many years; later they briefly lived in Worcester then moved to Kempsey. Following Viv's death in 2003, Gordon moved to Australia with Joanna and her family. He had not been well in recent years but passed away peacefully at the age of 87. From Sue Onions (nee Hodges), Gordon's niece."

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May:

The Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection has also been cancelled, but Christian Aid Week will still happen. Christian Aid are working on ways of keeping in touch online etc. The Christian Aid website has a very helpful article about the present situation. www.christianaid.org.uk

St James's Church

Deacon: Rev. Rosemary Herbert, 572497

Warden: David Matthews, 236 West Malvern Rd. 567328

**As we are for the time being without either a Vicar or a Curate:
For enquiries on Baptisms, Weddings, Banns of
Marriage, or any church or pastoral matter, please contact
either David Matthews or Rosemary Herbert.**

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