

# WHEATLAND NEWS

October 2025



Middleton Scriven Church - ready for the Wedding

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News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 parishes  
around Ditton Priors, Stottesdon and Highley

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# Editorial

## Roberta “Bobbie” Jarvis

Bobbie died in the early hours of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025, after a year of great difficulty and pain.

A wonderful lady who gave unstintingly of herself wherever and whenever it was needed. A steadfast and faithful friend.

This month, for the first and last time, I am taking on the task of assembling Wheatland News single-handed, with no wise person keeping me on the straight and narrow and picking up my errors and other typos. Our Editorial Zoom meetings, which replaced the Real Thing and monthly lunches here in Shrewsbury because of Covid, have been a feature of our lives for a long time now, both of us trying to work out how to arrange the content so that we make the most of the budget for colour pages, and to make it a good read. If we succeed in the latter, it is thanks to all of you, and the contributions that you make – thank you all very much indeed. And thank you too for the way in which everyone has rallied so that there will actually *be* a WN this month, despite the absence of our two pivotal people, Bobbie and Chris.

The funeral of Chris Tibbits, who, with his wife Clare has been a mainstay of the Stottesdon parish and benefice, and of WN, for a long time, took place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

We expect to include obituaries of both Bobbie and Chris in the November edition.

CCJ –  
WN typist



*Bobbie receiving the Order of St Ethelbert from Bishop Richard, for service to the Diocese, in 2022.*

*And more recently with Dot and Revd Joe in All Saints' Church, Neenton*

### Wheatland News Local Coordinators

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below.

The deadline for getting your contributions for the **November 2025** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025**. Please, please help us to help our printer and our distributors so that we get WN to you in good time each month.

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# Diocese of Hereford

## October letter from the Archdeacon of Hereford



Harvest - as I drove out of Hereford, I was struck by the hard work that is going on in the countryside around the city. Straw is being collected from the fields, in some places silage is being cut and in others harvesting continues. When we were in Devon the celebration of Harvest took place across our villages from the end of August through to early October. Here in Hereford the pattern is similar, and our rural multi parish benefices are now beginning to celebrate Harvest.

The modern harvest festival celebrations that we know today was introduced in the Cornish parish of Morwenstow in 1843 by Revd Robert Hawker. Hawker was quite the eccentric and also on occasions was reputed to have dressed up as a mermaid! He invited his parishioners to a Harvest service as he wanted to give thanks to God for providing such plenty. However, this was to counter the festivities and merriment of much more ancient pagan celebrations, and he was keen to turn his parishioners towards a Christian celebration of harvest. The Christian Harvest celebrations that Hawker wanted to connect with were based on what he saw in the Old Testament, and he drew on the Jewish festival of Sukkot or feast of Tabernacles.

“You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the first fruits of your labour, of what you sow in the field.  
You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of  
your labour.” Exodus 23:16

Even today with modern farming methods It is still an opportunity to give thanks to God for his provision for us and an opportunity to share with generosity the riches we have received. Paul was very clear in his teaching that generosity begins in our hearts and is a reflection of the gratitude we have towards God for what he has done for us. Generosity is not something we have to be coerced into but instead it is something freely given. We perhaps need this reminder because our wealth and belongings ultimately belong to God, and we are simply stewards of what we have.

“So, I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift  
you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. The point is this: whoever  
sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one  
must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful  
giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:5-7

Our harvest services should reflect this attitude of generosity because it points to what is at the heart of our faith that God has given us new life in Jesus freely and without condition. This is the grace of God at work in our lives. However, as Christians we are also called to work in God’s harvest field. Jesus in his teaching told the disciples that they were called to be labourers in the Kingdom.

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like  
sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;  
therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”  
Matthew 9:36-38

As disciples we are called to share the good news of the Kingdom and to help bring in God’s harvest of new followers of Jesus. These are the disciples that Jesus calls us to make in the Great Commission, and it is part of our role not simply to make converts but to mentor and coach the next generation. We need to see the harvest not just in terms of crops, fruit and vegetables but as a spiritual reality that sees us offer the story of Jesus to a world in need.

Ven Derek Chedzey  
Archdeacon of Hereford

## Bishop Richard's Weekly Video Message

This week, Bishop Richard reflects on Jesus's example of hard work within the rhythms that God has set for His creation – what that means for us, and for our clergy.

You can watch the video on the Hereford Diocese page of YouTube, and on the Diocese website, where there is also a transcript.



## Caring for God's Acre:

### Putting your meadow to bed for the winter!

It's often thought that encouraging wildlife into churchyards or cemeteries is a case of leaving them to go wild and stopping management. Actually, this is not the case. Many of the species and habitats found in burial grounds have been present for the decades or even centuries that this special place has been cared for. These plants, animals, birds and fungi will have been

widespread in the farmed landscape of the past. If you want to maintain or increase wildlife in your local churchyard or cemetery then the best thing to do is to continue this traditional work rather than making a big change and leaving things unmanaged. Most churchyards are a mix of grassland with individual trees or groups of trees which can be thought of as small woodlands. There may well be some patches of scrub as well. It is the grassland that needs regular management if it is not to change its character, and we can look to the history of churchyards for clues on how to do this.

We know that churchyards were kept open and accessible as they were always important community spaces, used for outdoor services, for archery practice, markets and fairs as well as for burial. There are records of a hay crop being taken which formed part of the vicar's stipend and of grazing after the hay was cut. For much of history, grass was an important energy crop, so a meadow would be cut at the height of its growth in summer, when the bulk of the nutrients are above ground, and any cut grass would be dried as hay, raked up and taken to feed animals in winter. Small patches of meadow, such as that found on verges and in churchyards, might not seem worth 'farming' now but would have had value back in the day. The wonderful shows of wildflowers that we see in our churchyard meadows are made of plants able to thrive in these conditions, able to survive cutting and grazing. Meadow plants tend to be perennial, these can survive the winter, often living for many years. Perennials do not actually need to flower or set seed although doing so will allow them to increase in number. There are a few meadow plants that are annuals and don't survive over winter but these, such as yellow rattle, tend to flower early prior to the hay cut, so can grow each year from the seed that has fallen.

Another difference between old fashioned systems and our modern world is mowing machines. These are relatively recent inventions and have become more efficient over the years, able to cut grass really short and very uniform. Again, if you want to increase the flowers, pollinators and wildlife generally, having a slightly longer sward, perhaps cut less often can make a big difference as short-stemmed plants like clovers, daisies, cat's ear and speedwells can then flower. Things were generally less tidy in the past. As well as a more uneven sward, there would have been edges and corners that didn't get cut, so places for animals to withdraw to following grass cutting, and to shelter in over winter. Thinking in this way can help to make meadow management easy to understand.

Let the grass grow long for 3 or 4 months over the spring and summer. Follow this by a summer cut and rake (you can make hay if you like or just remove the cut grass). Don't worry about cutting flowers: the plants will survive, and some

species may regrow and flower again. N.B. If you don't want to cut particularly late flowering species such as scabious or knapweed, then cut the bulk of the meadow and leave some flowery patches till later on.

Keep grass short over the autumn and winter, the time when it might have been grazed in the past. You'll probably use a mower for this. Again, do not leave grass cuttings in situ, try to collect them all up and remove for composting.

Remember that, as far as nature goes, we are now a bit too tidy! Set the mower blade high and leave some rough edges or corners. These tussocky corners will contain coarser grasses such as false oat grass and cocksfoot, plants with hollow stems such as hogweed and dead flower heads – all really good places for insects, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals to hide, hunt and hibernate over winter.

So what can you do in October? Not much actually. The hard work should be over! You can make sure that all meadow areas have been cut, raked and are now short, ready for the winter, and can leave any rough corners and dead flower stems as they are, rather than being messy they are a vital resource for the winter.

**All the best, Harriet Carty**      **Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor**

Readings for October	
<b>Harvest Readings for all Services of Harvest Thanksgiving</b>	Psalm 100. Deuteronomy 26. 1 – 11; Philippians 4. 4 – 9 or Revelation 14. 14 – 18; John 6. 25 – 35
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b> Sixteenth after Trinity Green	Canticle: Lamentations 3. 19 – 26 or Psalm 137 (or 137. 1 – 6 or 37. 1 - 9 Lamentations 1. 1 – 6: or Habakkuk 1. 1 – 4; 2. 1 – 4; 2 Timothy 1. 1 – 14; Luke 17. 5 - 10 <b>Harvest Readings</b>
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b> Seventeenth after Trinity Green	Psalm 66. 1 – 11. 111 Jeremiah 29. 1, 4 – 7; or 2 Kings 5. 1 – 3, 7 – 15c; 2 Timothy 2. 8 – 15; Luke 17. 11 - 19 <b>Harvest Readings</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October</b> Eighteenth after Trinity Green	Psalm 119. 97 – 104. Or 121 Jeremiah 31. 27 – 34; or Genesis 32. 22 – 31; 2 Timothy 3. 14 – 4.5; Luke 18. 1 – 8 <b>Harvest Readings</b>
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b> Bible Sunday - Last Sunday after Trinity Green	Psalm 65 (or 65. 1 – 7). 84. 1 – 7 Joel 2. 23 – end; Ecclesiasticus 35. 12 – 17 or Jeremiah 14. 7 – 10, 19 – end; 2 Timothy 4. 6 – 8, 16 – 18; Luke 18. 9 – 14 <b>Bible Sunday Readings</b> Psalm 119. 129 – 136; Isaiah 45. 22 – end; Romans 15. 1 - 6; Luke 4. 16 - 24 <b>Harvest Readings</b>
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b> Fourth before Advent Red or Green: Gold or White if All Saints' Day is celebrated today	Psalm 149 Daniel 7. 1 – 3, 15 – 18; Ephesians 1. 11 – end; Luke 6. 20 - 31

# Brown Clee Benefice

**Priest-in-Charge - Revd Joe Simons**

The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ  
01746-599217      07872-464276



**St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill and Loughton**

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Mark Smith: 01746-712394

**St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell**

CHURCHWARDENS:

Anne Preece: 01746-787237

Ben Upton: 07870-160039

**St Giles', Chetton**

CHURCHWARDEN

Sheila Millington: 01746-789443

**SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North**

CHURCHWARDENS:

Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676

Jane Bufton: 07716-877421

**All Saints', Neenton**

CHURCHWARDEN:

Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093

## October Reflection

In our lives we are constantly bombarded with challenges, and these can, if we allow them, push us away from our belief in Jesus and his power to save us. But God's dedication to everyone who believes in Jesus and follows his teaching is absolute and consistent.

Faith in Jesus is not and never will be an insurance policy against bad things happening to us, I know that is true in my life and just about everyone that I know. I suspect that even those that don't seem to suffer, if you search or wait long enough, the challenges will come.

In fact, Jesus spelt it out to his disciples that they would have to face difficulties and even death.

But the good news is that no one will be able to separate us from the love of God, this is the truth that St Paul declares to us in his letter to the early church in Rome when we read in Romans 8.38-39.

*'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*

There are times when we as believers may wish to forsake God and that can happen to any of us, but I urge you, however dark the road may seem or however bereft you may feel turn into God and rest in his arms knowing that he is there for you now and throughout eternity.

God is a firm foundation, and he will not let you down.

*Revd Joe Simons*

## From the Registers

### Funerals

- † 27<sup>th</sup> August – Anthony John (Tony) and Sarah Bryan – Interment of Ashes at St Giles', Chetton
- † 17<sup>th</sup> September – Dilys Marion Betty Butler – St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors

## Services in Brown Clee Churches during October

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

11:00 am	Revd Joe's Service of Installation and Holy Communion, led by Archdeacon Fiona Gibson. Followed by Light Refreshments at The Pavilion.	Ditton Priors
5:00 pm	Harvest Thanksgiving, followed by Auction, Light Refreshments & Mini Scarecrow Competition with prizes.	Aston Botterell

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October

9:30 am	Harvest Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Harvest Thanksgiving, followed by lunch at Church House, Chetton, by kind permission of Charles & Lisa Gill. Please let Lisa or Sheila know if you would like to join in.	Chetton
6:00 pm	Harvest Thanksgiving, followed by Light Refreshments.	Wheathill

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October

9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
4:00 pm	Harvest Thanksgiving, followed by Light Refreshments at The Pheasant.	Neenton
6:30 pm	Harvest Thanksgiving, followed by Light Refreshments.	Loughton

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Bible Sunday

10:00 am	Group Holy Communion	Chetton
6:00 pm	Harvest Thanksgiving, followed by Light Refreshments.	Cleobury North

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – All Saints' Day

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell
4:00 pm	All Souls' Commemorative Service of Reflection	Ditton Priors

### ALL SOULS' SERVICE

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025 at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors, at 4.00pm

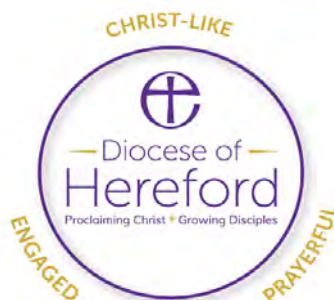
This year we will again be holding our 'All Souls' Service' to commemorate and hold in our memories those we love but see no longer. We will be getting in touch with all those for whom we have contact details, who have lost loved ones over the past 18 months.

We would be so grateful if you could let us know of anyone you feel would like to hear from us (and you have their permission to do so). It is such a comforting and special Service and brings great comfort to all who attend. During the Service candles are lit by families and friends, or, if you would rather, sit quietly we will light the candle for you.

Afterwards if you feel able to stay, light refreshments will be served.



## Brown Clee Benefice News



**On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025, Revd Joe will be installed as full-time incumbent for the Brown Clee Benefice.**

The service will take place at St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors and will commence at 11.00am. It will be led by Archdeacon Fiona Gibson and will be followed by light refreshments.

We would be very grateful if you could inform your PCCs and Congregations. Please could you confirm with Emma if you are able to attend to give us an idea of numbers for catering.

Thank you so much.

## Wheatland Diary – October

**Please see online edition for full Diary**

Wed	1	Oct	DP Ladies' Friendship Group – DP Pavilion, 7:30 – 9:30 pm – see page 14
Sat	4	Oct	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 13
Sat	4	Oct	The Elderly Brothers – Soft Rock and Supper, Chetton VH
Sun	5	Oct	Harvest Festival and Sale – especially for Children – Aston Botterell – see page 13
Tue	7	Oct	Brown Clee Surgery PPG, Ditton Priors VH, 6:00pm – see page 12
Wed	8	Oct	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Annual Meeting
Wed	8	Oct	Coffee Morning for Severn Hospice – Damson House, Middleton Scriven – see page 26 & back
Fri	10	Oct	Country Evening at Cleobury North VH – see back page
Sat	11	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors – see page 13
Wed	15	Oct	Men's Breakfast – Ditton Priors – 8:30 am – see page 10
Wed	15	Oct	Charity Quiz Night – The Pheasant, Neenton – see back page
Fri	17	Oct	Middleton Scriven Harvest Festival Supper – see page 25
Fri	17	Oct	"Building a Chelsea Garden" Brown Clee PPG for Garden project – see back cover
Fri	17	Oct	Middleton Scriven Community Supper – 7:00 pm – see page 26
Sat	18	Oct	Daddy's Hat – Saxon Fire at St Mary's Church, Jackfield – 3:00pm – see page 27
Tue	21	Oct	Local Air Crashes – DP Local History Group, Ditton Priors Village Hall, 7:00pm – see page 12
Wed	22	Oct	Village Meeting – Future of the Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon – 7:00 pm – see page 24
Sat	25	Oct	Quiz Night – Aston Botterell – at the Boyne Arms – see page 14
Sat	25	Oct	Breakfast at The Down – 9:00 am – see page 17
Fri	31	Oct	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14



### In Praise of Emma

**Behind every good vicar is someone to keep them in order** - And with Revd Joe that is our very own Emma Haywood.

Emma does not just supply the admin for us all in the Benefice she provides pastoral support, a welcome smile and the best cakes. The importance of having administrative support to release us to focus on Mission was highlighted by the Diocese.



### What a lovely time we had for Ride and Stride on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

We decided to walk from Loughton Chapel to Wheathill Church and the rain held off, in fact it was a perfect afternoon to enjoy all seven churches, each one looking fine and welcoming.



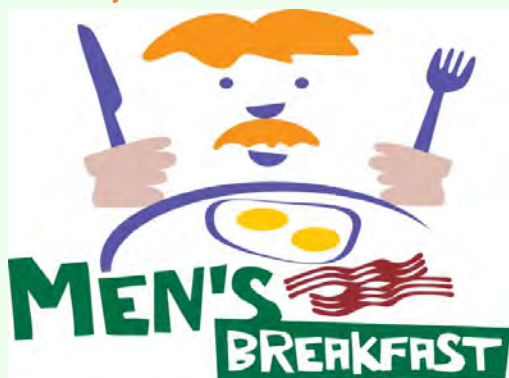
**A huge Thank You to Brown Clee Young Farmers Club** for their generous donation following our joint Bingo Night at Cleobury North Village Hall.



Emma, Charlotte and George are seen here presenting Revd Joe with the cheque.

We are now looking forward to the very popular Carols on the Street event where Brown Clee Benefice hosts Brown Clee Young Farmers' Club to raise money for their charities and bring all the community together for a joyful celebration. Put the date in your diary:

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at St John's, Ditton Priors.



**'MONTHLY MENS BREAKFAST'**  
Alternating between Chetton and Ditton Priors, for fellows to meet up and chat in a safe space provided by the Church.

... Time to share, time for prayer and some time to spare ...

The next Breakfast is at:  
The Old Vicarage, Ditton Priors.  
8.30am Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October

Please contact Revd Joe on 01746 599217  
[browncleebenefice@outlook.com](mailto:browncleebenefice@outlook.com)  
if you are interested




**Remembrance Services in Brown Clee Benefice**

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on the **9<sup>th</sup> of November**

As St. Peter & St. Paul's Church is undergoing extensive building works on the roof, our Service will be held at both Cleobury North Village Hall and outside around the Memorial at the Church.

The Service will commence at 10.15am.  
Further details to follow.

3.00pm Service of Remembrance - Ditton Priors

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

10.45am A simple Service of Remembrance - Neenton

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

2.30pm A Service of Remembrance - Wheathill

## Autumn

*Anni Holden Calver writes:*

A tiny bit of Matthew Arnold's poem Rugby Chapel which sums up Autumn quite well I think. A very popular Victorian poet, he was the son of the famous Headmaster of Rugby School.

The autumn-evening. The field  
Strewn with its dank yellow drifts  
Of wither'd leaves, and the elms,  
Fade into dimness apace,  
Silent;

Yes we are in October and it really is Autumn now. Those winds that brought down all those leaves last month were just playing with the seasons. Now we have a month which slowly gets darker each day, until that brief respite when we award ourselves, that short-lived lighting on the last Saturday/Sunday night of October (27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>).

So what might brighten our lives through this 10<sup>th</sup> month of the year that used to be the 8<sup>th</sup> month (octo gives it away) but survives anyway in a very colourful way. We see trees turn from green to shades of amber, orange and ochre. Mushrooms pop up and falling leaves hide animal activity around us. For the Churchyard Task Team it's still a time for cutting back, making wood piles and scything in the right places.

The saints can help us out a bit too. There are many churches dedicated to St Francis, one of the best known, being the patron saint of animals, and who's not an animal lover? We have few dedicated to him locally but across Europe he is probably top of the Saints parade! He is remembered on the 4<sup>th</sup> October but he is also a reminder that Christmas is not too far away, Why? Because he invented the Christmas crib scene - he put some figures outside his home in Greccio with the help of his friend, Friar John. Many life-like cribs appear all over the world today and many a home brings one out to mark the festive season. (I have a lovely crib I bought in Palestine on one of my trips to there, working as a journalist.)

Later in October we also have St Luke, the patron saint of doctors and best known for writing one of the four gospels. He is also associated with St Luke's little summer, a weather phenomenon which sees a brief spell of warm temperatures around his feast day on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Let's hope it happens this year!



# Brown Clee Patient Participation Group

*Tina Ranson writes:*

## Members working with the Practice

The final PPG open meeting of the year is on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October** starting at 6.00 pm (instead of the normal 7 pm). Dr Bassett will join us with an update from the Practice.

This busy meeting will start with the AGM and the formation of a new committee. The Open meeting will follow, and this is likely to finish earlier than usual to allow for a meeting of the volunteers who are going to help in the logistics for the major **'flu vaccination clinic being held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**.

On this day 60 patients per hour will come to the clinic and the Practice wants to encourage patients not to use the shop car park, but instead to park and walk – the Pavilion and Village Hall car parks will be available. This will keep the spaces at the Practice for those who have mobility issues. Volunteers will help to guide traffic and give information and assistance as needed.

**To join the PPG or ask about any matter** please use [browncleeppg@gmail.com](mailto:browncleeppg@gmail.com) or ask the Surgery for a phone number.



## Ditton Priors Local History Group

*Robin Greenwell writes:*

### “My Days at the Depot!”

It was wonderful to see a 70-strong audience at the village hall for the latest Ditton Priors Local History Group event on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Our guest speaker, John Hughes, provided an illuminating insight into life working at the Depot in the 1950s, liberally peppered with some very amusing stories of the characters he worked with!

91-year-old John entertained us for almost an hour, then spoke to a number of people who had relatives, or knew people, working at the depot around the same time; some bringing their own photographs to show him and share their memories.

We are most grateful to everyone who came along, your support for our events is hugely appreciated. We would also like to thank David Rann, who came along to video the event, and of course our guest, John Hughes, along with his wife Mary, who travelled from Tenbury Wells to be with us.



## **Next Event: Air Crashes on England's Deadliest Hill. 7pm, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, Ditton Priors Village Hall.**

Our guest speaker Patricia Hodgkiss has had a lifetime interest in wartime aviation history, since being bombed by the Luftwaffe as a babe in arms in Birmingham. Her research into crashes on and around Brown Clee led her to establishing the memorial in memory of the many airmen lost on England's deadliest hill.

**Everyone welcome. Members and under 18s Free, non-members £4.**



# Ditton Priors News

*Marjorie Jones writes:*

**October** promises to be an extremely busy month. We need to be in our gardens, planting and preparing for the winter months, but will there time for this? Most importantly, in our Church we have Revd Joe installed as our Benefice Rector, closely followed by Harvest Celebrations and Thanksgivings in all our seven Churches.

## First Saturday Coffee Mornings

Continue, from 10am - 12noon in Church on Saturdays 4<sup>th</sup> October, 8<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December. There is no charge for this popular community event and everyone is very welcome.

## Ride & Stride

Thanks to all who took part. There is still time to sponsor and to pay in your monies.



## Open The Book

Our little team were welcomed into Brown Clee School on 10<sup>th</sup> September for our first visit of the new School year. We told the story of The Creation. Our next visit will be on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

## Residential Homes

Our last visit was on 20<sup>th</sup> September, to a warm welcome, and we look forward to continuing with our Services on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

## Harvest Supper

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 5.30 for 6pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £15 each from Marjorie Jones (01746 712 423).

## Harvest Eucharist

✝ Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am

## All Souls Service

✝ Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 4pm at Ditton Priors Church.

## Remembrance

✝ Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 10.15 am at Cleobury North

✝ Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 3pm at Ditton Priors Church

✝ Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2.30pm at Wheathill

## Forward Notice:

- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm at Ditton Priors, Switching on Christmas Lights
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 11am, Christmas Fair at the Pavilion at Ditton Priors
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 4pm, Christingle at Ditton Priors

## Cleaning rota for October

- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October Mr & Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd

## St John the Baptist 100 Club results for August 2025

- £20 Becki Ratcliffe
- £10 Ellie Walker
- £5 each to: Pam Gennard, Carol Griffiths, Vandra Walton

## Friends of St John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors

**Thank you** to all our members for your continued support. We have updated our pamphlet, and you will be approached shortly by someone from the committee for your donation. If anyone is wishing to become a member, please contact one of the following;

- Debbie Lowe 01746 712368 or 07773 181877
- Pippa Martin 07581 073474
- Helen Groves 01746 712466 or 07969 526445
- Marjorie Jones 01746 712423
- Ruth Jones 01746 712029

## Ditton Priors Ladies' Friendship Group

Formerly Burwarton and District Wives group .... is welcoming new members. Come along to our first monthly meeting of the year on 1<sup>st</sup> October at the Pavilion 7.30 – 9.30. This is a social meeting with refreshments, you will make new friends and catch up with old ones too. We look forward to seeing you! - Jo 07837-048525

## Burwarton & District WI

We have an interesting programme for 2025 with speakers, social afternoons and outings and would welcome everyone to come and have an enjoyable time with us. We have monthly meetings at Cleobury North Village Hall on Tuesdays, from October to March at 2.30pm and from April to September at 7.30pm. Visitors pay £3. For more information, please ring Helen Groves on 01746 712466 or e-mail me on [groves.helen5@gmail.com](mailto:groves.helen5@gmail.com)

## Wheathill & Loughton News

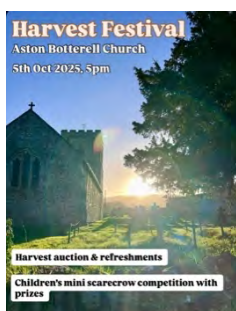
*Marjorie Jones writes:*

### Next services

- ✝ Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October – 6:00 pm Harvest Service at Wheathill
- ✝ Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October – 6:00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving at Loughton (Rev'd Joe)
- ✝ Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November – 2:30 pm Remembrance at Wheathill

## Aston Botterell News

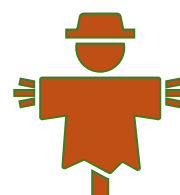
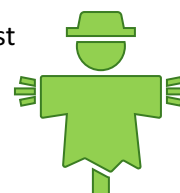
*Anne Preece writes:*



**Harvest festival on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm.** Please come along to this most joyful of services, with harvest hymns and prayers, then light refreshments and our fun sale with Tim with the hammer..... We would like children to come along to banter with Tim for their produce...

We have a competition for the children to bring along .... **A MINI SCARECROW** approx 2 feet high to be judged on the evening. There will be a prize. So get your thinking hats on and surprise us.

Can everyone help where they can please with refreshments ..... produce for sale ..... help clean and decorate church ..... it all helps ... thank you .. we have 4 apple pies for sale already ... jam etc and sweets for the kids.



**Quiz Night** - on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October - £19 to include food – some may not want food – to be held at the Boyne Arms at 7:00 pm. Teams of 4, Ben will host as Quizmaster. And there will be a Raffle!

Anne says - I have a **mystery trip** going on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October .. info from Anne on 07966459806.

Finally, **thank you** to those who took part in the Ride and Stride and it was lovely to have so many visit our church and a bonus was that we had a visiting group of bell ringers who rang the bells for 15 minutes. Thank you again for all the helpers and donors: we are so grateful to keep our church looking lovely and support its upkeep.

## Neenton News

*Dot Cartwright writes:*

### Bobbie Jarvis

We were all very sad to hear of Bobbie's passing. She was many things to many people. She was dynamic, witty, friendly, kind and caring. She was always there when people needed her, always thinking of others before herself. She will be greatly missed by many. **May she rest in peace and rise in glory.**

### Church Services

✝ Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 4:00 pm – Harvest Celebration

**Neenton's Harvest** this year is on 19<sup>th</sup> October at 4.00pm, followed by refreshments at The Pheasant with some of Mark's lovely beef stew. **Donations would be appreciated for Bridgnorth Food Bank**, and they can be left at the church porch on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

If anyone would like to **help with decorating the church**, it will be open from 2.00pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Please contact Dot Cartwright on 07854 559474 if you would like to help.

Thank you.

#### All Saints' Tote

We will catch up with announcing winners as soon as possible.

**Charity Pub Quiz** – 15<sup>th</sup> October (see poster)

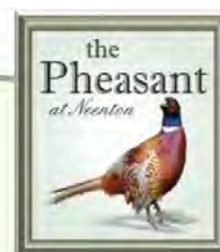
**Steak Night** – 24<sup>th</sup> October – phone for details

**Fireworks night** – 6<sup>th</sup> November - free entry, doors open 5:00pm, fireworks at 7:00 pm

#### Usual opening times:

- Wednesday / Thursday – 12 noon – 3 pm, 6 pm – 11 pm
- Friday / Saturday – 12 noon – 11 pm
- Sunday – lunch – 12 noon – 4:30 pm

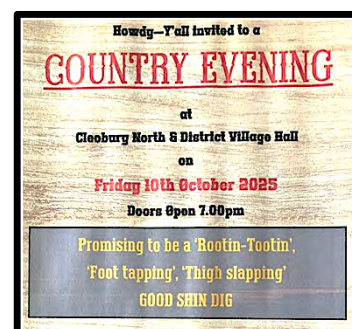
Please call 01746-787955 or email [info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk](mailto:info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk) to discuss times and your requirements, or book direct on our website.  
<https://pheasantatneenton.co.uk>



## Cleobury North & District Village Hall

*CNVH Management Committee announces ....*

**A Country Evening to be held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**, with Line Dancing, delicious food, bar - and then lots more dancing! **See big poster on the Back Cover of this WN!** Tickets are £18 from Julia at CN Village Shop.



# Cleobury North & Burwarton News



*Jane Bufton writes:*

**Please do come along to Harvest Thanksgiving** on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00pm. Light refreshments will follow the Service.

**Please note that**, due to the upcoming building works at the Church, the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November may need

to start and finish in Cleobury North Village Hall. Please watch the pew sheet, notice boards and Facebook for updates.

On **Tuesday 2nd December** there will be a **Coffee Morning** from 10.30am – 12.30pm at The Old Rectory, Cleobury North in aid of the church roof. There will be a raffle, tombola and lots of delicious cakes. Any donations for these stalls will be gratefully received.

**A lovely start to December.**



**Cleaning and Flowers** – October – Penny; November – Glenys & Barry; December Penny & PCC.

## Burwarton & District Garden Club – here we go again!

*Bev Harris – Secretary - writes:*

October is an exciting time for the gardening club as it is the first meeting of the new programme. The format for the year remains the same, but we have some new and exciting speakers to look forward to. Our first speakers on October 9th are Jill and Alun Whitehead, who live and work on Aulden Farm which is in a very small hamlet in Herefordshire. The property dates back to the mid-17th Century, Jill and Alun purchased the property in 1996 with a plan to develop a garden on the 3 acres surrounding the farmhouse. After much hard work the house was refurbished and a plan for the garden was drawn up. They now have a beautiful garden that is home to a wide variety of plants, wild and cultivated, and an abundance of wildlife, together with a thriving business. Self confessed plantaholics Jill and Alun, have over the years developed a depth of knowledge especially of irises. In 2007 they acquired a collection of Siberian Irises and they now own a National Collection.

Jill and Alun offer a wide range of talks including how they developed their garden and business, Irises and on a selection of gardens including in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Cornwall. So it was difficult deciding which talk to choose but I went for: Coast to Coast via Gardens by Car! which is Jill and Alun's leisurely alternative to Wainwright's idea. We are looking forward to seeing and hearing about the amazing gardens that they have experienced and noting some destinations for future trips away. In November Katie Briggs Thomas, who has a small flower farm based in Monkhopton near Bridgnorth, will be telling us about her mission to help reduce the carbon footprint of cut flowers by offering beautiful blooms locally. Katie is going to tell us about her journey from bush perfectionism to cut flowers at her sustainable farm in her talk; 'From Lady Gardener to Flower Farmer'.

February's speaker is Nancy Lowe, an RHS qualified organic gardener, ecological garden designer, permaculturalist and writer with a passion for sustainable and eco-friendly gardening. Nancy grows food, makes beautiful wildlife gardens and writes with an infectious joy for all things plant related. Nancy's talk; The secret Life of the Soil, will give us an insight into what goes on beneath our feet. Our final speaker in March is Samantha Hopes, initially a geologist who became more interested in plants than rocks and so became a student at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and Pershore College and then moved to RHS Garden Wisley, specialising in Rock and Alpine plants. She has worked at Kew, Great Dixter and alongside John Massey at Ashwood Nursery in Stourbridge. Samantha's talk 'Plants with a story' promises to be fascinating.

Get in touch!  
[burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com](mailto:burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com),  
07933-724728.



# Chetton News

Sheila Millington writes:

## Church services in October

✝ Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October – 11:30 am – Harvest Festival

**Flowers and Cleaning** – Pam and Ersilia.

## From the Registers – Burial – Tony Bryan.

Anthony (Tony) Bryan. Tony was born in Chetton and always kept his links to the area. We send our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends. Put to rest with his wife Sarah who passed away in 2010.

## Friends moving on....

A very special group service was held at Chetton on the last Sunday in August, where we presented Mike and Sue Teague with a gift from the Benefice for all the incredible work they have done during their time amongst us.

Mike has been a steadfast member of our Church in Chetton for many years, always there to help organise, rely on, encourage, and generally "do"! During the last vacancy he was a tower of strength and did an incredible job with the general admin and drafting adverts. He formed our wonderful choir who have treated us to some special performances over the years.

Sue re-formed the bell ringers and took on the job of Tower Captain until her shoulder forced her to retire. She also updated our Churchyard records which was a mammoth undertaking, scrolling through hundreds of names and dates from the registers. We can now access them digitally. Alongside this, she has been very understanding about the amount of time that Mike has spent helping our Benefice!

We will miss them both very much at Chetton, but wish them lots of good health and happiness in their new home.

**On to future events.** We have our **Harvest Festival** on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am. We welcome you all, also this is followed by Harvest lunch at Church House, courtesy of Charles and Lisa.

We are holding our first **Down Breakfast** of the Autumn on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 9am.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm there will be a **Wine and Canapes evening** at the Hills, The Down, kind permission of Mr & Mrs David Mottershead. This should be a lovely informal evening so please come along, tickets £12.50 each. For all these events please contact Sheila or Lisa.

## Chetton Village Hall

### Flicks in the Sticks

We are not showing a film in October.

On **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**, we are hoping to show, 'Blue Hawaii' or the Elvis biopic from 2022, featuring Tom Hanks. Depending on film rights.

**Please note the change of evening.** We are able to show during the week now our volunteer projectionists are working nearing home.

## Chetton Village Hall

### Chetton Active Friends – exercise and recreational sessions

#### Village Hall Diary for 2025

- Pam's Pilates on Mondays and Tuesdays 9:30am, and also on Tuesdays 11:00am.
- Chetton Active Friends, Monday afternoons from 2pm.
- Chetton and Glazeley WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.
- Zumba with Lisa Beards – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm
- Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm.

Village Hall enquiries – for activities or hire, please contact Sue Bayliss on 01746-789239.



# The Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw - [Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com](mailto:Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com)

Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister - email [D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk),

Tel 0980-100-9693 (mobile) or 01746-861121

St Mary, Higney

CHURCHWARDEN

Canev Clayton

St Mary, Billingsley

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

St Peter, Chelmarsh

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

St Bartholomew, Glazeley

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

## Glazeley News

*The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:*

**Glazeley now has a new heating system!** The old, wall-mounted heaters were becoming increasingly problematic, with around half the elements not working. They have now been replaced by under-pew heaters which are much more effective than the wall heaters. We are very grateful to the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust for a grant to allow this work. We were also supported with a grant administered by the diocese specifically for new heating.

Lyn Parnaby left her **local history exhibition** up for much of August and this attracted a lot of interest. It provided a fitting back-drop for our Patronal festival in August (ie St Bartholomew's Day). St Bartholomew's Day is often associated with the massacre of French protestants in 1572; we marked the day with a cake and sherry.

Our **harvest festival** on 21<sup>st</sup> September was well attended; we are especially grateful for the support from Chetton. I



would like to thank all who helped prepare the church, provided produce and flowers and assisted on the day. Refreshments included home-made cake and pork pie as well as sherry. The font looked spectacular with a display of grapes.

*St Bartholomew's font, decorated with grapes for harvest.*

The monthly **Breakfasts at the Down** have resumed, organised by ourselves and Chetton, Please contact Marion Corfield ([marion.corfield@talktalk.net](mailto:marion.corfield@talktalk.net)) or myself ([d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto:d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk)) for details. September went very well, with people staying to talk long after all breakfasts had been eaten. See page 17.

## Billingsley News



*Revd David Poyner writes:*

We had our final evening service of the year on September 14<sup>th</sup>, our harvest festival. Despite torrential rain all afternoon, nine of us turned out to celebrate the somewhat difficult harvest this year. The decorations in the church relied a lot on local apples; the fruit trees have coped with the drought much better than the cereals and the grass crop. Refreshments after the service included scones served with damson jam made with local fruit. We now move to a single service a month the 8am communion on the fourth Sunday of the month, until next April when the lighter evenings allow the 6pm service to resume.

Amanda and Dave Prescott held a brief service in the church August to mark VJ Day, when the bells were rung. We hope to have a similar, lay-led service in November for Remembrance Sunday.

Unfortunately we have had to remove the large fir tree to the east of the church. A number of large pieces had fallen from this and the tree surgeon thought the only option was to cut it down. It is always sad to remove trees, but we had little option as it was potentially dangerous.

Ellen McConnell, Diana Marsh and I visited our neighbours in the Stottesdon Benefice on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September. We walked from Middleton Scriven to Stottesdon via Sidbury, then drove to Cleeton St Mary to walk to Silvington via Farlow. Stottesdon, Farlow and Silvington provided excellent shelter from the rain. In the photo, Ellen is admiring Silvington. There is a link with Billingsley and the same family, the de Beysins, owned both manors in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.



**To mark the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust annual "Ride and Stride",** Daddy's Hat turned itself into a band of wandering troubadours, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September. The festivities began at **Loughton** at 3pm, with Jonny Owens playing a selection of (mainly) classical pieces on his guitar. We then moved to **Billingsley** for Marcia and Ami, from the Clee Hill Liberty Band, with the banjo and piano accordion, including a traditional Clee Hill reel. The congregation were treated to pears from the Harvest Festival last week. Finally the party moved to Bridgnorth St Mary's for a third 20-minute session of music followed by further refreshments. It was of course traditional for the travelling troubadours to include a Holy Fool in their party; they had to make do with your correspondent who satisfied the requirements of the second part of the job title.



**Thanks to all our musicians, the congregations who supported us, and Sally for organising such an innovative event.**



Revd David Poyner – please note new phone numbers:

**Tel 0980-100-9693 or 01746-861121**

Email [D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk)

Glazeley & Deuxhill: St Bartholomew

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10533/>

Marion Corfield – Tel 01746-764585

Email [Marion.corfield@talktalk.net](mailto:Marion.corfield@talktalk.net)

*Pictured –  
Jonny at  
Loughton;  
Marcia and Ami  
at Billingsley*

## Chelmarsh News

*Glenys Williams writes:*

After the most glorious settle summer for many years, September's most important event was the Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving and the Songs of Praise on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>, with the Harvest Supper held the following evening. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who helped, gifting their time and produce to make the occasion a success.

If you noticed activity on the Tower in September, we have had the steeplejacks in attendance installing a new lightning conductor in line with regulations. The tower work on the louvres will be commencing in due course. On the same day that the Steeplejacks were working, a band of visiting bellringers announced their presence by ringing a quarter peal: it was a pleasure to welcome them. We now look forward to October with anticipation.

### From the register

On 13<sup>th</sup> September, a large number of people attended the service to celebrate and give thanks for the life of Barbara Howells, a regular member of the congregation of St Peter's Church for many years. Our sincere sympathies are with her family at this sad time.



# Molecule of the Month: GABA Receptors

Revd David Poyner writes:

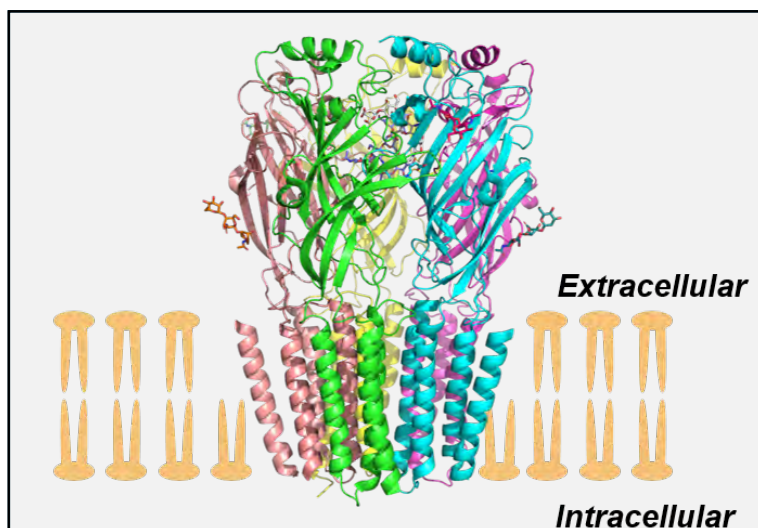


Our brain is made of something like 60 to 90 billion nerve cells; they are constantly talking to each other. Each of those nerves might make contact with around 10,000 of its neighbours; in some brain regions the figure can be well over 100-fold greater than this. This poses a problem; can you imagine trying to hold 10,000 conversations at the same time?

Sometimes, we need to silence some voices in order to hear others. Of course, that is not an analogy that can be taken too far, but the general principle is true; to process information properly, we need to be able both to switch on to the important inputs and switch off the distractions. Nerves in the brain have this ability. Some nerves specialise in exciting, switching on their partners, but others are inhibitory; they switch off the nerves they connect to. By co-ordinating the on- and off-switching, the brain can order its activity.

Inhibitory nerves in the brain release a special chemical to instruct their neighbours to switch off; gamma-amino butyric acid. For obvious reasons, this is abbreviated to GABA. GABA works by binding to a “receptor” on the surface of the nerves. This is a protein that recognises GABA and is known as the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor (the subscript “A” distinguishes it from another, biochemically distinct receptor for GABA). It is made of five smaller proteins that pack together like the staves in the wall of the barrel. Normally these smaller proteins, the “subunits” of the GABA receptor fit tightly together. However, when GABA binds they move apart, to open up the inside of the barrel. This means that charged atoms can

pass through to either enter or leave the nerve cell. In the case of the GABA receptors, this makes the inside of the nerve cells more negatively charged which means it is harder for them to become activated.

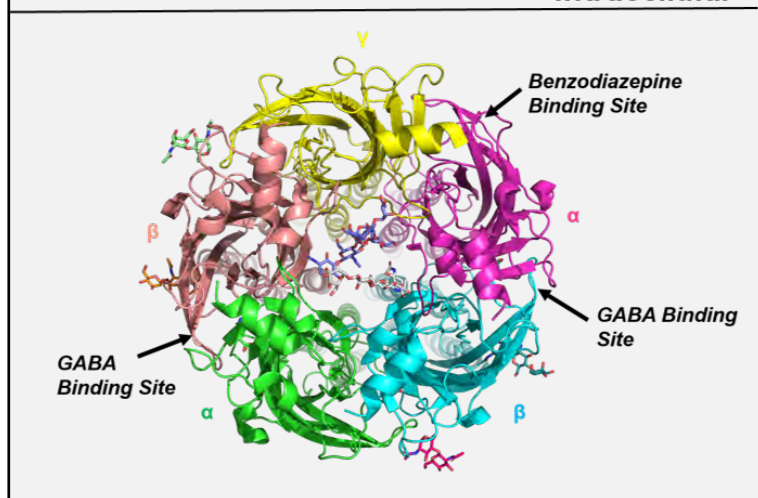


## The GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor.

**Top**, sideways view of the receptor, located in the membrane (the cover) of a nerve cell.

**Bottom**, view looking down on the receptor, showing where GABA and benzodiazepines bind. The five subunits are coloured yellow, orange, green, blue and purple.

(Swastik.phulera - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=106032006>).



Overactivity in various brain regions can cause many diseases and conditions. One example is anxiety. For many years this was treated with drugs called barbiturates (readers of a certain age may remember these; I recall them as being a favourite therapy of the late Dr Wilkins in Highley). These worked by activating

GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors and reducing anxiety; however, it is easy to overdose on them. A major step forward came in the 1960s with Valium and related drugs (the benzodiazepines); these also work on the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors but are much safer. Whilst benzodiazepines are not much used these days, they revolutionised treatment for anxiety disorders when they became available. *(continued on next page)*



We still have much to learn about the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor. The biggest issue is that, whilst the receptor itself only has 5 subunits (the sides of the “barrel”), the body actually makes around 30 different proteins which can come together to form a functional receptor. The exact composition depends on the cell that makes the receptor. This matters because the way the receptor responds to drugs depends on the individual subtypes that come together to make it. Very recently, a study has been published using sections of brain removed from individuals with severe epilepsy. It has been possible to identify the composition of the different GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors in these people. They have been shown to have 12 different types of receptor. The study used a special type of microscopy called cryo-electron microscopy to take pictures that showed the structure of each of these in molecular detail. This provided a surprise. When the scientists looked at the pictures, they could see that there was also a drug bound to the receptors. It turns out that this lamotrigine, an agent widely prescribed to people with epilepsy. Previously it was thought that this worked by binding to proteins that cause nerve cells to become active; inappropriate activation of nerves is what underlies epilepsy. Lamotrigine certainly does act in that way. However, the paper now shows that in addition, it also activates GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors, shutting nerve cells down.

DRP

## Be a Hedgrow Hero!

*Sue Crichton writes!!*

**CPRE Shropshire's Hedgerow Heroes** project has funding for a fifth year and we will be planting a further 4km of new species-rich hedgerows into the Shropshire countryside as well as running hedgelaying workshops for beginners and hedgerow management sessions for farmers and landowners in the Ludlow and Clun area. We will continue with our hedgerow arts workshops with local Shrewsbury artist Andrew Howe.

Over 4 years, we have planted 24km of hedgerows with the help of our fantastic volunteers and have gone on to farms, smallholdings, school sites, community fields and even cemeteries, amounting (amazingly) to around 100 sites now in the county.

**The benefits of hedgerows** - We plant a mix of species based around a core of Hawthorn and Hazel. These can include Field Maple, Plum, Crab Apple, Spindle and Guelder Rose, all providing blossom and fruit or nuts for insects and birds. We encourage some trees to be allowed to grow and mature as hedgerow trees. Occasionally we plant fruit trees in the hedgerow, like heritage apple and Shropshire plum.

Eventually once the hedgerows mature, they should become brilliant wildlife corridors, providing shelter and foraging for small mammals, birds and insects. As well as providing bounty and shelter for wildlife, well-managed hedges provide great resources on-farm, offering shelter and shade to livestock in wind, rain and sun and they can help to prevent run off and spraydrift.

**The planting sessions** - We plant hedgerows between early December and March. Our sessions run from 10am to around lunchtime over the winter on weekdays and

weekends. We supply hot drinks and refreshments for volunteers during the morning. Experienced volunteer leads run the hedge planting sessions, so anyone who has not planted before is shown what to do.

The whips (hedgerow saplings) are sorted out into big mixed species bundles at the start of the session so volunteers have their own bag to work through. Our planting groups can be as small as 8 or 10 or as large as 30+ It can be an amazing sight looking up from your planting and seeing a line of hedgerow steadily developing either side of you and the feeling of group satisfaction when it's all safely in is quite something! Volunteering for hedge planting is a great way of meeting like-minded people and doing something really positive and practical for nature and the wider countryside and the sites are often in glorious parts of the county with great views!

We provide the tools (tree planting spades) and are delighted to welcome families, but children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. We have welcomed several Duke of Edinburgh students over the years, completing their community work hours.

One thing we have learned over the years: hedgerows have the capacity to link up landscapes, but through this project, they have also linked up many people and communities.

**You can find out more at**

[www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/hedgerow-project](http://www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/hedgerow-project) or

contact Sarah Jameson on

[admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk) or 01547 528546 for more information.

# The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: the post is currently vacant so please contact the relevant Church Warden/Parish rep		
<b>St Mary, Stottesdon</b> CHURCHWARDEN Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007	<b>St Giles, Farlow</b> CHURCHWARDENS - VACANT – please contact the key holder, Pam Phillips – 01746-718475	<b>Holy Trinity, Sidbury</b> CHURCHWARDEN – vacant – please contact the key holder, Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149
<b>St Mary, Cleeton St Mary</b> CHURCHWARDEN Sue Dolphin: - 01584-890583	<b>St John, Middleton Scriven</b> CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Ann Constable 01746-789420	<b>St Michael, Silvington</b> CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Katie Hickman
In an emergency, please call Revd Jeannetta Stokes, on 01746-716698		

## October message

### Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 23

In a complete contrast to last month the earth is undergoing a second spring and defying description with its greenness and verdancy. Things are growing so fast its almost possible to see inches being added to the grass just by standing and watching. And all the while we are celebrating the harvest and seeing a huge number of acorns and apples and damsons, in fact absolutely everything is appearing in such huge volumes it's difficult to keep up. Freezers are running out of space, shelves are bowing under the weight of so many jars of jam and there is some thought of bottling fruit as we may have seen done as children. There is after all a limit to how many plums can be eaten at one sitting...really there is albeit that some try to defy this...how unwise!

With that thought of abundance in mind please remember our foodbanks are still in need of donations either in cash or kind ([www.cleoburyfoodbank.co.uk](http://www.cleoburyfoodbank.co.uk)). And places like the Hands Together Community Fridge in Ludlow where you can take food donations and help reduce food waste, its open to all, just check their website to see how this works. ([handstogetherludlow.org.uk](http://handstogetherludlow.org.uk)).

Just a reminder about the vacancy for the new Rector. The closing date has now passed and the required process is underway. There isn't much more to say at this point except that we are all of course hoping for a positive outcome. The PCCs in the Benefice are all involved and as soon as there is something to say I am sure we will hear about it, hopefully in these pages, next month.

We also gathered in number to pay our respects to Chris Tibbits at his funeral on 24<sup>th</sup> September at Stottesdon. A church packed with family and friends, many from the rail industry, raised the roof in celebration of his life. The gap he leaves will be difficult to fill.

'Meanwhile' as he and Clare would say 'we continue to strive for a flourishing Christian presence in our parishes, our two schools and the wider communities we serve, please;

- Cherish and support the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the church here -the Church Wardens, the parish reps and the members of the PCCs.
- Remember to thank the volunteer visiting clergy who are routinely and willingly facilitating our Sunday worship and other services as needed'.

*Stottesdon PCC*

### From the Parish Register:

† Stottesdon: Funeral – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – Christopher John Gervase Tibbits.

## Services for October in the Stottesdon Churches

	Celebrant	Stottesdon – 10:30 am	Other parishes
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Jeanetta Stokes David Poyner	Harvest Festival - Morning Prayer	<b>Cleeton St Mary</b> 4:00pm - Harvest Festival <b>Farlow</b> 6:30pm - Harvest Festival
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	AD Fiona Gibson	Holy Communion	<b>Cleeton St Mary</b> 9:00 am - Holy Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	David Poyner	<b>Sidbury – 11:45 am – Holy Communion Group Service</b>	
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Justin Bailey	Holy Communion	<b>Silvington</b> 6:30 pm – Harvest Festival
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	David Poyner	Morning Prayer BCP	<b>Farlow</b> 9:00 am – Holy Communion

During the continuing interregnum there will be some changes to the service pattern. These times are correct at the time of going to print, but it's always worth checking on our website (A Church Near You: Stottesdon benefice) or with your churchwarden.

### Pastoral Visits and support

If you or someone you know need a visit or communion or other support at home or elsewhere during the interregnum, please contact your churchwarden or other volunteer (see above) who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.

**Benefice website (A Church near you: Stottesdon)** We are trying to keep this updated during the vacancy, so if you need something added – or spot an error - please get in touch by email with [juliaevans278@gmail.com](mailto:juliaevans278@gmail.com)

**Wheatland News –the deadline for the November 2025 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Julia (PCC) by first thing on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – apologies for this early date, which is due to diary clashes for WN team, and first Sunday of November being 2<sup>nd</sup> !**



## Stottesdon News

### Apple Day 2025

Thank you to everyone who attended Apple Day at St Mary's Stottesdon on 31<sup>st</sup> August. A very enjoyable afternoon with lots of apples and pears pressed. We look forward to next year!

## The Future of The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon

Following the tragic events at the pub earlier in the summer, the premises remain closed and there has been no news about its future. Many regulars, villagers and the wider community are keen to ensure that this village pub should remain as a focal point for many village events and activities. A village that loses its pub loses so much more!

We have asked our Parish Council to consider applying to the Planning Authority for the pub to be given 'Asset of Community Value' status. This would last for five years and would make any plan to change the use of the premises more difficult to achieve. It would not, on its own, stop that happening though!

What it does allow, however, is for a community group to take advantage of a six-month moratorium, to put together a bid to run the pub as a 'going concern'.

This matter is due to be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 27th October.

**So, we are looking to hold an open village meeting at  
St Mary's Church, Stottesdon  
on Wednesday 22nd October, at 7.00pm.**

All villagers and any other users of this fine hostelry would be most welcome. We might even turn on the under-pew heating!

**Any inquiries, please contact Roger Cook at [rogerbcook@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerbcook@btinternet.com)**



## Stottesdon and District WI

*Debbie Haynes, President, Stottesdon & District WI, writes:*

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September we met for our monthly meeting at Chorley village hall. We had a great turn-out but new members are always welcome - just get in touch with me if you would like to come along for a taster (07780 113869).

We enjoyed an evening of crafting led by Clare Tibbits. To say we were a mixed ability group rather understates the skill of the group, nevertheless Clare showed us how to make origami butterflies, which was tricky for some of us, however we all made a successful butterfly eventually; some with more help from Clare than others! Then Clare showed us how to braid, by using threads of wool and threading them round a cardboard circle with a hole punched in the middle. The braid emerged as if by magic and reminded more than one of us of those wet afternoons at school aged 5 or 6 when we did French knitting with a cotton reel with nails hammered into the top. Talk about concentration being required, it's an understatement to say that some of us were more successful at this than others. However, lots of wonderful stories were told including a member telling us that her grandmother, who had taught her mother and in much later life her grand-daughter (our member) to sew, could remember making bustles in her early life as a seamstress. Such is the potency of living history!

We ended the evening with our usual tea and cake which is always a treat and something I am delighted to say we are all pretty good at!





## Sidbury News



*Andrew Sierakowski writes:*

We had a very well attended **Harvest Festival** with Revd David Poyner on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September, followed by Harvest Lunch with a wonderful selection of home-made and home-grown food (including even some fruit from the trees at the churchyard!) provided by everyone in Sidbury and hosted by Louisa and Hubert van den Bergh. Thank you to everyone who helped set up the church in the pouring rain on the Saturday.

Luckily the Sunday was a glorious day as you can see from the photograph with David and the tractor!



We have also now produced the **Sidbury Calendar for 2026** and had 30 orders during the Harvest Lunch. **If anyone else would like one please let me know.** They're £10 each although with a discount for multiple orders. All money raised will come to the church! [asierako@btinternet.com](mailto:asierako@btinternet.com)

Coming up on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September we have a bulb planting morning at the church. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in. Please bring bulbs and we will provide the refreshments!

*Revd David Poyner added:*

Thanks to the Williams' family for the tractor blessing. It was especially good to get support from Stottesdon for what was also a benefice service. Following the service, there was a splendid harvest lunch at Upper House, which was attended by some who could not make the service itself. It is so good to see the church supported by the wider community.



✝ **The next service at Holy Trinity, Sidbury** will be the Benefice group service on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 11.45 and be led by David Poyner.

## Cleeton St Mary News

*Sue Dolphin writes:*

✝ The Cleeton Harvest Festival Service will be on 5<sup>th</sup> October at 4pm, led by Revd Jeanetta Stokes.

✝ Our regular monthly service is expected to be on the following Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00am, led by AD Fiona Gibson.

**Knit and Natter** continues every Wednesday at 10:00 am in church.

**Winners of the August 100 Club Draw were:**

£20 – Julie Bradford (65); £10 each to Sue Burgess (103) and Wendy Dolphin (21); and £5 each to Rita Howells (94) and Stanley Weston (13).

# Middleton Scriven News

## Church Services

- ✝ November 30<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am
- ✝ December 24<sup>th</sup> - 6:30pm - Christmas carols

## Community Coffee Mornings in church, 10:00 – 12:00

- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November
- Saturday 13 December  
– plus Christmas Bake Sale



**Severn Hospice Coffee Morning**  
and seasonal card sale: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>  
October 10-1.00 at Damson House, hosted  
by Ann and John Williamson. **See poster  
on back cover of this WN**



**Thank you to Lyn Parnaby** for the  
fascinating local history exhibition which was  
shared at our September coffee morning  
and much enjoyed by all. It was an amazing  
record of local people and events. *Pictured –  
Lyn's display in church at the September  
coffee morning.*

## Harvest celebration – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 7:00pm

A community supper and harvest celebration.

- £18.50 per person.
- Bring your own drinks and glasses.
- Raffle.
- Tickets limited.

Contact Rachel Whiting on 07711 126785 or by  
WhatsApp. Payment by bacs if possible.

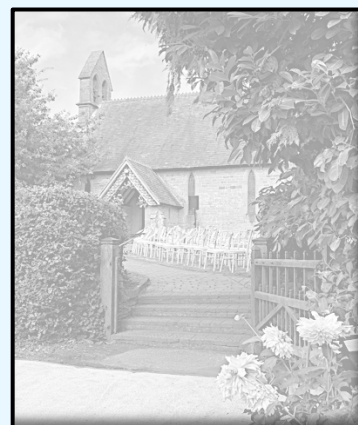
## From the Register

**Wedding:** 6<sup>th</sup> September: Olivia Yates and George Harris

## The first wedding in Middleton Scriven Church for seven years!

Featured also on the front  
cover of this WN, it was  
wonderful to see wedding  
guests inside and outside  
church on a glorious  
September morning. The  
bride and entourage  
walked to her wedding  
church right next door to  
home.

The happy couple, Mr &  
Mrs Harris, emerged from  
church into the sunshine  
for lots of celebrations.



## Farlow & Oretton News

*Caroline Billson writes:*

**Thank you to everyone** who supported the Church Draw at Farlow School Fete. We raised **£147**.

### Dates for the Diary

- ✝ There will be a Harvest Service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 6:30 pm followed by an Auction of Produce. Please note there will be no morning service at 9:00 am. The first Draw of the 100 Club will be done at the Harvest Service in the evening.

The church will be having a **Table Top sale** at the **Christmas Fayre** on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Farlow and Oretton Village Hall. We look forward to your support and hope to see you there.

The **Carol Service at Farlow Church** will be on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30 pm.

## Silvington

We have no news from Silvington this month – sorry!

## Community Notice Board

### Brown Clee Medical Practice – Patient Participation Group

**A date for your diary – the AGM and Autumn Open Meeting will be on Tuesday 7th October, 5:30 pm** for 6:00 pm at Ditton Priors Village Hall. Lots of news and updates, and an interesting talk! Please see the full information in the PPG item on Page 12 of this edition of WN. Do come!

### Our local food banks need YOUR help


Both are **always** in need of donations of foodstuffs and other goods, and of money to sustain their services, and never more so than in this season of plenty. You may have seen in the news that donations of foodstuffs are way down and that the Food Banks are having to buy in produce to make up their family supply packages!

Find them on Facebook or call 07960 285520 for BRIDGNORTH or 07519 885943 for CLEOBURY MORTIMER





# Useful local contacts – updated September 2025

<b>Brown Clee Surgery PPG</b>	Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) - email <a href="mailto:BrownCleePPG@gmail.com">BrownCleePPG@gmail.com</a> , or call Chair Tina Ranson on 01584-878707.
<b>Brown Clee Walkers</b>	Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746-712662
<b>Burwarton &amp; District Garden Club</b>	Meets on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from October to June at 2:15pm at Stoke St Milborough VH. Contact <a href="mailto:burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com">burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com</a> , or Sec Bev Harris on 07933-724728
<b>Burwarton &amp; District WI</b>	Contact the Secretary, Helen Groves, on 01746-712466
<b>Burwarton &amp; District Wives Gp</b>	Now called Ditton Priors Ladies' Friendship Group – see below – alphabetical order!
<b>Chelmarsh Bowling</b>	Outdoor bowling in summer (Tuesday evening & Wednesday afternoon), indoor during the winter (Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:00pm) at Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Further details from Stan Chapman, 01746-862424
<b>Chelmarsh Games Group</b>	Mainly Canasta and Scrabble! Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Sue Jakeman on 07531-008876.
<b>Chelmarsh Jubilee Club</b>	Meet at Chelmarsh Sports & Social Club – contact Shell Russon on 07903-162408 for more information
<b>Chelmarsh Parent &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846-692323
<b>Chelmarsh Parish Hall</b>	Available for hire - <a href="mailto:booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk">booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk</a>
<b>Chelmarsh Walking Group</b>	Contact Jen Everitt on 01746-862858 for more information.
<b>Chetton &amp; Glazeley WI</b>	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 7.30pm. For enquiries re trying a session or two and membership please contact Elisabeth Buggins, Secretary - Phone: 07855 018288 Email: <a href="mailto:elisabeth@buggins.com">elisabeth@buggins.com</a>
<b>Chetton Folk Dance Club</b>	Meets Chetton Village Hall, last Wednesday of month except August Tel. Janice Burton 01584-823802
<b>Chetton Village Hall</b>	Enquiries - Sue on 01746-789239
<b>Chorley Village Hall</b>	Available for Hire (fully equipped kitchen, digital projection equipment and large screen) contact 07726-763883 – NEW DEDICATED NUMBER DECEMBER 2022
<b>Cleobury North Village Hall</b>	Enquiries and Bookings – NEW CONTACT - <b>Sharon Jenkins - Tel no: 07854-538645 or 01746-787220</b>
	National Centre for Domestic Violence <a href="https://www.ncdv.org.uk/contact/">https://www.ncdv.org.uk/contact/</a> Call 08448-044999. Website gives advice and other means of getting help.
<b>Daddy's Hat Music &amp; Poetry</b>	Contact on 01746-787419 – leave a message and you <b>will</b> get a call-back!
<b>Ditton Priors Art Group</b>	Village Hall Wednesday morning (except Christmas) 9.30 – 12.30pm all welcome Various visual art forms eg Water Colour, Oils & Acrylics. Contact Gloria Blair on 07794-225532
<b>Ditton Priors History Group</b>	Please contact <a href="mailto:paul.wilson8992@gmail.com">paul.wilson8992@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ditton Priors Ladies' Friendship Group</b>	Please contact Jo on 07837-048525
<b>Ditton Priors Village Hall</b>	Bookings - 07766 392 105 - <a href="mailto:dittonpriorshalls@gmail.com">dittonpriorshalls@gmail.com</a>
<b>Knowle Sports Club</b>	Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children's Football Field 01584-890644
 <b>Little Explorers Pre-School Ditton Priors</b>	Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact 01746-712506 <a href="mailto:littleexplorers.ditton@gmail.com">littleexplorers.ditton@gmail.com</a>
	Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride Transport Services <a href="https://www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk">https://www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk</a> – 01743-450270 Mon-Fri 09:30 – 15:00, Corvedale Buzzard – 01584-700907
<b>Short Mat Bowling – Ditton Priors</b>	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact Clive Jackson on 01746-718046
<b>Stottesdon &amp; District W.I.</b>	Meets in various venues on the third Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746-718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007
<b>Stottesdon Gateway Nursery</b>	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769
<b>Tae kwon-do</b>	Eardington Village Hall Thursday, 5:15pm. Contact Neil Morris 07969-996055



# Wheatland Diary

**Everything we know so far for 2025 and 2026! Do make sure we put your dates in, maximise numbers at all the events, and help avoid clashes!**

**Where no page number is given, it means that there is no further information in this edition about the event.**

Wed	1	Oct	DP Ladies' Friendship Group – DP Pavilion, 7:30 – 9:30 pm – see page 14
Sat	4	Oct	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 13
Sat	4	Oct	The Elderly Brothers – Soft Rock and Supper, Chetton VH
Sun	5	Oct	Harvest Festival and Sale – especially for Children – Aston Botterell – see page 13
Tue	7	Oct	Brown Clee Surgery PPG, Ditton Priors VH, 6:00pm – see page 12
Wed	8	Oct	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Annual Meeting
Wed	8	Oct	Coffee Morning for Severn Hospice – Damson House, Middleton Scriven – see page 26 & back
Fri	10	Oct	Country Evening at Cleobury North VH – see back page
Sat	11	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors – see page 13
Wed	15	Oct	Men's Breakfast – Ditton Priors – 8:30 am – see page 10
Wed	15	Oct	Charity Quiz Night – The Pheasant, Neenton – see back page
Fri	17	Oct	Middleton Scriven Harvest Festival Supper – see page 25
Fri	17	Oct	"Building a Chelsea Garden" Brown Clee PPG for Garden project – see back cover
Fri	17	Oct	Middleton Scriven Community Supper – 7:00 pm – see page 26
Sat	18	Oct	Daddy's Hat – Saxon Fire at St Mary's Church, Jackfield – 3:00pm – see page 27
Tue	21	Oct	Local Air Crashes – DP Local History Group, Ditton Priors Village Hall, 7:00pm – see page 12
Wed	22	Oct	Village Meeting – Future of the Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon – 7:00 pm – see page 24
Sat	25	Oct	Quiz Night – Aston Botterell – at the Boyne Arms – see page 14
Sat	25	Oct	Breakfast at The Down – 9:00 am – see page 17
Fri	31	Oct	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14
Thur	6	Nov	Fireworks! At the Pheasant, Neenton – see page 15
Thur	6	Nov	"Blue Hawaii" – Flicks in the Sticks, Chetton VH – see page 17
Fri	7	Nov	Wine and Canapes – The Hills', Chetton – see page 17
Sat	8	Nov	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome – see page 13
Wed	12	Nov	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Fused Glass Making
Sat	22	Nov	Farlow & Oretton Christmas Fayre and Table Top Sale – see page 27
Thur	27	Nov	Christmas Lights and Carols – Ditton Priors
Thur	27	Nov	Ditton Priors switches on the Christmas Lights – see page 13
Fri	28	Nov	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14
Sat	29	Nov	Christmas Fair – Ditton Priors Pavilion – 11:00am – see page 13
Tue	2	Dec	Coffee Morning, 10:30am, Old Rectory, Cleobury North – see page 16
Sat	6	Dec	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome – see page 13
Wed	10	Dec	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Christmas Festivities
Sat	13	Dec	Punch, Pies and Carols – Ditton Priors Village Hall –
Fri	19	Dec	Carols on the Street – Brown Clee Young Farmers – see page 10
Wed	14	Jan	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall -Games Night
Wed	11	Feb	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall - Decoupage
Wed	11	Mar	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Midlands Air Ambulance

## PHEASANT AT NEENTON CHARITY PUB QUIZ

**15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

**TO RAISE MONEY FOR NEENTON CHURCH  
& THE AIR AMBULANCE**

**TEAMS OF 4 MAX  
£15PP INC MINI FISH & CHIPS  
& STICKY TOFFEE PUD**

**ARRIVE AT 6PM  
OR £2.50PP JUST QUIZ ENTRY  
ARRIVE AT 7:30PM  
BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

## Howdy—Y'all invited to a **COUNTRY EVENING**

**at  
Cleobury North & District Village Hall  
on**

**Friday 10th October 2025**

**Doors Open 7.00pm**

**Promising to be a 'Rootin'-Tootin',  
'Foot tapping', 'Thigh slapping'  
GOOD SHIN DIG**

### **LINE DANCING**

**To instructions called by  
Alexis**

**With a short break to**

### **CHOW DOWN**

**Into Pulled Pork Baps  
(vegetarian option available—  
please advise)**

**Then lots more dancing  
with DJ until late**

**Try your luck on the**

### **RAFFLE**

**WET your WHISTLE at  
the Licensed**

**SALOON Bar**

**TICKETS—£18.00**

**Available from Julia at the  
Cleobury North Store  
(next to the Village Hall)**

**Or 07790169358**

**CASH ONLY EVENING**

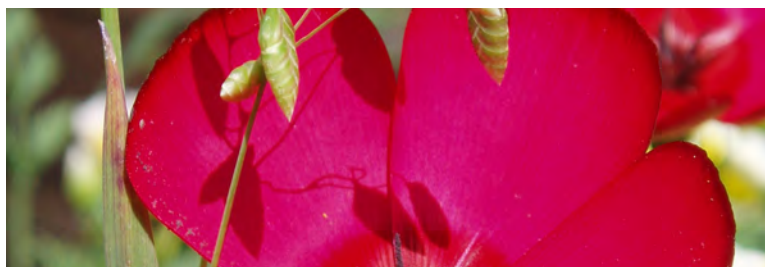


## **COFFEE MORNING** *IN AID OF* **SEVERN HOSPICE**

**WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER  
10:00 - 12:30**

**CHRISTMAS CARDS, PLANTS, RAFFLE,  
BRING & BUY, BOOKS ETC. ALL  
DONATIONS OF CAKES ETC GRATEFULLY  
RECEIVED!**

**DAMSON HOUSE,  
MIDDLETON SCRIVEN  
WV16 6AG  
ANN & JOHN WILLIAMSON  
01746-789616  
EVERYONE WELCOME!**



A talk by Ade Robinson  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October  
2.30 p.m.  
Ditton Priors Village Hall

## **BUILDING A CHELSEA GARDEN**

Tickets are £5 including hot drink and cake  
Email [BrownCleePPG@gmail.com](mailto:BrownCleePPG@gmail.com) to buy your ticket in advance - or pay at the door on the day

All proceeds will be in aid  
of the PPG Garden Project –  
enhancing spaces for  
patients and staff



**The next Breakfast is at:  
The Old Vicarage, Ditton Priors.  
8.30am Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October  
Please contact Revd Joe on 01746 599217  
[browncleebenefice@outlook.com](mailto:browncleebenefice@outlook.com)  
if you are interested**