

Wheatland News June 2026



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



Editorial

There's an old farming saying "if June be sunny, harvest comes early", there's a lot going on in June around the parishes, so let's hope for an early harvest and lots of sun!

For all of the rose lovers, and I'm certainly one of them, June is often referred to as the rose month. There is absolutely nothing that compares to the colour, form and scent of a rose garden.

On June 15th, in a tradition dating back to 1346, a single rose is presented to the Lord Mayor of London, the rose representing the "fine" imposed on Sir Robert Knollys for building a footbridge over Seething Lane without official consent. June is of course also the month of the Summer solstice in the Northern hemisphere and whether you're looking forward to it or dreading it, it's the start of the FIFA World Cup.

Please read the articles on the visit of HRH the Duchess of Edinburgh to the Willowdene Farm centre in Chorley where she toured the craft and well-being centre, as well as the classroom, farm facilities and residential area. The Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire Mrs Anna Turner said it was "a wonderful opportunity for Her Royal Highness to see some of the fabulous work being done in Shropshire with amazing support of local communities and volunteers."

Sally's reflection on vocation certainly applies to Willowdene Farm which was founded in 1988 and provides an opportunity for lasting life transformation through a proven approach to rehabilitation, that includes trauma-informed therapy, training, work-experience and resettlement. At the heart of Willowdene's mission is a commitment to ensure that students have access to interventions that will enable them to step into the life they were made for.

It is World Sea's Day on June 8th, included in this edition is an article written by Dr Cathy Cole on the state of our oceans and rivers and how to help protect them.

There's some great news from the church at Cleeton St. Mary regarding a lottery grant received to fund renovations to the roof and other improvements.

If you have an event taking place please let us know about it in advance, because of printing deadlines, we need to know about the following months events about 2 weeks before of the current month. Please also let us know how the event went, and if possible send us pictures of the day if appropriate.

Wheatland News Local Coordinators

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

The deadline for getting your contributions for the **July 2026** edition of WN to the **Local Coordinators or the EDITOR** will be **noon on FRIDAY 19th June 2026**. Due to editing and printing deadlines, late submissions **CANNOT** be included and will be sent back to the submitter for inclusion in the following month's edition.

Newsletter Content Editor	Roger Cook - wheatlandnews@outlook.com
Newsletter Format Editor	Clive Jackson - wheatlandnews@outlook.com
Brown Clee, Ditton Priors, Wheathill & Loughton	Karen Simons, 07748987318-walkthedogs@mac.com
Aston Botterell	AnnePreece@icloud.com
Cleobury North & Burwarton	Jane Bufton - 07716-877421
Chetton	Pam Downing - pamdowning61@gmail.com
Highley, Glazeley & Deuxhill, Billingsley	Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Stottesdon, Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Silvington & Cleeton St Mary	Julia Evans - juliaevans278@googlemail.com

Dates for your Diaries

2-June, Tuesday	Ditton Priors coffee morning, 12:30pm at the Church
13-June, Saturday & 14-June, Sunday	Local History weekend at Billingsley Church, refreshments and table top sale, 2-4pm
14-June, Sunday	Billingsley Church, talk on the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, 6pm
13-June, Saturday	Loughton village fete, 1-5pm in the garden of Loughton Hall
20-June, Saturday	9am, Breakfast at the Down Inn, cost £10
20-June, Saturday	Neenton will be holding their famous Duck Race and fete at the Pheasant
26-June, Friday	Julia's Coffee and Chat with cakes at Cleobury North Village Hall - 10.30am and 12.30pm
27-June, Saturday	11-4pm, church fundraising event annual Plant sale at Chelmarsh Church
27-June, Saturday	11am till 4pm in Aston Botterell church. A Family Fun Day with music, singing, choir and a fete
28-June, Sunday	Stottesdon/Chorley vs Kinlet Cricket Match, 2pm at Kinlet Hall

June Reflection



How much do you value yourself? At this time of year, as we begin to think about those who are being ordained, it is natural that our thoughts turn to vocation. For many people, the word immediately suggests a call to ordained ministry, and that is indeed one important and holy calling. Yet vocation is much wider than that. If we speak only of priests, deacons, and ministers when we speak of vocation, we risk missing something vital: every person has a vocation, and every vocation matters and everyone has value in God's sight.

The dictionary tells us that vocation means a calling or a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation. That is helpful as far as it goes, but as Christians we can say even more. A vocation may be a call to be a priest, but it may also be a call to teach, to heal, to protect, to build, to organise, to care, to create, or to serve quietly and faithfully in ways that may never be publicly noticed. Vocation is not simply about status or title. It is about the place where our gifts, our character, and the needs of the world meet.

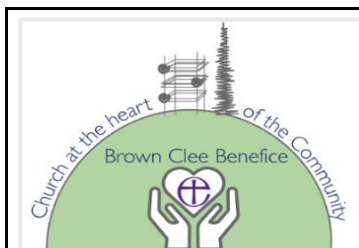
Perhaps we do not always value vocational qualifications as much as academic ones, and that is a mistake. Academic study matters greatly, but so do the skills, disciplines, and callings that shape everyday life and hold society together. We rightly honour teachers, doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters, and members of the armed forces. But where would we be without carers, cleaners, bin workers, farmers, food producers, and those in the entertainment industries who bring beauty, joy, and relief? So much of life depends on people doing well the work they have been given to do.

St Paul reminds us that God does not gift everyone in the same way. "There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4), and those gifts are given for the common good. One person's calling is not better than another's; it is simply different. The Church and the world need the full richness of human giftedness. The Psalmist also declares, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Every one of us is precious to God, uniquely made, and deeply loved. There is no one else exactly like you in all the world.

It is sometimes said that the ocean would be different if even one drop of water were missing. So it is with the human family and with the life of God's Church. Your contribution matters. Value yourself, not in pride but in gratitude. Receive the gifts God has given you and use them for good, trusting that they matter. And if you do feel called to explore your faith more deeply, or to wonder whether God may be drawing you towards lay or ordained ministry, there will always be someone with whom you can speak. But let us remember this: vocation belongs not only to the few, but to all. Each of us has a unique calling to discover, to cherish, and to offer in the service of God and neighbour. My blessings and prayers come to you all.

Sally

Brown Clee group of Parishes



Brown Clee Benefice

Rector – Revd Joe Simons

The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ

01746-599217 07872-464276

browncleebenefice@outlook.com

www.browncleebenefice.org

www.facebook.com/browncleechurches

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

CHURCHWARDENS:

Carole Smith 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:

Dot Cartwright: 07854-559474

Brown Clee Services for June 2026:

Sunday 31st May. Trinity Sunday. (Gold or White)

10.00am	Group Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Chetton
3.00pm	Pet Service	Rev Joe Simons	Wheathill

Sunday 7th June. The First Sunday after Trinity. (Green)

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Aston Botterell

Sunday 14th June. The Second Sunday after Trinity. (Green)

9.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Chetton

Sunday 21st June. The Third Sunday after Trinity. (Green)

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Val Smith	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Father's Day Festival & Morning Worship	Rev Val Smith	Neenton

Sunday 28th June. The Fourth Sunday after Trinity. (Green)

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Cleobury North
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Rev Joe Simons	Loughton

Brown Clee Readings for June 2026

Sunday 7th June

The First Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalms 50. 7-15; Hosea 5. 15-6.6; Romans 4. 13-end; Matthew 9. 9-13. 18-26.
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Sunday 14th June

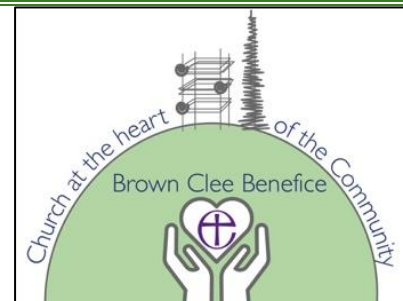
The Second Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalms 100; Exodus 19. 2-8a; Romans 5. 1-8; Matthew 9. 35-10.8.
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Sunday 21st June The Third Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalms 69. 8-11 (12-17) 18-20; Jeremiah 20. 7-13; Romans 6. 1b-11; Matthew 10. 24-39.
Sunday 28th June The Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalms 89. 1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 28. 5-9; Romans 6. 12-end; Matthew 10. 40-end.



Brown Clee Benefice News

We have had another busy month in the Benefice. As well as our regular services, events and meetings we have held a number of life events; a baptism, wedding and number of funerals. We have also started running our Time for Prayer and Reflection gatherings on alternate Thursdays in the Pavilion at Ditton Priors. Please contact the office if you would like more information.



A Service of Dedication and Remembrance to Commemorate the Airmen who lost their lives at Eudon Mill, Eudon George. September 7/8 1943.

Airman's Memorial Service held on Saturday 2nd May 2026.

It was our great pleasure to officiate at the above service on a glorious spring day, where we unveiled the memorial to five brave airmen. The event had been carefully planned by Keith Gardner, a nephew of one of the airmen and Julian Millington of Chetton Heritage Museum. We were also honoured to have Michael Wells, whose father Francis 'Frank' Wells was killed in the crash when Michael was three years old, come to lay a wreath.

Here is an account from Keith on what led up to the day:

"It was the photograph that started it all. Unusually, for 1958, it was in colour, A3 size and framed and glazed, it was always on the polished sideboard. The smart young man who looked back was dressed in an RAF Sergeants uniform, with his flying wings displayed clearly on his chest. It was an integral part of the living room in Granny Shepherds Edinburgh house but when the fascinated 7 year old boy asked who it was, he was only met with a sad face and his Grandmother saying, "That's your Uncle Willie. He was killed in the war".

A lifetime later, filled with marriage, children, career, dangerous sports and house moves the fascination remained for the child, now in his 70's and retired. Living close to Bridgnorth, he now knew that Willie Shepherd was the pilot of a Wellington bomber that crashed on 8 September 1943, near Bridgnorth, killing all on board. That was all that was known to him but the wonders of research on the internet would soon reveal that others had mused and written about the crash. However, the exact location remained a mystery, with various records showing different sites.

Only one thing for it, a visit to the Chetton area and speak to local people. For many, they knew nothing of value but eventually a knock on the door of Eudon Mill would result in a direction to the farm of John Fox and his son, Richard, who could not have been more helpful. He took us to the field and related stories of his father and then he, ploughing the field every year, often revealing

minor fragments of the aircraft and despite their best efforts, finding that crops would not grow to the same height in the area of the crash.

This contact was like the literal Pandora's box, soon resulting in meeting the wonderful Millington family and particularly, Julian, a marvellous font of knowledge and willing worker to help get jobs done. It was revealed that the remains of two of the flyers, those at the front of the plane, could not be recovered but the three nearer the rear were recovered and are buried in Blacon Cemetery, Cheshire. The War Graves Commission acknowledged that the Eudon George site was a war grave and could not be excavated, but there was nothing to acknowledge the sacrifice of the five crew and the existence of the remains of Willie Shepherd and Francis Wells in the field.

Both Julian and I, were determined to rectify this situation and commenced the best part of two years' work, resulting in the erection of a memorial and a Dedication Ceremony, on 2 May 2026, attended by nearly 100 people. This Ceremony, although having a purpose and a structure to remember and respect these young men, also served to identify how the Chetton community had come together to embrace and honour the memory of these flyers and ensure that their sacrifice will always be remembered."

Keith Gardner

The whole service was expertly recorded and can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p41elrACDXw&t=16s>

The article as it appears in Shropshire Star is at <https://shorturl.at/mVqTh>



Baptism

On Saturday 25th April we welcomed Jessica Hazel Patricia Davis into the family of God at her Baptism in Ditton Priors. It was a happy family affair with her three older brothers helping out throughout the service. We pray for Jessica and all who supported her. May God bless her as she grows in faith.



Wedding



St Giles in Chetton was adorned with a stunning display of flowers for the wedding of Daniel Tolley and Kathryn Mottershead on Saturday the 9th May. The service was intimate and beautiful, the sun shone on the happy couple as they left for their reception, lighting up the exquisite hand embroidered flowers on Kate's veil. We pray that they have a long and happy marriage.



On Saturday 16th May we had our Church Fete at Ditton Priors. It was a great turn-out even though the weather was a little unsettled. We thank all who supported us on the day and those who give so generously of their time to always make our events a success, we are very grateful.

We welcomed the school into Church on Monday 18th May for a Pentecost Service where Rev Joe talked about the birthday of the Church and how the Holy Spirit can help us when we pray and when we have burdens to carry. The children did the readings and prayers.

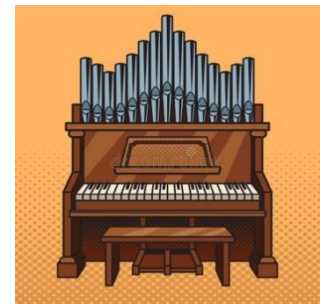


Do you play the Piano or Organ?

Have you ever considered having a go at playing one of our local church organs to be found here in the Brown Clee Benefice?

We have such lovely instruments in Ditton Priors, Chetton, Aston Botterell and Cleobury North Churches. The regular organist who covers Ditton, Chetton and Aston Botterell is now well past the first flush of youth and although he is keen to continue serving at services and other events for some time yet, there is always the possibility that from time to time he will be unavailable to attend to play.

If you would like to become involved as an organist do contact the Benefice Office (01746 599217) and we will be delighted to show you our lovely pipe organs and let you try them out.



Ditton Priors News *Marjorie Jones writes:*

As I write today, I am recovering from the activities of the Church Fete. The pre-fete worries about the weather are inevitable, it seems, and in fact the weather was not brilliant for us. However, we had a very good attendance, and rain did not defeat us after all. A big 'Thank You' to all who worked so hard to bring the Fete together.

SERVICES



Sunday 7th June. 9.30am. Holy Communion



Sunday 14th June. 9.30am. Morning Worship



Sunday 21st June. 9.30am. Holy Communion



Sunday 28th June. 9.30am. Holy Communion

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Our annual meeting was held on 12th May. Churchwardens Carole Smith and Mark Smith were elected for another year and we thank them for all that they do in this role.

A new Secretary, Pam Dicer was elected and Ruth Jones agreed to continue as Treasurer. Other positions have been filled and PCC members elected. The results are posted in the Church porch. Reports were read and thanks given to all involved in the running of the Church. We are most fortunate in our volunteers and fundraisers.

PAM'S PLANTS

Saturday 23rd May 10.30 - 1pm. Plants for sale in Pam and Bob's garden (opposite Church) Coffee and Cakes will be served in Church.

PET SERVICE

Sunday 31st May at Wheathill Church. All pets, children and grown-ups are welcome to this informal Service. I think Teddies are also invited. We all know what a blessing our pets are to us, so let's give thanks and celebrate the unconditional love we receive from them.

FIRST SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Continue in Church 10.30am - 12.30pm on 2nd June, 4th July, 1st August and 5th Sept. There is no charge for this popular community event and all are very welcome.

OPEN THE BOOK

On Wednesday 13th May we acted the story of Moses and the Burning Bush. We continue the story of the Hebrew people on 10th June with the next Moses story.


RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Our visits in April went very well and our next visits are on 18th May and 22nd June.







FUNDRAISING

The social events we organise serve two purposes. Hopefully they are an enjoyable part of our village community lives, bringing people together in a happy atmosphere, and equally they raise valuable funds to keep our Churches open and operating - covering small maintenance jobs, Churchyard maintenance, Insurance, Printing costs, etc. We are grateful for all the support you give us.

LOUGHTON FETE

 **Saturday 13th June.** 2 - 5pm . The Fete will take place in the garden of Loughton Hall, next door to the Chapel , by kind invitation of Jo and Steve Culley. There will be stalls, teas, music, raffle and hopefully sunshine. Please come along and support this event, raising much needed funds for Wheathill & Loughton Churches. All the Churches in our Benefice are lovely and precious and deserve maintenance and preservation. If you've never been to Loughton or Wheathill, do come along and discover their charm.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

-  **Saturday 4th July.** Pimms & Puds 5 - 8pm at the Pavilion. Tickets available.
-  **Saturday 18th July.** 11am start- Sponsored Walk from Church, followed by Lunch.
-  **Thursday 6th August.** Burwarton Show Refreshment Tent (all day)
-  **Thursday 20th August.** Teas in the Churchyard
-  **Saturday 10th October.** Harvest Supper in the Village Hall
-  **Saturday 21st November.** Christmas Fair in the Pavilion

A PLEA TO DOG OWNERS

A friend of mine has a small flock of sheep in Ditton Priors. Recently the sheep were attacked by a dog on the loose. One lamb died of bites, another is recovering together with a ewe. The vet has been called out several times to this flock and has diagnosed 15 ewes with pneumonia, brought on by the trauma of this dreadful attack. My friend might lose half his flock
Please, please dog owners, act responsibly. Even if you are crossing a public right of way, your dogs must be kept on a lead. Please don't let this or similar happen again!

CLEANING ROTA FOR JUNE

- Sunday 7th June. Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 14th June. Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 21st June. Mr & Mrs Graham Russell
- Sunday 28th June. Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 5th July. Mrs Debbie Lowe & Mrs Anne-Marie Shilling

100 Club results for May as follows.

£20. John & Jackie Houghton

£10. Janet Preece

£5 each to - Les Wall, Pete Mathews, Jane Fieldhouse

A huge thankyou to everyone who has joined the 100 club this year.

Money raised in the past few years has gone towards new heaters and more recently new chairs have been purchased. I still have some spare numbers. So, if anyone would like the chance to win in this monthly draw please feel free to contact me.

Shirley Wall

07530 089808

The Memorial Garden 'Clean-Up' Group

Revd Joe and I have cleared up the headstones in the Memorial Garden and would now like to keep going to make sure that the area is tidy and welcoming. I am setting up a group who can come together on occasional evenings in the summer months as a working party. If you would be at all interested then let me know on 07748987318, thank you. Karen.

Wheathill and Loughton News *Marjorie Jones writes:*



Sunday 31st. May. 3pm. Pet Service at Wheathill



Saturday 13th June. 2 - 5pm. Loughton Fete



Sunday 28th June 6pm. Evening Prayer at Loughton



Sunday. 26th. July. 5pm. Songs of Praise at Wheathill followed by a Barbecue

Aston Botterell News *Anne Preece writes:*



Sunday 7th June. 11.30am, Holy Communion.

Our last service was a Songs of Praise service, in which we sang 7 hymns, with Rev Joe leading the psalms and prayers. It was a lovely service and made a nice change.

On Friday 8th May we held a quiz with food at the Boyne Arms, it was a lot of fun with Ben being Quiz master.... Our thanks go to Tim and Michelle for their hospitality and food.



Our next event is on **Saturday 27th June** 11am till 4pm in Aston Botterell church. A Family Fun Day with music, singing, choir and a fete. Raffles and light refreshments - Anyone wanting to sell their goods ...table tops, crafts etc please get in touch with Anne 07966459806.

If you can sing or play an instrument please get in touch, we would love to have you to play or sing for us.



Saturday 30th May. Social Breakfast at the Boyne Arms ..09 .30am....all welcome.

June trips Wednesday 10th June Cotswolds tour. Friday 19th June Liverpool. Friday 26th June Trentham gardens info from Anne Preece

I took a trip to Ragley Hall ,while we were there, the film crew were filming Father Brown series, it was all very exciting, it will come out in January next year. What a lovely day it was .

It is with sadness that Hazel Scott has passed away and we send our condolences to Shirley and family...

Once again, thank you everyone for your support.

Aston Botterell PCC draw for May as follows

£20-Andy Johnson - No. 243

£10-Ian and Janet Preece - No. 142

£5- Di Downes - No. 57

£5- Brenda Howells - No.163

Neenton News *Dot Cartwright writes:*



Sunday June 21st, 11.30am – Father’s Day Festival and Morning Worship.

We had a very good APCM meeting on the 13th of May, and several issues were discussed. We, unfortunately, need to have building work done on the church to stabilise the window and we also need a complete rewire of lights, sockets and heaters, so we will need to raise funds, and apply for grants.

We’re all looking forward to the annual Neenton Duck Race and Fete on Saturday 20th June, 2pm till 5pm, and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work in organising and putting on of this event. Let’s hope the weather will be good.

We were sad to say goodbye to June Bryan, her funeral on 25th April was a quiet reflection of her life, and she was laid to rest in Valentine Woods.

Rev Joe is trialling some Morning Worship services around the benefice, and we pray that they will be a success as an alternative to Holy Communion, providing a more informal form of worship.



Saturday June 20th we will be holding our famous Duck Race and fete at the Pheasant. Hope to see you all there.

Chetton News *Shelia Millington writes:*



Sunday June 14th, 11.30am - Holy Communion.

Flowers & cleaning

Pam & Ersillia.

100 Club

£15.00 Thomas Mundy, no 55.

£10.00 Daisy Berry, no 21.

We had a busy time at Chetton in May. We were delighted to hold the wedding of Kate Mottershead & Daniel Tolley in our Church on Saturday May 9th. The weather was kind & it was a beautiful ceremony. Kate was also baptised in Chetton so it was very special. The flowers & decorations were quite amazing & as we held a service the next day, we were all able to admire them.

On 2nd May a memorial service was held for the 5 airmen killed when their Wellington bomber crashed at Eudon Geotge. (there is a piece written about them earlier in the magazine) Rev Joe took a very moving service which included the Last Post & contributions from members of the British Legion, RAF & family members. It was wonderful to see so many locals who attended to pay their respects. The pilot Willy Shepherd died on his 21st Birthday. The memorial is on the edge of a field where we all listened to the service along with the sun shining & birds singing.

We assembled back at Chetton Village Hall afterwards for tea & cake. This was expertly provided by Helen & Sylvia, many thanks to them. Judith Sanders made a glorious cake to commemorate the

occasion & it was an honour to chat to the relatives of the airmen & good to know that they're remembered.

Two of the airmen were not British, George Morrow was from Canada & Norman Wachter from Australia. We were able to film the event so that their families will now be able to see the occasion. We have to give enormous thanks to Spencer & Rosie for taking the time to make such a wonderful recording of the event. This can be viewed on YouTube (Rospen Productions) – 'In memory of the fallen, a memorial service for the airmen lost in 1943.'

On Sunday 17th May, Chetton Heritage Museum, along with the Midlands Oil Engine club held a show to raise money for the Midlands Air Ambulance & St Giles Church Chetton.

It was a brilliant day with over 1000 visitors who came to see aircraft, engines, vintage cars, etc & also view all the artifacts in the museum. It was a great atmosphere & a few May showers didn't spoil the day. Tony Maiklem did a sterling job in organising a great tractor run again & all returned to enjoy the rest of the show! Grateful thanks to all the helpers on the day, a team effort indeed.

Cleobury North and Burwarton News *Jane Bufton writes:*



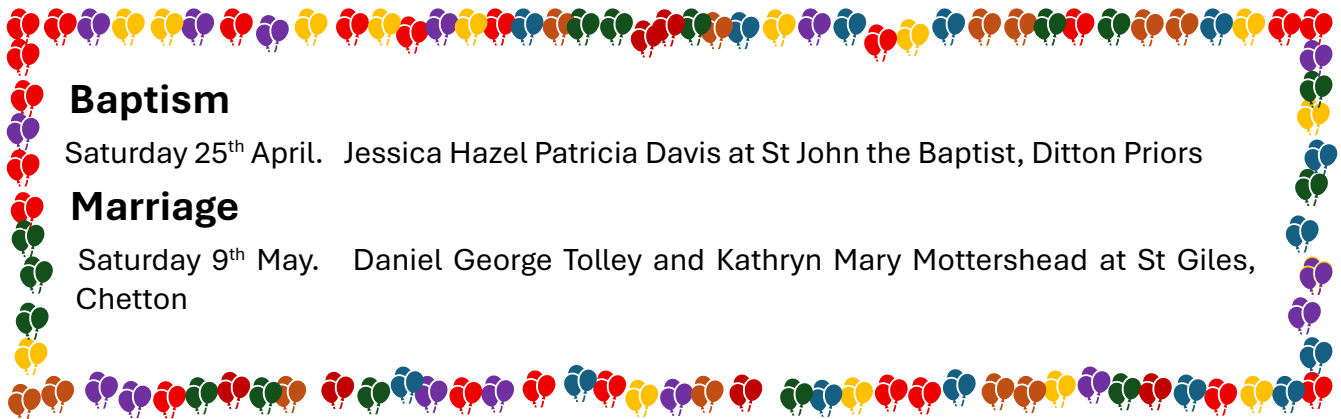
Sunday 28th June. 11.30am Holy Communion.

A big thank you to those who have paid for their lottery. This money helps us to pay for things in the church.

Cleaning and flowers – Linda Green.



Friday 26th June. Next date for Julia's Coffee and Chat with lovely cakes at Cleobury North Village Hall between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Do come to join us for this popular get-together.



Baptism

Saturday 25th April. Jessica Hazel Patricia Davis at St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors

Marriage

Saturday 9th May. Daniel George Tolley and Kathryn Mary Mottershead at St Giles, Chetton

Funerals



Tuesday 24th March. Mrs Mary Agnes Rowlands. St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors.

Saturday 18th April. Mrs Edna May Griffin. St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors.

Saturday 25th April. Mrs June Bryan. All Saints, Neenton.

Tuesday 28th April. Mrs Myra Brougham. St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors.

Brown Clee Community News

Compassionate Companions – CoCo

Alison Roberts writes:

'We live in a world where people's natural gifts of compassion, togetherness and equity are recognised as more powerful than medicine alone'



If this resonates with you then please read on.....

Compassionate Companions (CoCo) is an initiative run through Brown Clee Surgery to tackle loneliness and isolation which can be experienced from getting frail, living with or caring for someone with a long-term illness. This can be physically debilitating but can also lead to people becoming socially isolated. CoCo volunteers support people to remain active members of the community by visiting them once a week, just to chat, which is a rewarding experience for both the volunteer and the client.

So, if you have a couple of hours a week to spare and are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Alison Roberts on 07878 051987. Full training and DBS checks are required to support you in your role.

Alternatively, if you think someone would benefit from this scheme then tell them to ask their health professional for a referral next time they see them at Brown Clee surgery.

Burwarton and District Gardening Club. *Bev Harris writes:*

Another successful year!

May's AGM is the last formal meeting of our programme and an opportunity to review the past year.

It is also a chance to thank everyone who made the programme so enjoyable and successful and this year in particular to thank Sheila Maddocks. Sheila has been a member of the gardening club for over 40 years, but has decided to stand down from her role as chairperson which she has successfully held for many years. In addition, we have welcomed many new members to the club, so have increased our membership considerably.



Sheila Maddocks receiving flowers from Eunice Cannon (Treasurer) and Bev Harris (Secretary).

We have had a good variety of speakers whose talks were enjoyable, informative and at times good fun. In October we travelled 'Coast to Coast by Gardens with Jill and Alun Whitehead, giving us plenty of ideas of gardens to visit. Katie Briggs Thomas from Monkhopton talked in November about her career change from 'Lady Gardner to Flower Farmer', a fascinating journey! An old favourite, Nancy Lowe returned to our club in February to tell us about the Secret Life of the Soil. I think we all gained much inspiration from Nancy. March's speaker was Samantha Hopes, who spoke about 'Plants with a Story'. She was so dynamic that we have booked her again for next year. This year's programme of events included our usual Christmas afternoon tea with a member's talk from Tricia John, a quiz, a Christmas decoration competition and a new item 'Desert Island Gardening Tools' which was a great success. We changed venue this year for our post Christmas luncheon to The Swan at Aston Munslow which served a very good meal. The Spring Show with quiz and photograph competition all took place as usual and again it was a most enjoyable afternoon. All in all, it has been a very successful and enjoyable year.

The AGM was followed by the plant sale. It is interesting to see what other members bring along. It gives an insight into what members grow in their gardens and greenhouses and it is an opportunity to grab a bargain. I like to find something new and this year it was four sweet box seedlings. I have no idea what I am going to do with them, but they looked so tempting, I couldn't resist. The AGM is the final meeting but there is still much more to come. On Thursday 18th June, we are visiting Aulden Farm which is the home and gardens of October's speakers, Jill and Alun Whitehead. Their three acre plot has many fascinating features and there will be tea and cake of course. July is our final meeting. So, we end with a garden picnic. This year, we are off to Stockton Bury Gardens in Kimbollon to explore the gardens and have afternoon tea.

If you would like to join our small, friendly and very active gardening club please get in touch we are always pleased to welcome new members, who bring new ideas to our exciting programme of events.

Bev Harris secretary 07933724728

burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com

www.stokestmilborough.info/burwarton-gardening-club.html

Brown Clee Young Farmers Club

Watch this space – We are thrilled to say that the Young Farmers have offered to help-out with filling up some of the holes in the cemetery at Ditton Priors. This will be a great improvement and ensure the safety for relatives and friends visiting the graveyard who must take care on the uneven ground at present.



Chetton Village Hall. *Sue Bayliss writes:*

Having just returned from a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, we continue celebrating the KAVS with the presentation of the crystal at the hall on Friday 5th June at 3pm, by the Lord Lieutenant. You are welcome to come along, however please let me know for catering purposes, on 01746 789239.

Exercise classes will continue throughout the summer months. Inquiries 01746 789239.

Monday. Pam's Pilates at 9.30, Chetton Active Friends from 2pm.

Tuesday. Pam's Pilates, 9.30, 11pm and 12.15.

Zumba with stretching 2.30, Ballroom dancing 7pm.

Chetton and Glazeley Women's Institute meet the **second Wednesday** of each month. A variety of interesting talks, outings and good company. The hall is available for hire at reasonable rates.

Dates for your diary-

Saturday 3rd October 'The Elderly Brothers' return for a concert with supper.

Saturday 14th November at 4pm, concert by B D Lenz jazz duo, composer of 'Breaking Bad'.

Tickets available now for both events at £15.00.

Inquiries 01746 789239. *Sue.*

Cleobury North Village Hall. *Sharon Jenkins writes:*

Early summer is upon us and hopefully the weather will get warmer and we can sit out and enjoy our lovely gardens and local scenery. Personally, I feel that the time is going so quickly but it is good to have light mornings and light evenings, so I am sure you agree that we need to make the most of this time of year!!

June bookings include meetings for the Burwarton Show Committee, Shropshire Community Health Trust and Burwarton Parish Council.

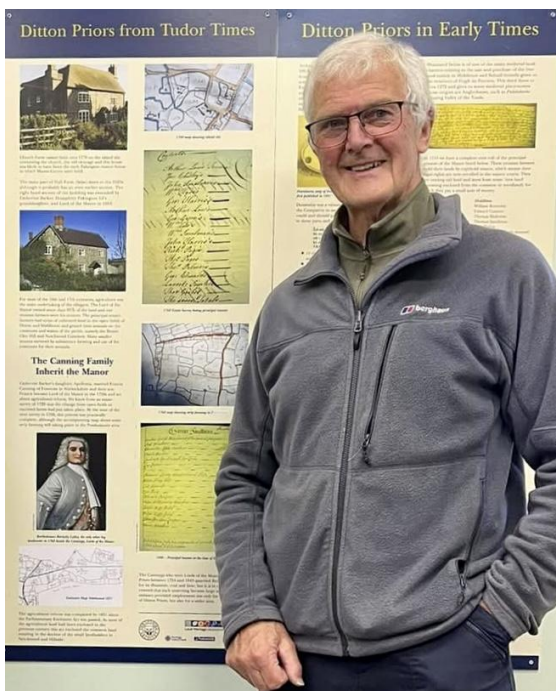
As we move through 2026, the Village Hall is looking to put on some local craft events, to support local crafters and makers and will continue to fundraise to ensure that the village hall continues to thrive. Also, we are looking at actioning an in-door table top sale in the summer for local people.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of our regular and new customers whose bookings help keep this vital service for the local community.

Remember if you wish to book the hall, please contact Sharon on sharonjenkins1605@yahoo.com or 07854538645.

Ditton Priors Local History Group

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our colleague and friend, John Coles, a member of our History Group Committee. His sudden passing is a profound loss, not only to the Group but also to the entire community of Ditton Priors, and to everyone who had the privilege to know him.



John and his wife Jeannette joined the Committee in April 2023, at a time when the group was under threat of extinction.

John was a very important and invaluable member of the group. He took on many roles 'behind the scenes' such as the setting up of presentations and talks, liaising with older villagers for historical information, organising our history centre, researching and writing many of the new display panels, which will be seen this year. And very recently helping with the complete interior repaint of the centre.

John had an intrinsic love of Ditton Priors and a love of the history group; his impact is irreplaceable. John was a fine man whose thoughtfulness, kindness and humour left a lasting mark. He will not be forgotten. Our thoughts are with Jeannette and her family.

BEE WISDOM AND EMBODIED SPIRITUALITY

One-day workshop. Wednesday 1st July 2026, 10am-4pm

Explore Bee Wisdom through the Wisdom Literature and bee history in Egypt, Palestine and dark Europe.

Explore the Alchemy of Waiting, Threshold and Movement in the Swarm with gentle somatic enquiry.

Explore Lemon Balm and the Melissa: A Herbal Introduction and Tea-Tasting.



Artist: Fiona Owen

Workshop Facilitators:

Revd Julia Mourant is a beekeeper, Priest in the Church of England, Spiritual Director, and former Director of the Spiritual Direction course, Sarum College. Her latest book is *'The Spiritual Director: Practising the Charism of Presence and Attention'*.

Rachael Davenhill is a beekeeper, Clinical Psychologist, Spiritual Director, and retreat facilitator at Tosturi Retreat House. Her last book was *'Looking into Later Life: A Psychoanalytic Approach to Depression and Dementia'*.

Cost: £85 The workshop includes drinks, lunch and afternoon tea with honeycake.

Location: Tosturi Retreat House and Quiet Garden, Knowbury, Shropshire, SY8 3LA

Limited availability.

Limited availability. **Booking:** Call 07792776836 or

Website: www.tosturi-retreat.co.uk

Daddy's Hat *by Catherine Wilson*

We at St. Mary's Bridgnorth had the very, very great pleasure of hosting the April Daddy's hat.

It was such a lovely afternoon. The sun streamed through the windows and the atmosphere was so friendly and relaxed it was like being at a concert where the whole audience were friends.

The atmosphere might have been relaxed but the performances could not have been more professional. The musicians were excellent.

First, we were treated to a medley from Saxon Fire, a group of really talented saxophone players who entertained us with lovely light, joyous music.

Next, we witnessed an outstanding performance by Richard Fox, playing the church's grand piano.

The afternoon, finished with poetry read expressively by Richard.

It was all very uplifting and much appreciated by the audience.

The concert was followed by tea and cake, when everybody had a chance to socialise and talk to each other and to the performers.

Daddy's hat is held once a month in a different church within the area and I would highly recommend it to everyone.



The poster features a green background with a white circular area in the center. At the top, there is a banner with colorful pennants. The circular area contains the text 'SAVE THE DATE' in blue, 'SUMMER FETE' in large red and blue letters, and 'FRIDAY 3RD JULY' in yellow. To the left and right of the circle are illustrations of hot air balloons. Below the circle, the text 'Volunteers needed' is written in a cursive font. Underneath, it says 'We will be looking for parents and carers to help with:' followed by a list of tasks: 'Running stalls', 'Setting up and packing away', and 'Helping on the day (even short time slots help!)'. It then says 'If you're able to lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you.' Below that, 'Donations- coming soon!' is written in a cursive font. Underneath, it says 'We'll soon be asking for donations, so please keep an eye out and start having a clear-out if you can. We're especially looking for:' followed by a list of items: 'Clean, good-quality old toys', 'Children's books', 'Lidded jars filled with goodies!', 'Bottles (for our bottle hoopla)', 'Outgrown school uniform', and 'Raffle prizes (vouchers, gifts, experiences, unopened items)'. It then says 'More information on how and when to donate will follow shortly.' At the bottom left, it says 'NEXT PLANNING MEETING Wednesday 13th May 8pm (Online via Teams)'. At the bottom right, it says 'To volunteer or find out more, please contact Rosie on 07972477550'.

SAVE THE DATE
SUMMER FETE
FRIDAY 3RD JULY

Volunteers needed

We will be looking for parents and carers to help with:

- Running stalls
- Setting up and packing away
- Helping on the day (even short time slots help!)

If you're able to lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you.

Donations- coming soon!

We'll soon be asking for donations, so please keep an eye out and start having a clear-out if you can. We're especially looking for:

- Clean, good-quality old toys
- Children's books
- Lidded jars filled with goodies!
- Bottles (for our bottle hoopla)
- Outgrown school uniform
- Raffle prizes (vouchers, gifts, experiences, unopened items)

More information on how and when to donate will follow shortly.

NEXT PLANNING MEETING
Wednesday 13th May 8pm
(Online via Teams)

To volunteer or find out more, please contact Rosie on 07972477550

Stottesdon Fete – 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Please join us for a fun-filled evening including:

- Raffle
- Tombola
- Cake Stand
- Barbeque
- Tug-of-war competition
- Bouncy Castle

And many more things to tempt you with and for you to participate in.

Proceeds of the fete are split between the school and St. Mary's church.

GARDEN PARTY

IN AID OF
THE CHAPEL
OF EASE

SAT 13th JUNE

L O U G H T O N



Music by
Daddys Hat
Musicians

1 - 5 P M



Tombola Prizes
to be Won

ALL
WELCOME

Afternoon
Tea
£5PP



/// what3words: landowner.snacking.saving

Venue: Loughton Hall (next door to the church) WV16 6QP



HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh visits Willowdene Farm

HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh, along with the Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner toured Willowdene Farm. For more than 30 years, Willowdene has been a pioneer of innovative rehabilitative solutions for men and women facing the complex issues that stem from a life filled with factors including offending behaviour, homelessness, poor mental health, substance misuse, and general disconnection from community and society at large.



Through their innovative rehabilitative pathway, targeted training, wrap-around support and social enterprise activities, they provide people facing a life filled with hopelessness an opportunity to take control of their future and build a life filled with purpose, intent and confidence.



Willowdene delivers a unique model of rehabilitation. Combining therapeutic input, vocational and life-skills training, and purposeful and meaningful use of time in a work-focused setting, this model has consistently delivered sector-leading outcomes that have underpinned lasting life-transformation.



Photos from Gettyimages: Credit Jacob King PA images



You're invited to:



Messy Church at Stottesdon Primary School is a fun, friendly time of sharing **faith, food and family time**. We'll play games and enjoy hands-on activities such as crafts and drama, explore a Bible story and theme together, and make space for prayer and "big questions".

Food is always important—expect hot and cold drinks, cake and fruit, with some healthier options too.

This is intended as family time. Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer or another responsible adult. Younger and older siblings and other family members are very welcome.

When: Friday, immediately after school, **once per month** starting **Friday 5 June**—for about **one hour**.

All helpers are DBS checked and our safeguarding and health and safety policies are in line with those of both the school and the church.

If you'd like more information, contact Rev Sally revsallwj@gmail.com 01746 599076.

Do join us, we'd love to see you.



**STOTTESDON CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
PART OF FOUR STONES GATEWAY

Children from Stottesdon Primary School were invited to Willowdene Farm for the visit of HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh, they also:



*Meets HRH the
Duchess of
Edinburgh*

- ❖ Spoke to members of the protective security team
- ❖ Met the new High Sheriff of Shropshire - Katy Tanner
- ❖ Shared the fantastic book 'The Queen's Hat'
- ❖ Identified key landmarks from the book on a map of London
- ❖ Played a game of Royal 'guess who'
- ❖ Had afternoon tea of cakes and drinks (Thank you Willowdene for providing this)
- ❖ Had a sing-song
- ❖ Visited the alpacas; 'Sally' the sow; seven week old piglets; see Angus and British Blue cattle; Mrs Jones's favourite 'Barney' the Greyface Dartmoor ram, and the Greyface Dartmoor ewes and lambs
- ❖ and of course waved flags and welcomed HRH, who made time to come and talk to the children after the unveiling of the plaque.



**STOTTESDON CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
PART OF FOUR STONES GATEWAY



Stottesdon C of E Primary School and Nursery



NEW!
Breakfast club
from 8:00am and
Wraparound until
5:30pm for all
nursery children.



NURSERY SPACES

Available for September 2026

What We Offer:

- A safe and nurturing atmosphere supported by dedicated and caring staff.
- High-quality provision with robust connections to facilitate a smooth transition to Reception.
- An incredible outdoor space, access to school facilities, and an off-site Forest area.
- Early Years Teacher led Nursery
- Play-based learning
- 15 & 30 funded hours available
- Breakfast club from 8:00am and Wraparound until 5:30pm (for 2 -11 yrs old)
- Holiday Club available

**...we really care
and make learning fun.**



 admin@stottesdon-school.co.uk

 www.stottesdon-school.co.uk

Stottesdon group of Parishes

	St Mary, Stottesdon CHURCHWARDEN Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007	St Mary, Cleeton St Mary CHURCHWARDEN Sue Dolphin: - 01584-890583
	St Giles, Farlow CHURCHWARDENS - VACANT –contact the key holder, Pam Phillips – 01746-718475	Holy Trinity, Sidbury CHURCHWARDEN – vacant – contact the key holder, Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149
	St John, Middleton Scriven CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – contact Parish Rep Ann Constable 01746-789420	St Michael, Silvington CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – contact Parish Rep Katie Hickman

Rector – Revd Dr. Sally Wallace-Jones. Email: revsamwj@gmail.com Phone: 01746 599057 / 07999 482107

Services in the Stottesdon Benefice in June

Sunday, 07 June			
9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Farlow
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
Sunday, 14 June			
9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Cleeton St Mary
10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
Sunday, 21 June			
10.30am	Informal Worship	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
11.45am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Middleton Scriven
Sunday, 28 June			
9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Silvington
10.30am	Morning Prayer/Patronal Festival Recommissioning of Ann Constable	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Middleton Scriven
Sunday, 05 July			
9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Farlow
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon

From the Parish Registers:



Tuesday 12th May 2026, funeral and service of Celebration and Thanksgiving of Ruby Iris Dorrell, in the Parish Church of St. Mary, Stottesdon



The Marriage of Steve Eddis-Davies & Ruby Lanigan

Saturday 27th June at St. Mary Church, Stottesdon

News from Stottesdon

What is it that has knocked potholes off its perch as the most talked about issue locally? Why, the weather of course. Apparently (according to the Times that is), the problem is all down to St Dunstan, who was a brewer. A cider maker set up in competition to the saint, who entered into a pact with the devil to see off the opposition. The devil's part of the bargain was to send cold weather along in time to ruin the apple blossom on that basis that no blossom, no apples, no cider. So there it is, so much for the Met Office. There is also a rather unpleasant story about St Dunstan the devil and how the devil got the harder bargain....but you will need to look that up yourselves.



However, we have also had the joy of truly beautiful spring weather as evidenced by the wonderful profusion of blossom and the pleasure of the morning chorus. Its said that at its loudest it measures 110dB, described as extremely loud, 'like a rock concert or riveting machine', hard to believe....unless you have experienced it as when waking up in a tent. And its early....really early, a bit like having a new puppy.

Florence (Flo) arrived last week and has been making her presence felt in every way. The first project is house training and experience of the last few days seems to point to the badly organised humans being the main part of the problem, such as it is. However, she is growing rapidly (the farmer says her 'live weight gain' is phenomenally fast, its certainly more of an effort to pick her up).

And here she is.....



News from Middleton Scriven

Ann Constable writes:

Here's a short poem relating to gardeners, followed by our update.

A Gardener's Prayer, anonymous

*May the bunnies never nibble
on your young and tender shoots,
May your transplants settle in
and put down hardy little roots,
May your weeds come out real easy
and your lawn be fungus free,
May you never put your back out or
inhale a bumblebee,
May your roses never stab you or
your hoses spring a leak,
And may everyone come a'calling
when your garden's at its peak,
May you never grow too weary
as you toil for hours and hours,
And may you never be too busy
to stop and smell the flowers*

We have plenty of keen gardeners and plant lovers in our extended community. They came and supported our recent Plant sale and coffee morning, held on May 9th. We were delighted to raise £441.

Thank you to everyone who donated plants including Emma Giles, Sue Bayliss, Sue Smith, Ann Williamson, Adj MacKay. We had a wonderful collection of bedding plants, vegetables and perennials for sale.

Only 24 hours earlier I had been preparing to hold this event inside our church (for the very first time). Very fortunately the glorious Sunny weather on the Saturday morning meant we could hold it outside and even enjoy our drinks and cakes outside too.



Thank you to all the cake bakers including Kate Teagle, Sally Yates and Rachel Whiting for their delicious cakes and biscuits. I must not forget to say thank you to my husband Philip who was on kettle duty too and had a very busy time as all that plant buying certainly worked up a thirst in our customers. Lots of lovely volunteers helped set up and clear up too, plus Jess and Christiana helped on the plant stalls. A great team effort.

Finally thank you to everyone who came and bought plants, raffle tickets and coffees and cakes.

Our Annual Parochial Church Council meeting was held on May 1st. Thanks were given to our PCC members Sally Yates and myself for their ongoing support and for standing again for the coming year. A special mention

and thanks to Rachel Whiting for being a very efficient Treasurer, and we are delighted that she can continue in this role.

Our events in June are:

Coffee Morning Saturday June 13th 10-12 in church.

Church service: Sunday 28 June 10.30: morning service for our patronal festival of St John the Baptist.

Cleeton St Mary

Sue Burbidge writes:

Cleeton St Mary Church are delighted to announce that the bid to the Lottery for a new roof on the church and other improvements was successful. The bid was for £245,000 and it demonstrates that, despite being a small village, our heritage is valued both by us and by those outside.

By the time you read this our celebration will have passed (on Sunday 24th May) but there will be a longer report in due course. We will keep you updated with the exciting events programme that runs alongside the building work.

(This is truly fabulous news and as we all know making applications for such monies is as hard as doing the actual renovation work!)

No news from Sidbury and Silvington

News from Farlow

Caroline Bilson writes:

MAY 100 CLUB WINNERS

Gemma and Dan	78	£20
Violet Link	25	£10
Steve & Deb Phillips	98	£10
Gemma Bennett	64	£5
Sarah (Little Goose House)	69	£5

FROM THE REGISTER



**Marriage of Richard Robertshaw and Rebecca Garlick
Best Wishes to the happy couple**

Also, Best Wishes to Vera Jones who is back home after her stay in hospital.



JENNIE WALL (NEE PHILPOTTS)

It is with sadness that we report the passing of the late Jennie Wall on 12 April 2026 at Ravenhurst Care Home, Stourport on Severn. She was brought up in Cleeton St. Mary, but for most of her life, Jennie lived in Oretton.

Jennie was a lovely lady. She followed her Christian values in who she was and what she did. She showed this in how she spent most of her life caring for others, and being very kind, welcoming and generous to all. She cared about people and she cared about her environment. She always made other people she interacted with feel that they were valued and important, and what they had to say mattered

She enjoyed going to Church and both she and her late husband, Lawson had been regular members of the congregation. They often contributed to the general upkeep of the church and tending the graves of family and friends. Jennie loved hymns and often played this music on her harmonium, which she later replaced with an electric keyboard. In her early years she had played the organ at Hopton Methodist Chapel.

She made lots of friends when she was a member of the W.I. where she learnt new skills like cake decorating and flower arranging. She loved flowers and had taken part in St. Giles Church flower festival. She adored her garden and this had been evident in the way she meticulously kept her flower beds.

Her funeral took place on 8 May 2026 at St. Giles Church. Jennie's life was one of service to others and putting them before herself. She was very dedicated to her family and will be so greatly missed.

Freda Morris



At the Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council meeting on Monday 18th May, Freda Morris from Stottesdon was presented with an inscribed cut glass vase and flowers by Lord Boyne to celebrate her **40 years service** as Clerk to the Parish Council.

Freda has won several awards during her tenure including The Janet Snell Award given for outstanding service to the community.

Thank You Freda for everything you've done for the village and community

Stottesdon and District W.I

True to the spirit of the W.I and contemporary knowledge our monthly meeting on 20th May saw an excellent turnout for our presentation about Artificial Intelligence (A.I) by Matt Yarranton.

We learnt that there are 4 main models these are 'AI', ChatGPT, Gemini and Claude. The companies that control them are, Open AI, Google, Microsoft and Anthropic (noting the recent court case between Anthropic and Elon Musk which Musk lost).

Matt pitched his presentation at a level that we could all understand and relate to and we thoroughly enjoyed it. (Now we know what some of the stuff in the news is talking about).

This was followed by the usual wonderful cake and tea and coffee to end the evening. Do join us....its not 'all jam and Jerusalem'!

Our next meeting is at Farlow Village Hall on the 17th of June at 19.30. We are having a talk about homeopathy from Anne-Marie Shilling, all visitors welcome.

If you are interested in finding out more about Stottesdon WI, then please contact me.

Debbie Haynes

07780113869

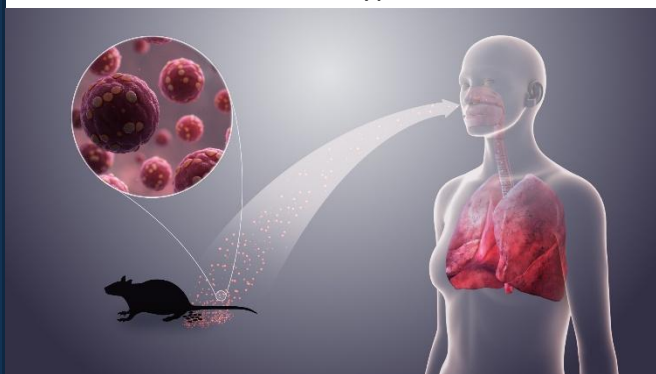
debbiehaynesflp@hotmail.co.uk



Molecule of the month; Hantavirus *by David Poyner*

Until a few days ago, I had never heard of hantavirus. However, as I write, the outbreak on the MV Hondius features on every news bulletin; it even made “Thought for the Day” this morning. The reason for this is probably because it brings back uncomfortable memories of another viral outbreak just a couple of years, that of Covid. There are very significant differences; this outbreak seems confined to just a single ship and we are now much better at infection control than with Covid. None-the-less, the anxieties are understandable.

Hantavirus has some very general similarities with coronavirus, the virus behind Covid, although the two are distinct. Like coronavirus, hantavirus is, biochemically, a lean machine. Broadly speaking, most living organisms are made of three types of molecules, fats, proteins and nucleic acids. Generally it is the proteins that “do” things. However, proteins cannot make themselves. A living organism stores the plans for each type of protein it uses on the nucleic acids. These can copy themselves and also allow the organism to make the correct proteins. Most living organisms store the master copies of the protein plans on a type of nucleic acid called DNA. When they wish to make proteins, they produce a temporary copy of the plans on a second type of nucleic acid called RNA. However, some viruses dispense with the DNA and instead rely only on the RNA. This is what happens with hantavirus and also coronavirus. The simplest form of hantavirus has only three proteins. One, the “polymerase” makes copies of the RNA plans, one sticks to the RNA to protect it and the third is the “spike protein” which is on the outside of the virus and attaches it to the cells of whatever type it has entered.



Hantavirus (top left) is passed from rats to humans <https://www.scientificanimations.com/>
- <https://www.scientificanimations.com>, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=83082221>

Hantavirus normally lives in rats, where it seems to be well tolerated. It can be passed onto humans, where it causes more problems. It targets both white blood cells and cells that line blood vessels; one version also attacks lung cells. Via the spike protein, it enters these. Once inside, the RNA and protein components come apart from each other. The infected cell treats the RNA as though it is its own and turns it into the three proteins that make the virus. In the meantime, the polymerase makes many copies of the RNA. The newly made RNA and proteins come together to form new viruses within the cell, which then leave it to infect more cells within the victim. This process kills the host cells, causing bleeding, fever and lung damage.

There are currently no specific drugs to treat hantavirus. However, it should be possible to produce a vaccine if this is necessary, using the same technology that has given us the covid vaccines. It may also be possible to find drugs that stop the viral polymerase from working or the spike protein from attaching to the host cells. The main question is how the outbreak started; if it was from rats as is usually the case, there is no new biology involved. If a new form of the virus has emerged that can be passed from humans to humans, we are likely to see a lot of work to make a vaccine.

Coal Mining around Stottesdon and Highley

From at least the early 18th century small mines worked the coal and ironstone outcrops in the Stottesdon and Highley parishes. In the 1790s a prominent Newcastle colliery engineer, George Johnson, was brought in to develop coalmining. One of his partners was Thomas Telford, the famous local engineer. Over 50 shafts were sunk, a blast furnace was erected, and a tramway was constructed to the River Severn. However, after numerous bankruptcies and legal cases, everything was finished by 1812.

In the 1860s a second phase of mining began, when the landlord of the Cape of Good Hope sank a shaft to the east of the inn. Good quality coal was hit and a variety of companies formed to exploit this. Due to a mixture of bad luck and bad judgement they all had short lives, in 1882 the mine was purchased by Alfred Gibbs, who ran it as a small profitable concern for 30 years.

In 1920 a second attempt was made to expand the colliery including the construction of a railway from the mine to the Severn Valley Railway. £180,000 was spent on the railway but much of the money was wasted and in 1915 the company sold out to a rival Highley Mining Company which already had successful mines at Kinlet and Highley. They closed the mine in 1921 with much of the machinery taken to other mines.



Rays Farm - had a small mine in 1820

Chorley Colliery – on the north side of the road where the woods begin are spoil tips and foundations of Chorley Colliery, a small mine employing about 30 men which worked in the late 1930s.

Harcourt Colliery – beyond the wood on the south side of the road is the Baptist Chapel built by the miners at Harcourt colliery. The mine is reached by walking down the bridleway between the chapel and caravan park. Spoil tips and the office (now a house) remain in the clearing.

Billingsley Colliery – Near to the road is the old mining office. Beyond are the lamp rooms, fitters and smithy. Most of the buildings were erected in 1912.

Priors Moor – Coal from the colliery came down a rope worked narrow gauge tramway to this site where it was loaded onto railway wagons to be taken to the Severn Valley Railway.

Garden Village – Clee View and the Garden Village were developed for miners at Billingsley

Miners Memorial – a mining wheel erected on the site of the Highley Colliery (now the Severn Valley Country Park) in 1994 is a memorial to the local miners

The above details are extracted from the Stottesdon Heritage website - <https://www.stottyheritage.co.uk/>



The Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw - Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

www.stmaryshighley.co.uk/st-marys-highley

Revd David Poyner, Assistant Curate - email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk,

Tel 0780-100-9693 (mobile) or 01746-861121

Revd Angie Foster – Assistant Curate (in training) revangiefoster@icloud.com

St Mary, Highley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Carl Hinkinson	St Mary, Billingsley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant	St Peter, Chelmarsh <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant	St Bartholomew, Glazeley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant
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Severn Valley Benefice Services

7th June

9.30am	Morning Prayer	Chelmarsh
10.30am	Holy Communion	Highley

14th June

9.30	Holy Communion	Chelmarsh
10.30	Morning service	Highley
6pm	Evening Service; The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust	Billingsley

21st June

9.30	Morning Prayer	Chelmarsh
10am	Holy Communion	Glazeley
10.30	Holy Communion	Highley

28th June

8.00am	Holy Communion	Billingsley
9.30am	Holy Communion	Chelmarsh
10.30am	Informal worship	Highley

Chelmarsh News:



Our picture this month shows the Easter Egg hunt, organised by Glenys Williams and attended by around 20 people, including parents and helpers.

Work has been done in the churchyard to create a new flower bed by the main path to the church; this will add a welcome patch of colour. Work on the church itself continues. When the new louvers were being fitted to the belfry, we discovered that the tower roof was leaking. We now have a quote to repair this and the work will be done over the summer.

We held a bring and buy sale on Saturday May 16th. Our main financial pressure comes from work to keep the churchyard safe by attending to trees; this is expensive and, unlike for work on the building, we cannot claim grants to help. Thus fund-raising continues to be important for us. Additionally, the events are a way of reaching out to the community, bringing people together. Welcome though the money is that we raise, this aspect is at least of

equal importance. Our next fundraising event will be on Saturday 27th June, when we have our annual plant sale in the church. We try to have this as close as we can to St Peter's Day, the patron saint of our Church. Pentecost, the Church name for the days around this is when new ministers are ordained; for us it can also serve as time to remember our calling to be the body of Christ in Chelmarsh.

We were all sad to hear of the tragic death of Fraser Russon; our thoughts and prayers are with Nic, Michelle and Xander. May Fraser rest in peace and rise in glory.

All our June services are listed in the table at the start of our section for the Wheatland News. We typically have around 20 people attending services, which is a healthy number and the trend is for this to increase.

Billingsley News:

Our May evening service was well supported and featured the new vicar of Stottesdon, the Rev Sally Wallace-Jones. Sally started life as an archaeologist; she did her PhD on ancient Egyptian pottery. In response to changing family circumstances, she retrained as a school teacher but she retained a keen interest in archaeology and particularly Egyptology and has worked on excavations in Egypt. She told us something of her journey, including her latest incarnation, as a vicar serving in Stottesdon. Our picture shows Sally talking to the congregation at the end of service.

In June we will be having our local history exhibition in the church over the weekend of the 13th/14th. We have accumulated numerous photographs, maps and documents that we hope people will find interesting. In addition, on the Saturday afternoon we will be serving refreshments in church as well as



having a bric-a-brac and plant sale. On Sunday evening, at 6pm we will be having a talk from the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. All our local churches are members of this and they have helped us a lot with grants, most recently at Billingsley with the new heating. This will fit in well with the theme of local history. After the service, refreshments will be served.

Also in May we have our usual 8am communion on the 4th Sunday, May 28th.

The annual parochial church meeting took place in May. I am very grateful for all those who serve on the PCC, both as elected members and also nominees. Their work is essential to keep the church going and at the centre of the community.

Glazeley News:



In April, we unusually had two Sunday services; one early in the month for Easter and then a second on our usual 3rd Sunday. Whilst numbers were somewhat down, largely due to people on holiday, it was still a respectable turnout and we were delighted that Rachael Davenhill joined us to play the organ.

The annual parochial church meeting took place in May. I am very grateful for all those who serve on the PCC, both as elected members and also nominees. Their work is essential to keep the church going and at the centre of the community.

Our next service is Holy Communion on 21st June at 10am.

In previous years, we have always benefited from the generosity of the Gabb family who have opened their gardens at the Woodlands. This year, the family have decided to take a well-deserved break; we wish them a restful and enjoyable month! We hope that we can put on a social event in the Autumn.

In June we will have the usual 9am breakfast on a Saturday at the Down. This is provisionally booked for 20th June, but please look at our website on A Church Near You for details ([Events - Glazeley & Deuxhill: St Bartholomew - A Church Near You](#)). All are welcome. The cost is £10. Please let Marion or Sheila know if you want to come (07918 559043, marion.corfield@talktalk.net; skm268@hotmail.co.uk). Also in June, on Sunday 14th at 6pm I would encourage anyone free to come to Billingsley Church, to hear a talk on the work of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. Last year we benefited from them in giving us a grant to repair the floor in the church. They are the main funders for projects such as these and play a vital role in keeping our churches viable. The main fund-raiser is the September "Ride and Stride", a sponsored trip around local churches that may be completed on foot, bike or car. We always take part in this so please consider sponsoring us in September.

Billingsley Local History Weekend, 13th-14th June

At St Mary's Church, Billingsley

Church open all weekend.

Displays on all aspects of local history; objects, documents, maps, reminiscences and photos

Refreshments served on Saturday 13th from 2-4pm with table top sale

A talk from the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust on Sunday 14th at 6pm with refreshments afterwards

All proceeds to Billingsley Church.

More on Daddy's Hat.....

Daddy's Hat made its first visit to Highley on Sunday 16th May. A little under 20 people forsook the Cup Final to hear Ragni, Bob and Sarah from Abdon perform a variety of mainly folk songs and Fleur play her the oboe. As ever, the music was wonderful. Out of respect to the Cup, we finished with a stirring rendition of Abide with Me, sung much better than it usually is at Wembley. There was time for me to catch the last 15 minutes of the final; it was not a classic, unlike Daddy's Hat. Many thanks to all our performers and Sally for organising it!

Shropshire Heritage *by Anni Holden Calver*

I was writing this monthly missive of mine in May as the rain hit the window above my computer with a force driven by the wind and the odd interruption from hailstones and then the sun came out. All very odd weather. So, let's be optimistic that all will have calmed down for June.

The good thing about June is that the evenings are lighter and longer. Sunshine means sitting out in the garden in the summer warmth. This got me thinking about making more of these longer days and getting out and about again (like I suggested last month!)

I am a member of the National Trust which for a reasonable sum can give you lots of days out for free. This came to mind when I opened the latest magazine to see mentioned Attingham Park, just west of Shrewsbury on the road to Telford, right in the middle of our county. Last year saw archaeologists working at the site and uncovering a Roman Shrine, an industrial complex and an Iron Age roundhouse, the latter I do not think I have ever seen. (Exhibition 6th June – 19th July).



All this got me thinking about other attractions in Shropshire. English Heritage is another useful organisation to join for free days out once you have the membership. A trip to Wroxeter Roman City is a treat. It's just west of Telford in the village of Wroxeter. Popular with children but lots to excite older people too!

Grandad and I have taken grandchildren to Much Wenlock Priory, which with a children's handout keeps them entertained for a couple of hours. This takes you back to Anglo-Saxon Shropshire. They enjoyed the story on the 'phones' too and so did we.

We took three of them to Avebury and Stonehenge in half-term so it was a surprise to discover another EH place to visit called Mitchell's Fold. It is a neolithic stone circle, once comprising 30 stones and 15 are still visible, despite being 10,000 years old. Shrewsbury to Bishop's Castle road, (A488) and turn at White Grit. What an amazing site, a place of legends here in Shropshire. A spot place for a June evening picnic perhaps.



How about an outing to a battlefield? In July 1403 the Battle of Shrewsbury took place just north of Shrewsbury. It was a very bloody affair, and 1600 bodies were buried on the site. Today it's a peaceful place, supported by Shropshire Council. The site is free to visit and has lots of information. The church built to remember the fallen was built between 1406 and 1410 and is looked after by the Church Conservation Trust.

I have highlighted a few suggestions but there is much more to visit locally. A day out in Oswestry on market day (Wednesdays) is always pleasant (weather permitting). Drop in to the huge church in the centre of the town as well, a welcome awaits and lots to see.

Your local church could also be worth a visit and a place for a picnic with children. Take paper and pencils and do grave rubbings. Check out how old some of the graves are too. Get hold of a copy of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group brochure, you will find it on the website (see below).

Anni Holden Calver, Secretary of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group

www.discovershropshirechurches.co.uk

Trustee of Caring for God's Acre www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Simple – target 45 mins

		8						
						9	2	8
9							3	
				9		7		
			8		1		9	
				3	7		5	2
	7		4					3
	9	6		7	5			
	4				3	6		

Difficult – target 2 hrs

	6	3				5		
5		2		6		4	3	
	1		6					
2		8	9			7		
	4			5	7			
	5			3		6	7	
		9	5		6		4	
				4		2		

Very Difficult – target to finish

		4				8		
	2		4		5		6	
			1		9			
8								5
9								3
			3		2			
		5	2		4	6		
	8	6		7		5	2	
		3		6		7		

<u>S</u>		<u>N</u>
<u>O</u>	E	<u>T</u>
<u>U</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Q</u>

From these letters make words of four or more letters, always including the central letter “E”. Answers must be in the Oxford Dictionary (no cheating!), excluding plurals – that is you cannot have the same word twice, once as a plural form.

	+		+		=19
X		X		+	
	-	1	-	2	=3
+		X		X	
	-		X		=12
=		=		=	
62		15		36	

Above. Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the 6 sums work. Two numbers have already been placed. Each sum must be calculated left to right and top to bottom

Puzzle Page

Reviving our seas, by Cathy Cole



It pulls me, madly, with its salt scent, the rush and scrape of shingle, the teasing winds that whip my hair, and the shocking assault of cold against my skin. Swallowed whole and tossed like a toy boat, I feel its power, its will, and in the first seconds that take my breath away, I am infinitely small, refreshingly insignificant. In the shallows, when the water is clear, I've seen spider crabs lunging over barnacle-crusted rocks, shoals of fleeting silver darts as bream twist through sugar kelp and bladder wrack, cushion stars and crimson beadlet anemones, all awaiting the turning tide. Just once, I shared a quiet moment of awe with a grey seal as we watched the full-moon set into the hazy dawn horizon.

Nearly three quarters of our planet is covered by sea. Always moving, it is vital to our climate system, driving a global conveyor belt of currents that carry oxygen, nutrients, carbon, and heat. This constant churning supports all life on Earth and allows extraordinary diversity to thrive and flourish here. Where ocean currents bring nutrients to the surface, the startling blaze of phytoplankton that erupts can be seen from space. This is the base of the food chain; the source of half the oxygen we breathe; and as this organic frenzy dies off and sinks to the seabed, it takes with it carbon that can be locked away in sediments.

Just as the ocean locks away carbon, it also locks away heat, and is a vital ally in our fight against climate change – but this does not come without a price. Warmer water fuels rising sea levels, intensified storms, and strengthened marine heatwaves, all with serious consequences for human safety.

At the same time, last year's astonishing documentary 'Ocean' by Sir David Attenborough starkly demonstrated the extent of other human pressures at sea, with factory fishing vessels, bottom trawlers and dredgers desecrating the seabed with incredulous extent across the entire globe, including almost all of the world's marine protected areas.



Our eyes are opening to the damage that has been wreaked at sea, and there is real hope for a very different future. World Oceans Day, on 8th June, offers us a chance to celebrate our seas and do better by them. We have entered the second half of the United Nations Ocean Decade, an immense international effort to restore humanity's relationship with the sea.

Early this year, the High Seas Treaty came into force, the first ever international, legally-binding treaty to protect marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. This followed the World Trade Organisation's agreement to end harmful fisheries subsidies. Slowly, we are recognising that one of the best things we can do for ocean recovery is to leave it alone.



Healthy seas also vitally depend on healthy rivers, and they depend on every one of us taking action. Small changes, together, make a big difference – and conversations do too. Let's talk with our MPs and councillors, and ask what they are doing to protect our rivers, coasts, and seas. Let's join the campaign to end the sewage pollution scandal; and take care what gets flushed down our loos (just paper, pee, and pool!) Let's get involved with marine conservation charities including the Wildlife Trusts, Marine Conservation Society, and Surfers Against Sewage. Let's fall in love with the sea, and nurture this in others too.

St. Mary, Stottesdon Electoral Roll

Do you want to be included on the Stottesdon St. Mary electoral roll?

A Church Electoral Roll is the official register of lay members in a Church of England (or Church in Wales) parish. It acts as the local church's equivalent to a voting membership list.

Why the roll matters to the church

Aside from giving you a voice, the total number of names on a parish's electoral roll is vital for the church's administration. It dictates how many lay representatives a parish can elect to regional decision-making bodies and helps measure the size and engagement of the congregation. It allows you to guide the direction of your local parish.

St. Mary's in Stottesdon is currently collecting a new church electoral roll, if you are Stottesdon Parish and would like to join the electoral roll,

Please contact Julia Evans - juliaevans278@gmail.com who will send you a form if you want to be included on the St. Mary electoral roll

Annual Stottesdon/Chorley vs Kinlet Cricket Match

Are you a budding Geoffrey Boycott ? (that's my entire knowledge of cricket exhausted!), if you can play cricket, doesn't matter what standard you are, the annual Stottesdon/Chorley vs Kinlet cricket match is scheduled for Sunday 28th June this year, starting at 2pm. This match is a popular longstanding local rivalry first established in 1984. It's a lighthearted, but competitive Sunday afternoon match that acts as a major social gathering. Unfortunately the number of players has reduced, if you are interested in playing, please contact Mike Mooney (mike@ashtreehouse.plus.com). The venue at Kinlet Hall is a fantastic place to play, or just to sit and watch surrounded by beautiful countryside.

There's often a celebration/commiseration after the match in the Eagle and Serpent



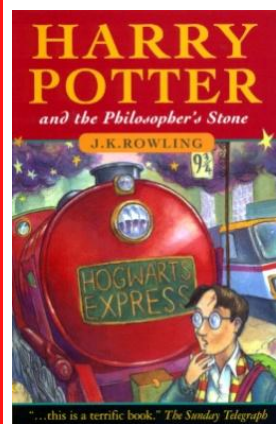
The Back Page

June is named after Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage and childbirth, and the wife of Jupiter. In the Roman calendar, June was the fourth month of the year, the Roman calendar had only ten months.

The Anglo-Saxons called June "Sera monath", meaning "dry month" (wishful thinking!). The ancient Egyptians represented June in the hieroglyphic calendar with a reed plant, symbolizing growth and renewal.

Throughout history, June has been the backdrop for numerous significant events. The

Magna Carta was signed by King John on June 15, **1215** (fairly important). The first **Apple iPhone** was released in June in **2007** (not important). J.K. Rowling's



first **Harry Potter** book was published in June in **1997** (extremely important). For the first time, **television licenses** were issued in Britain in June **1947**, they cost

£2 (the rubbish that's on now I'd say this is very unimportant). In June **1875** inventor **Alexander Graham Bell** and his assistant Watson made the first

sound transmission (that's significant). In June **1832** in Paris, young writer **Victor Hugo** hid behind a pillar after hearing gunshots and witnessed the king's soldiers

shoot republican rebels, prompting him to write *Les Misérables* (I've read it, from a literary perspective it might be important, but I can't rate it as worthwhile) and in June **1720** the first paste-style **mustard** was marketed in England by Mrs Clements (I don't like it but can see its significance). There was probably some other stuff that

happened in June as well!



If you're feeling adventurous there are some great days out in June, the King's official birthday, better known as **Trooping the Colour**, is celebrated on the second Saturday in June. The custom of Trooping the Colour dates back to the time of Charles II in the 17th. Century when the Colours of a regiment were used as a rallying point in battle and were therefore trooped in front of the soldiers every day to make sure that every man could recognise those of his own regiment. In London, the Foot Guards used to do this as part of their daily Guard Mounting on Horse Guards and the ceremonial of the modern Trooping the Colour parade is along similar lines.

The first traceable mention of The Sovereign's Birthday being 'kept' by the Grenadier Guards is in 1748 and again, after George III became King in 1760, it was ordered that parades should mark the King's Birthday.

The **Derby Stakes**, more commonly known as the **Derby** is open to three-year-old colts and fillies. It is run at Epsom Downs Racecourse in Surrey on the first Saturday of June each year, over a distance of one mile, four furlongs and 10 yards (2,423 metres) or about 1½ miles. It was first run in 1780. It is Britain's joint richest flat horse race and the most prestigious of the five Classics. It is sometimes referred to as the "Blue Riband" of the turf.



Later in June is **Royal Ascot** week and a major focus of the British social calendar, as well as being the ultimate stage for the best racehorses in the world. Tradition, pageantry, fashion and style all mix together, as well as around 30 races over five days.

Further afield is One of Scotland's most iconic events, the **Royal Highland Show** is a major highlight of the Scottish country calendar and firmly established as one of Europe's most impressive celebrations of farming, food and rural life.