

# Wheatland News August 2026 School Leavers Edition



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# Editorial

This edition focuses on the school leavers from Brown Clee, Stottesdon and Farlow CofE Primary Schools. The “Class of ‘26” experienced the greatest number of covid lockdowns starting from March 2020 onwards. If you look at what all of these schools and children have achieved across many areas, it’s easy to see why these schools are so popular. All three schools are committed to the development of their pupils through providing them a wide range of opportunities to allow them to strive to be the best they can be.

We wish all of the leavers good luck in their further education, and we would like to thank all of the teachers and support staff at the three schools in making them such an integral part of our community.

## Wheatland News Local Coordinators

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

The deadline for getting your contributions for the **September 2026** edition of WN to the **Local Coordinators or the EDITOR** will be **noon on FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 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.

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## SUMMER HOLIDAYS BY WATER

I used to participate and compete in many sports, the main one being triathlon (swim, bike, run). In most of the competitions the swim was in open water - lakes, docks, rivers or the sea. Much of our swim training was also in open water. The club I belonged to, and all others I’m aware of, take safety in the water extremely seriously. We all took turns paddling rescue canoes where you towed a buoyancy float behind you. Depending on the type of training you always “buddied up”, that is you were only a couple of metres away from your training partner and we were all given training in what to do in an emergency situation. Although being a triathlon club we were all strong swimmers, anyone at anytime can get into trouble. During one long-distance cold-water swim I had severe cramp and was very grateful to have my “buddy” and rescue boat nearby.

During the last couple of heatwaves in the UK and across Europe a number of people have tragically lost their lives in water. Many of you will be heading somewhere near water for your Summer Holidays. If you do, please do take care.

Because many of the deaths and incidents are with young people, particularly teenagers, the first step is to simply “have the conversation” with them. The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) give information on potential risk situations and provides a downloadable pamphlet on how to start a conversation about safety; this can be found at

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/water-safety-for-teenagers>

RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) also gives advice on open water swimming and precautions to take (<https://www.rospace.com/water-safety/open-water-swimming>)

It also may be confusing on who to phone in emergencies at different locations, <https://www.respectthewater.com/> gives simple details on which service to call in the event of an issue. Who to contact should be known in advance of entering the water. Everyone going on holiday to a place by water, even if you do not intend to enter, should familiarize themselves with this, the quicker emergency services are contacted the better.

This may seem over the top, but having swum open water a lot, you need to know potential issues and how to avoid them, and what to do if an emergency arises. No one wants to say don’t go in the water, but please do take open water seriously and make sure anyone you know going to a place near water is aware of how to act.



## Reflection: Faith on the Football Field

As I write this the excitement of the World Cup continues to unfold. It has already given us plenty to talk about. There have been some controversies as well as a few hiccups along the way, as there always are in a tournament of this size, but despite these, overall, it has been a wonderful spectacle. We should hold on to the fact that fans have come together from every corner of the world to support their teams and celebrate their countries. The colour, noise, passion and pride have reminded us again of football's extraordinary power to unite people.

It has been especially exciting to watch smaller nations make their mark, including Cape Verde, appearing on the World Cup stage for the first time, doing brilliantly and carrying the hopes of a proud people. Their joy, determination and sense of achievement have been wonderful to see. Moments like these show that football is about far more than trophies. It is about identity, belonging, hope and the courage to step onto the biggest stage.

Watching it all, I am struck by how much football can resemble faith. There are great highs: moments of encouragement, celebration, unity and breakthrough. There are also lows: struggle, disappointment, pressure and the need to keep going when things do not turn out as we hoped. A team's journey through a tournament can mirror something of our own journey with God. We celebrate victories, but we also learn through setbacks. We rejoice when things go well, but we are also shaped by the difficult moments.

That is why it has been encouraging to see footballers speak openly about faith. Ballers in God, a Christian network in football founded in 2015, describes itself as a movement that connects, encourages and equips people to live for God through the platform of football. It provides community for players, coaches and professionals who want to grow in faith, support one another and use their influence well.

There are many well-known players whose faith appears to carry them through both triumph and trouble. Bukayo Saka has spoken movingly about trusting God in pressure-filled moments. After England's victory over Switzerland at Euro 2024, when asked how he had found the character to overcome past disappointment, he said, "I have faith in God." He has also described reading his Bible regularly and said that before every game he asks God to help him play well, help his team and make a positive contribution, adding that this is why he points to the sky to give thanks.

Marcus Rashford has also spoken about faith in a very grounded way. Reflecting on his family's journey, he said, "The faith we have in God is shown by the people that we are." He added that when he looks back at where his family came from and where they are now, "it's impossible not to have faith in God and all he does for us." That is a powerful testimony: not just faith as words, but faith expressed in gratitude, character and service to others.

Other moments have been equally striking. The sight of Egypt's players kneeling together in prayer after victory was touching and memorable. In a world that can so often seem driven by status, wealth and power, such moments point us towards something deeper: humility, gratitude and the recognition that our gifts are not ours alone.

So, what can we take from this? Perhaps the lesson is simple, but important. When we are successful, we should remember to give thanks to God for his goodness and provision. When we are struggling, we should remember where to turn. Faith does not mean we avoid disappointment, pressure or pain. It means that in the middle of all those things, we are not alone.

Football may give us drama, passion and unforgettable moments, but it can also remind us of something greater. Whether in victory or defeat, celebration or struggle, we are invited to place our lives in God's hands, to live with gratitude, and to trust him for the journey ahead.

*Sally*

## Brown Clee group of Parishes



### Brown Clee Benefice

**Rector – Revd Joe Simons**

The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ

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[www.facebook.com/browncleechurches](https://www.facebook.com/browncleechurches)

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

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**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 August 2026:

### Sunday 2nd August. The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

|         |                 |                |                                     |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9.30am  | Holy Communion  | Rev Joe Simons | Ditton Priors                       |
| 11.30am | Morning Worship | Rev Joe Simons | Aston Botterell (Middle House Farm) |

### Sunday 9th August. The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

|         |                |                |               |
|---------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 9.30am  | Holy Communion | Rev Joe Simons | Ditton Priors |
| 11.30am | Holy Communion | Rev Joe Simons | Chetton       |

### Sunday 16th August. The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

|         |                 |               |               |
|---------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 9.30am  | Morning Worship | Rev Val Smith | Ditton Priors |
| 11.30am | Holy Communion  | Rev Val Smith | Neenton       |
| 6.00pm  | Holy Communion  | LMDG          | Loughton      |

### Sunday 23rd August. The Twelve Sunday after Trinity

|         |                |                |                |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 9.30am  | Holy Communion | Rev Joe Simons | Ditton Priors  |
| 11.30am | Holy Communion | Rev Joe Simons | Cleobury North |

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

|         |                      |                |         |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|---------|
| 11.00am | Group Holy Communion | Rev Joe Simons | Chetton |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|---------|

## Brown Clee Readings for August 2026

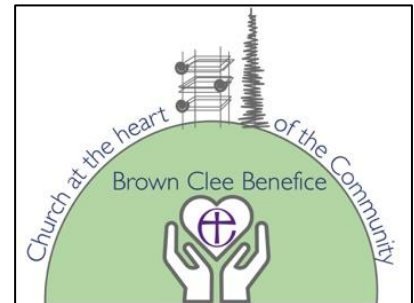
|                                                                                             |       |                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 2nd August</b><br>The Ninth Sunday after Trinity                                  | Green | Psalm 145. 8-9; Isaiah 55. 1-5; Romans 9. 1-5; Matthew 14. 13-21                   |
| <b>Sunday 9th August</b><br>The Transfiguration of Our Lord. The Tenth Sunday after Trinity | Green | Psalm 97; Daniel 7. 9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1. 16-19; Luke 9. 28-36; 1 Kings 19. 9-18 |
| <b>Sunday 16th August</b><br>The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity                              | Green | Psalm 67; Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15. (10-20) 21-28; Isaiah 56. 1, 6-8     |
| <b>Sunday 23rd August</b><br>The Twelve Sunday after Trinity                                | Green | Psalm 138; Romans 12. 1-8; Matthew 16. 13-20; Isaiah 51. 1-6                       |
| <b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity                 | Green | Psalm 26. 1-8; Romans 12. 9-21; Matthew 16. 21-28; Jeremiah 15. 15-21              |



## Brown Clee Benefice News



It has been another packed month in the Benefice with many events including a beautiful 'away' **Wedding in Neen Savage** – one of our old group of churches. We were delighted to be able to officiate for Guy and Eden's marriage. May God Bless them in their union and grant them a long and happy life together.



Our **Prayer and Reflection** meetings are taking place on alternative Thursdays in the Pavilion, Ditton Priors. Do you wonder what Prayer and Reflection is all about (I did!).

It is a small, friendly, but no pressure meeting of caring folk who share their thoughts and hopes together, or if you are like me sit in a non-threatening space to enjoy a cup of tea and feel uplifted without having to do much.

If you can come along for an hour or so I am sure that you will get something out of it. I had thought it would just be another Church thing but now I look forward to sitting in peace and harmony with my fellow 'prayer friends'.

**Gentleman's Breakfast** is a monthly chance for a get together, over a wonderful spread prepared by Charles and Lisa Gill, at Church House, Chetton.

There is always space for new friends or old acquaintances to join in for an hour or so of good company and mutual support.

Please do contact the Benefice Office or Charles on 07778 539942 if you would like further information.



We are planning on setting up a table of **excess garden produce** in two of our churches – Chetton and Ditton Priors.

If anyone does have any surplus fruit, vegetables or flowers for instance, then do please think of us.

We would love to be able to offer this around, for a small donation to the Church, to anyone who may not have the ability or luck to grow their own (or maybe would like to do a swap of goods).

Do come in, be you a regular church goer or not. It will be lovely to see you make use of this new initiative.

\*\*\*\*\*

We are thrilled to say that we now have **Wi-Fi in St John's, Ditton Priors**. This will be a great benefit in services, our mission and does mean that we have a working card machine – If you would like to use it!

## Do you have any surplus Garden Produce?



Following this excellent idea we will be putting a produce table in St. John the Baptist, Ditton Priors and St. Giles, Chetton where everyone will be able to purchase delicious home-grown food (subject to availability!) whilst also helping to raise funds for the church. This will be up and running from 1st August. If any other churches would like to join in please let us know and we will advertise this!



**Revd Joe writes:** It is with great sadness that we share the news of the death of **Margaret Griffiths** at the age of 102.

Margaret was well known and loved in Ditton Priors and across Brown Clee Benefice.

She served over many decades at St John the Baptist, not only as a faithful member of the congregation but also as Churchwarden and finally as Server all the way through to her 100th year.

She was a true character with an insatiable drive to get things done, she will be missed by both those within the church and elsewhere across the community.

As soon as the funeral arrangements have been sorted out there will be further information from the benefice office and we will produce a more fulsome tribute in our next issue of Wheatland news.

**Ditton Priors News** *Marjorie Jones writes:*

## SERVICES



Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. 9.30am. Holy Communion



Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August. 9.30am. Holy Communion



Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August. 9.30am. Morning Worship



Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. 9.30am. Holy Communion

About 10 of us joined in the Sponsored Walk on 18th July, avoiding the hottest part of the day where possible. Pat and Carole H. had a lovely lunch ready for us when we returned to Church. A big 'Thank You' to them, to all who walked and all our Sponsors. Results in due course.



### PIMMS & PUDS

4th July. The Snacks & Puds were well received, and a very pleasant evening was had by all. Thanks to all who prepared the lovely food, those who set everything up and packed everything away, and, of course, to the Black-Eyed Susan's who completed the evening.



### SONGS OF PRAISE

26th July at Wheathill followed by a Barbecue. We're hoping the good weather will last.



### FIRST SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Continue in Church. 10.30 - 12.30pm on 1st August, 5th September and 3rd October. There is no charge for this popular community event, and all are very welcome.



### BURWARTON SHOW

Thursday 6th August. We are holding our usual Refreshment Tent near the Village Green with a chance to chat to Revd. Joe. We need offers of Cakes and Sandwiches please and/or help on the stall. Please contact Marjorie as soon as possible (712 423)



### TEAS IN THE CHURCHYARD

Thursday 20th August. 3-5pm. Stalls, games, raffle, etc. Do come along and join us.



### RIDE & STRIDE

Saturday 12th September. Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. Walk. Cycle or Drive to raise money for the Trust and your own Church by visiting Churches in your vicinity. Sponsor forms available in Church or from Marjorie.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 10th October. Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.

Saturday 21st November. Christmas Fair in the Pavilion.

### MARGARET GRIFFITHS



I would like to express my personal sadness at the death of Margaret. We worked together for many years as Churchwardens, starting in 1993. Margaret was devoted to our Church and served as Verger, Sacristan, Fundraiser and a frequent visitor to the sick and housebound. She is greatly missed by many of us.

May God bless you, Margaret, and grant you His peace.

### CLEANING ROTA FOR AUGUST

- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July. Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August. Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August. Mr and Mrs Graham Russell
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Mrs Debbie Jones & Mrs Anne-Marie Shilling

### 100 Club results for July as follows:

- £20. Richard & Kathy Fox
- £10. Andrew Jones
- £5. Vandra Walton, Peter Slater, Christine Lewis

## Wheathill and Loughton News *Marjorie Jones writes:*



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



Sunday 16th August 6pm. Holy Communion at Loughton



Sunday. 20th September. 6pm. Holy Communion at Wheathill

## **Aston Botterell News** *Anne Preece writes:*



Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. 11.30am, Morning Worship at Middle House Farm.

We held our Fete and musical afternoon in June. It was a lovely warm day and was a lovely afternoon, and I would like to thank everyone who made the effort to come, despite the weather, also thank you to all who donated...and especially our entertainers who played for us so spectacularly and our local choir.



Car Treasure Hunt. On Sunday 2nd August from 1 pm onwards in 15 mins intervals.

Our next event is our car treasure hunt which is a lot of fun and then we see who has the most points to win. Tea is served on return. Cars start from Middle House Farm, Aston Botterell and return for light refreshments.

The church service on Sunday 2nd August will be held at Middle House Farm so I can man the two events together. Teas and coffee will be served after the service.

### **Aston Botterell PCC Draw July**

- £20 Will & Sue Poutney - 17
- £10 Ben Upton - 161
- £5 Richard Jones (Farlow) - 159
- £5 Peter & Glenys Harman - 136

Trip to Llandudno picking up in DITTON PRIORS. On Friday 7th August  
Info Anne 07966459806 for bookings for car treasure hunt and Llandudno.

Weddings, we would love to host you in our lovely church and settings.

The weather has been lovely but too hot and hard work for farmers and others working out in it.

## **Neenton News** *Dot Cartwright writes:*



Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 11.30am Holy Communion

It may seem a long time ago now, but the duck race at Neenton was a lovely day. Thank you again to all who helped to organise it and those that helped in practical ways too.

The winners were:

1st. Alan Venables,

2nd. Lottie (Pickup),

3<sup>rd</sup> Dawn Copperwheat

The tote winners were 1st. Richard Jones, 2nd. Charles Gill, 3rd. Harvey Moreton



We have managed to gain a small grant from the diocese, from the Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins fund of £2,975 to go toward the mountain of work we need done to keep the church open. Any donations towards the work needed would be gratefully received. If you wish to make a donation, please contact Dot Cartwright on 07854 559474. Thank You.

There are still a few Christmas wreaths left on the graves in the churchyard, could anyone that's left one on a grave kindly remove it. Thank you.

## Chetton News *Shelia Millington writes:*



Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August, 11.30am – Holy Communion.



Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 11.00am – Group Holy Communion.

### Flowers & cleaning.

Sue & Sylvia.

### Hundred club.

£15.00 Tony & Babbs Brown no 46.

£10.00 Elisabeth Buggins no 97.

### From the Registers

The funeral was held recently of Irene Mills-Keeling from the Old Inn, Chetton. Irene, along with her late husband John, ran the Old Inn for many years before it's closure. Many of the older generation remember spending evenings there & enjoying their great hospitality. Alongside this, they ran a very successful market stall. We send condolences to all the family.

We have a change of venue for our coffee morning on 12<sup>th</sup> August, it is now to be held at Church House, Chetton 10am to 12.30pm. There will be coffee, home-made cakes & good company. £5.00 entry.



Lisa & Charles are kindly hosting lunch after our Group Service on August 30<sup>th</sup> August. Let us know if you would like to come along.

We have a Down breakfast booked after our summer break. This will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 9am. If you've not come along to this before, do join us for an excellent breakfast & friendly chat.

The **Chetton Clangers** meet every Tuesday evening at St Giles Church, Chetton. They ring for our services and other special events.

If you would like to have a go or have some experience and would like to join the Clangers, then you would be most welcome.

Please contact Charles Gill on 07778539942 for more information.



## Clebury North and Burwarton News *Jane Bufton writes:*



Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. 11.30am Holy Communion.

Congratulations to the winners of our Church Draw:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Florence Fellows, £100

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, Vivian Wright, £30

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Steven, £20

Many thanks to everyone who supports the draw as it helps towards funding our Church.

Do come along to our service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, with refreshments served afterwards.

Flowers and Cleaning – Megan and Helen Griffiths.



**Julia's Coffee and Chat** will be taking a break in August – The September one will be a joint event in aid of Macmillian Cancer at Ditton Priors Pavilion. Details to follow next month.



**Advance notice** – On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November we are holding a Clothes and Bric-a-Brac sale in Clebury North Village Hall from 11am to 3pm. Proceeds to the church. Donations are very welcome and Jane will collect – please phone on 07716877421.



**Burwarton Show** – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2026  
from 08.00 – 19.00 hours.

Come and see Revd Joe, the Show Chaplain in the Village Green Area, where delicious refreshments will be on sale throughout the day.  
-And - Pick up your **'I'VE MET REVD JOE'** Badge !!

A great day out for all the family!

## Chetton and Glazeley Women's Institute 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

*Sue Yardley writes:*



*LtoR = Sally Yates President, Sheila Fox Longest continuous membership of Chetton & Glazeley WI and Ellen McConnell Responsible for the amazing Celebration Cake*

Chetton Village Hall, on the very hot afternoon of July 15<sup>th</sup>, saw members, friends and guests from the Shropshire Federation gather to celebrate 80 years of stimulating talks, participation in competitions locally and beyond, having a go at too many crafts to list and organising a huge range of outings and experiences.

Importantly the celebration embodied the very essence of the WI; the fun, the feeling of community and most important of all, the friendship and support, which is given unconditionally to anyone joining the largest organisation of women in the UK.

What better way could there be to spend a summer afternoon, than by chatting, reminiscing, listening to music, drinking tea, as well as some cheeky Prosecco and eating cake!

So many were involved in the huge success of the afternoon but of course there is always the risk of leaving out a key player. Therefore, it would probably be safer to mention just three of the many who were involved in various aspects of the day; Sally Yates the WI President, who together with her committee co-ordinated the whole event, Ellen McConnell who made and iced the stunning cake and Suzanne Millington and her accompanist, who provided the musical entertainment.

Much work had gone into tracking down relatives of founder members, 10 of whom were there to join in the celebrations.

The on-going archive of material from the earliest meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> 1946 in Glazeley Parish Room was on display and was appreciated by all those present. Gone are the hats always worn by members at those early meetings and of course Mrs Richard Yates would have been the formal term for Madam President in those days! How things have changed.

Here's to the next 80 Years!



**Chetton Village Hall.** *Sue Bayliss writes:*

This photo is of Zumba in full swing on one of the hottest days of the year in our cool village hall. Come along and exercise in an enjoyable way, with stretching to follow. £6.00 a class, Tuesday at 2.30.

We have to thank Bridgnorth Aluminium for their generous grant towards the running of Chetton Active Friends, and Awards for All, for a grant to enable us to have the outside of the building professionally cleaned. These grants are very much appreciated.

We hope to show Flicks in the Sticks on Thursday 3rd September, title to be announced next month. Doors open at 7pm, film commences at 7.30. Tickets £5.00 or via the Arts Alive website, where details of the film will be.



**12<sup>th</sup> August. Garden Visit.** Join a day time visit to John's garden, adjacent to Ashwood Nurseries



**9<sup>th</sup> September. Sound Bathing Demonstration/Workshop.** Opportunity to immerse yourself in listening to various sounds in a sound bathing experience with Sarah from Blue Farm Wellness.



**14<sup>th</sup> October. Annual Meeting.** As well as our Annual Meeting there will be a Bring and Buy and an opportunity to participate in competitions.



**11<sup>th</sup> November. Christmas Crafting.** A daytime Christmas crafting session with Sharon.



**9<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Festivities.** Enjoy the Christmas Lunch try Celebrating Yuletide with WI friends.



**13<sup>th</sup> January. Games Night.** Welcome in the new calendar year with our traditional evening of games as well as a Chinese Auction.



**10<sup>th</sup> February. Havenhills Field and Kitchen.** Find out about a Shropshire farm to fork business.

**10<sup>th</sup> March. Exploring the Severn.** Join us to learn from Rosemary Winnall. From source to sea on foot, by cycle, boat and canoe. (Open Meeting. £5 for Guests).

For further information, please contact Sue on 01746 789239.

#### **Cleobury North Village Hall.** *Sharon Jenkins writes:*

Summer is well and truly here in Cleobury North Village and I am sure you agree that it is lovely to see the flowers in full bloom and the gardens looking good. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us this summer and we have a long and warm spell of sunshine for all to enjoy.

August is a busy month for bookings and includes meetings for the Burwarton Show, Julia's coffee morning which is always held the last Friday of every month and I would like to welcome our new customer West Mercia Police who have started to host police surgeries.

Please note that the date of the next West Mercia Police Surgery is the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026 between 1.00 pm and 2.30 pm.

We do have spaces for more bookings for private parties as we head through the summer, so please think of us if you wish to hire a space for your loved ones to meet or to celebrate an occasion. Please note booking information below.

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](mailto:sharonjenkins1605@yahoo.com) or 07854538645.

#### **Ditton Priors Halls.**

*Louise Tyson writes:*



Barn Dance 19<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30pm. At Ditton Priors Village Hall  
Watch out for full details soon!





## Ditton Priors Local History Group. *Robin Greenwell writes:*

**On 7th July the Ditton Priors Local History Group was delighted to welcome back the irrepressible Patricia de Haan for her 3rd illustrated talk in the series on Maps of Shropshire.**

Before the talk, chairman Paul Wilson gave a fitting tribute to our colleague and friend, John Coles, and spoke of the wonderful contribution he made to the History Group, before handing over to Jeannette Coles to introduce our guest.

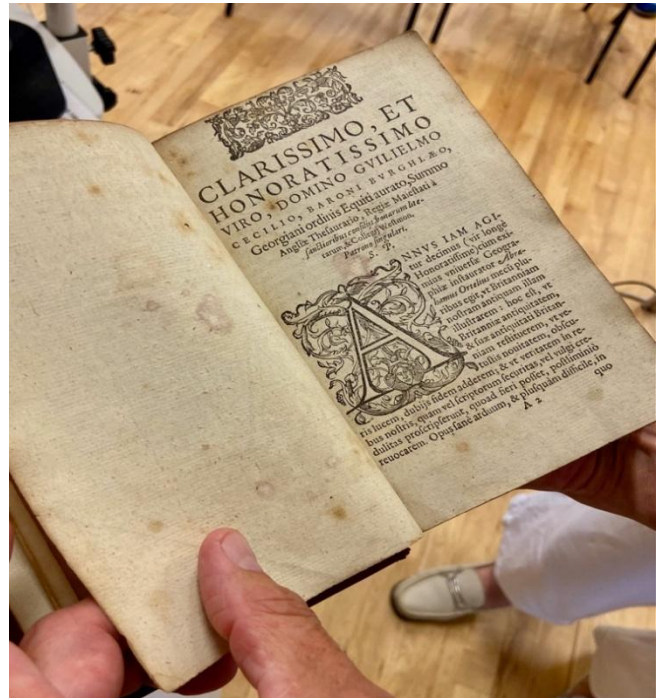
Patricia's latest talk, entitled simply 'BRITANNIA' was a fascinating, fast paced, humour-peppered journey through the work of William Camden, who in 1577, began his Britannia project, a topographical and historical survey of all of Great Britain & Ireland, published in 1586.

The audience got to see, and in some cases handle, Pat's personal, original 1590 edition! We learned how, in 1607, beautifully engraved full county maps were added, including Shropshire of course, and further developed, with the addition of colour in later editions.

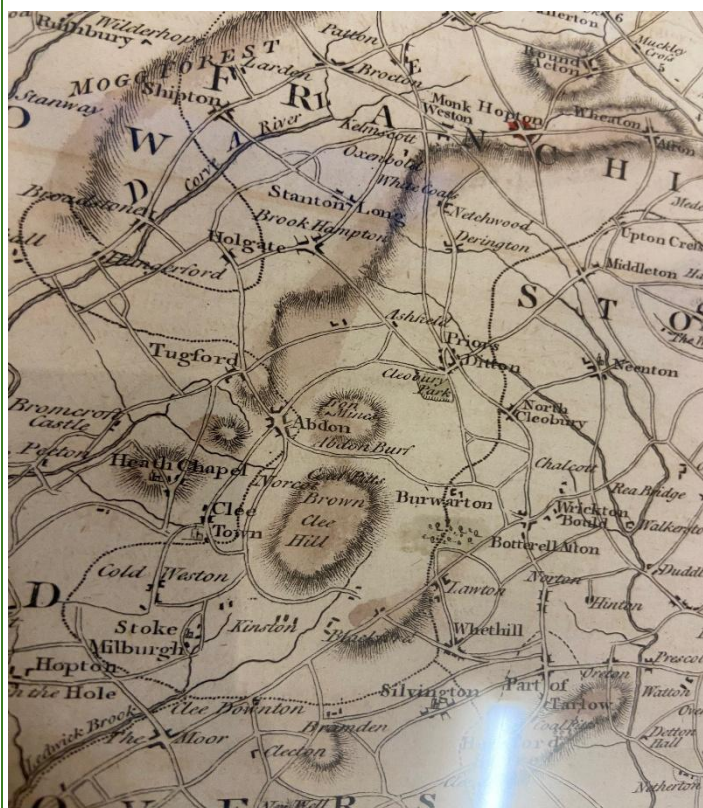
Focussing on Shropshire, we were also treated to extracts of text, one of which touched upon the argument about the pronunciation of our county town! Proving firstly that it is an 'age-old' conversation and secondly that there isn't a right or wrong!...

*"...Not much lower, is pleasantly situated upon the Severn the Metropolis of this county (riven out of the ruins of Uriconium) which we call 'Shrewsbury', and now a-days more softly and smoothly, 'Shrowsbury'."*

Pat and her husband David brought along printed originals of several of these maps – the detail of which was incredible! Priors Ditton, Brown Clee, Middleton, Abdon, Neenton etc. all clearly visible!



Huge thanks once again to Patricia and David de Haan, to Paul, and to Jeannette. We hope everyone who came along enjoyed the evening.



On Saturday  
15<sup>th</sup> August at 3:00pm

## Daddy's Hat

is coming to  
All Saints' Church  
Little Stretton !

**SY6 6RD**

///inflamm.trickled.intention

On a theme of stray sheep and goats - and the Good Shepherd. Music from faithful friends Pam and Bob, and Fleur, and Lindsay

No tickets, no charge - just a donation to the Hat if you wish, shared between the hosting church and musicians' expenses

**EVERYONE WILL BE WELCOME** - Soft drinks, nibbles and a chat afterwards!

Next Dady's Hat is on the 15<sup>th</sup> August at Little Stretton

Seven in a Bar gave us a brilliant hour of music at Aston Botterell church, with additional solos from Lindsay, singing Gershwin's Summertime, and daughter Fleur, transporting us into mystic realms, with the magical sound of her electric guitar rhythms.



## **Memorial Service Brown Clee Hill at 2pm Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2026.**

With kind permission of Viscount Boyne, a service to commemorate the loss of military personnel on and around the Brown Clee Hill area during WWII will be held at 2pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September at the Memorial Site near the summit on Brown Clee Hill.

The service will be conducted by Revd. Joe Simons and will conclude with the playing of the 'Last Post' and laying of poppy wreaths in memory of both allied and German personnel who tragically lost their lives.

**It is anticipated the service will last approximately 20 minutes.**

Brown Clee Benefice is required to bring to the attention of all potential attendees the Health and Safety risks involved to be considered before attending this service.

The memorial site is near the summit of Brown Clee Hill and is located on Burwarton Estate. A very open and extremely exposed area. The location is approximately 2 ½ miles from the rendezvous point Cleobury North Village Hall. The route to the memorial site is via a combination of tarmac roads, stone tracks and very uneven trails.

**It is advised substantial 4WD vehicles be used for this journey.**

On completion of this journey vehicles will be parked in a rough clearing by a wooded area. It is then necessary to make the remaining one third of a mile distance to the memorial site on foot. Vehicles or assisted disabled wheelchairs cannot gain access to this area of Brown Clee Hill.

Unfortunately, it is advised that any person requiring walking assistance should consider very carefully before attending the service as the ground conditions, dependent on weather, can be a mixture of mud or hard uneven ground. The site is very exposed and suitable footwear/clothing should be worn to deal with the weather conditions of the day.

It must also be noted there are no seating facilities at the site.

All attending this service do so at their own risk.

It is proposed that all persons attending rendezvous at CNVH at 1.15pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September and anyone without suitable transport can be allocated to volunteers with spare capacity in their 4WD vehicles

On completion of the service light refreshments will be provided at CNVH and an invitation is made to anyone who cannot attend the service to remain at the hall awaiting the return of the service congregation.

Anyone wishing to attend this service please contact any of the following so that the appropriate travelling and refreshment arrangements can be made:

Brown Clee Benefice Office 01746 599217 [browncleebenefice@outlook.com](mailto:browncleebenefice@outlook.com)

Shelia Millington 07791857787

Tony Brown 01746 712532

Charles Hunter 07931360256



# SCHOOL LEAVERS SUPPLEMENT - CLASS of '26



THE WHEATLAND NEWS TEAM WISHES  
GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF THE LEAVERS  
ACROSS OUR THREE WONDERFUL  
SCHOOLS

# BROWN CLEE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



"It has been a real joy to spend time with the year 6 leavers, they are a such a wonderful group of young people. The sense of togetherness and support for one another is great to see, whilst at the same time they have all flourished as individuals in their own right. My prayer is that they will continue to thrive and grow knowing that the Christian virtues, so much a part of Brown Clee School, will be a firm foundation for happiness and success in the future.

Every blessing on you and your families."

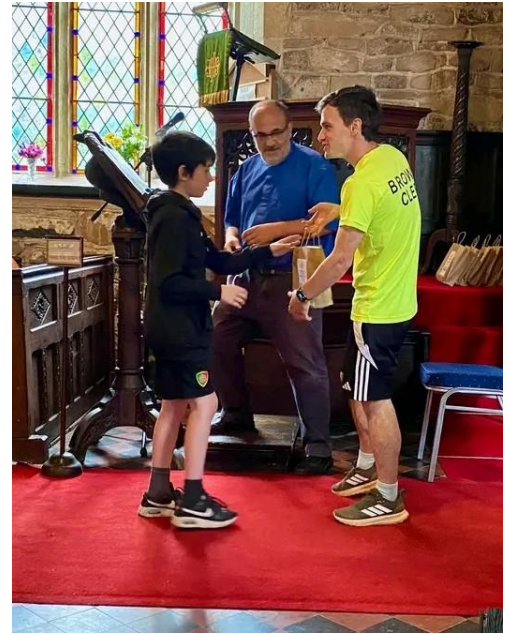
*Revd Joe*





**'All of our churches across Brown Clee Benefice were delighted to present a Bible and a little book to help the fourteen year 6 leavers with advice about moving forward in their new schools. Our congratulations, love and support go with all of these amazing young people.'**





## Memories of Year 6

**Benji:** I am looking forward to secondary school, but I am going to miss my friends that are going to be going to different schools. When I am older, I hope to be the owner of my own business.

**Zac:** I am going to miss all of the sports, compassion, integrity and fun community at Brown Clee. I will miss everyone and all of my friends. I will especially miss everyone's unique characters. I'm looking forward to secondary school in Ludlow, and I'm looking forward to making new friends. I hope I can continue to represent my school in sports - like I have at Brown Clee. In the future, I hope to be ambitious and respectful in everything I do.

**Teddy:** I will miss all of my friends from Brown Clee. I'll also miss Laura and Carla's amazing school dinners and all of the teachers that have given me a great 7 years at Brown Clee. I am looking forward to finding new friends and being with my brother at school again - even though he'll probably be really annoying.

**Callum:** I will miss my friends because some are going to different schools. I am looking forward to going to Endowed because it will be very different for me, having been at a small school for so long. In the future, I hope to chase my dreams and succeed at life.

**Jude:** I will miss Brown Clee School and especially some of my younger friends that will be staying. In the future, I hope to achieve my goals. I am looking forward to making new friends at secondary school, and I would like people to remember me as a kind and respectful person.

**George:** I will miss being at Brown Clee and seeing all my friends. I am looking forward to moving to secondary to continue to grow and make new friends.

**Ella:** I will miss Brown Clee because some of my friends are going to different schools and we all have to leave the school that we have had 7 amazing years at. I'm looking forward to making new friends at secondary. In the future, I hope to be the best I can be in everything I do. I would like to be remembered as a trustworthy friend.

**Matilda:** I will really miss this amazing, supporting school that I loved growing up in. It has helped me to grow up to be respectful and polite. In the future, I hope to grow up to be an artist, to create lots of my own creations. I want to be remembered as polite, respectful, brave and resilient.

**Brooke:** I will miss Brown Clee School, my friends and teachers. I am looking forward to the big changes that secondary school will bring. In the future, I hope to continue to be a successful person in life.

**Isabel:** I will miss Brown Clee School because everyone is so nice here, and it's been an amazing 7 years growing up here. In the future, I hope to be a successful person, with lots of friends. I would like people to remember me as a nice, funny, respectful person.

**Sam:** I will miss all of the teachers at Brown Clee because they are always kind. I am looking forward to making new friends at Secondary School. In the future, I hope to be grade 8 cornetist - and I would like people to remember me as the musical mastermind.

**Cooper:** I will miss Brown Clee because all the teachers and pupils are so nice and kind. I am looking forward to new experiences at secondary school. In the future, I would like to be a blacksmith and a carpenter.

**Sophie:** I will miss everyone from Brown Clee School. I am looking forward to making new friends at secondary. In the future, I hope to be a good, kind person - and I would like to be remembered as kind, happy, funny (and occasionally clumsy) girl.

**Maisie:** I will miss Brown Clee School and my friends that are moving to different schools. I am looking forward to meeting new people in Year 7. In the future, I hope I continue to be a good friend that people can rely on.



## Year 6 Favourite Memories

Ruby "Mrs Walker asked me to join rounders club and I felt very happy and proud"

Bella "swimming with the school"

Holly "my first day at this school in Year 6"

Felicity "when one day, in Stotty, I got my first ever achievement in Assembly and I smiled and everybody clapped for me for the first time"

Elia "playing on the field with my friends and doing different races"

Jenson "when I was making our cams toys in D&T"





## *Year 6 Favourite Memories*

Harrison "having a pillow fight at Top Adventures"

Florence "I had a great time at Stottesdon. My favourite lesson is P.E."

Maxwell "when I first met Harrison in Reception and I asked him, like 1000 questions, like, "where do you live, and what pets do you have?" And that's how we became friends!"

Charlie "last year at Top Adventures and I went in the canoe. I fell off into muddy water!"

Teddy "when I remember being in the kayaks and when it was my turn I got lifted up but I rolled backwards and fell into the water."

Lillie "the London residential and going on the London Eye"

## Year 6 Favourite Memories

Gabe “our London residential and the trip on the London Eye ( we moved extremely slowly!)”

Tabitha “when I started talking to the girl next to me (Elia). She is my best friend of six years. Thanks Elia”

Noah “when we were at Top Adventures and Charlie did ‘head, shoulders, knees and toes’ on his canoe and fell off!”

Scarlett “when we did a re-enactment at Warwick Castle, it was the Vikings against the Saxons”

Ellie “when we were at Top Adventures OAA. We went on the Jumbo Boards, and we kept jumping in and saying there was a shark!”

Bea “when we were on a residential at Top Adventures and Mrs Macnamara because she was squirting us with a water gun”



## *Year 6 Memories of Farlow School*

Max Burgess "I am so glad I came to Farlow school because it is so lovely. I like it because it is a small school. Out of 4 residentials, Cardiff was the best one because I liked the bowling and the golf. My favourite school trip was the Tutankhamun NEC immersive exhibition in Birmingham"

Evie Rogers "I was glad to come to Farlow school it has given me lots of opportunities that I have taken and enjoyed. I have enjoyed choir and all of the residentials. My favourite residential was Arthog. It was a lot of fun and I have put effort into doing things I



## **FARLOW PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**GOOD LUCK MAX  
AND EVIE**





# GOOD LUCK TO ALL LEAVERS FROM THE CLASS OF 2026

THE ONLY LIMIT TO WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE IS  
YOUR IMAGINATION



## STOTTESDON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

### .....WE REALLY CARE AND MAKE LEARNING FUN

Our small village school (set in idyllic South Shropshire) is a lively, vibrant setting for children. Children who come to our school not only achieve well but also receive outstanding care and personal development.

#### Ofsted Feedback 2025:

Our report acknowledges the many positive aspects of our provision:

- '....happy...kind...caring'
- 'ambitious'
- '...enable them to be successful'
- '...behave well....play kindly'
- 'range of exciting opportunities'
- 'Children enjoy learning...'
- Strong reading provision
- Strong starts in the early years
- Strong curriculum offer
- 'provision for pupils' wider development is exceptional'
- 'The school is receptive to new ways of thinking and embraces change and challenge to improve their school.'

#### Some comments from our parents:

'Staff are always very caring of the children.'

'Thank you for your care, support and dedication.'

'A lovely school where all children are encouraged to be their best selves.'

'Well done to all the staff for providing a wonderful learning environment.'

'Excellent school :) well done.'

'Very happy with the support, both academically and pastorally.'

'We appreciate all the 'extra-mile' effort staff, both teaching and non-teaching, make on a weekly basis – thank you!'

## BROWN CLEE C.E PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Aspire; Believe; Persevere; Succeed

Giving children the opportunity to develop, knowledge, imagination and confidence in a stimulating and attractive learning environment.

Mr. Danny Harley – Headteacher:

"One of the hardest, but most rewarding, parts of working in a primary school is the time in which our Year 6 pupils have to leave us. For many, they will have spent 7 years with us, and our closeknit ethos of togetherness and unity, mean that they (and those that join between) feel such an integral part of what we do, and it is therefore always a difficult thing to say goodbye.

That being said, this time of year also reminds us of one of our most significant purposes - which is to help, alongside parents/carers and the wider community, prepare the children that go through Brown Clee for the wider world beyond. One, in which, we feel this group of Year 6 are certainly ready to take on.

I have always very much been of the view that the easiest way to see how well a school is doing is to look to their Year 6s - who should epitomise everything that is seen important and the culmination of several years of hard work, teamwork and dedication. We are all incredibly proud of the fourteen Year 6s that are leaving Brown Clee this year, and all they have achieved - from their fantastic fundraising ventures to their unprecedented multiple countywide sporting successes. They truly do embody our school's ethos and values - particularly, this year, through their unity, respect and compassion. The selfless togetherness they have as a group make them a fantastic set of role models that the rest of the school can (and have) aspire(d) to replicate.

We wish them the best of luck for the future, thank them for what they all contributed towards - and hope that they all know that they will always be a part of the team at Brown Clee".

## FARLOW C.E PRIMARY SCHOOL – “LOVE TO LEARN. LEARN TO LOVE”

Farlow C.E Primary is a small school with big aspirations for all members of its community. Children and adults flourish because they are encouraged to be creative in their learning and to use their talents.

" Little schools can do big things"

We believe that there is no ceiling on what can be achieved.

**"Planting seeds of happiness and achievement: Growing and learning together."**

Our vision and values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens.

## 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 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](mailto:revsamwj@gmail.com) Phone: 01746 599076 / 07999 482107

### Services in the Stottesdon Benefice in August

#### Sunday, 02 August

|         |                |                             |            |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 9.00am  | Holy Communion | Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones | Farlow     |
| 10.30am | Morning Prayer | Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones | Stottesdon |

#### Sunday, 09 August

|         |                |                             |                 |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 9.00am  | Holy Communion | Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones | Cleeton St Mary |
| 10.30am | Holy Communion | Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones | Stottesdon      |

#### Sunday, 16 August

|         |                  |                             |            |
|---------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 10.30am | Informal Worship | Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones | Stottesdon |
| 11.45am | Holy Communion   | Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones | Sidbury    |

#### Sunday, 23 August

|         |                |                        |            |
|---------|----------------|------------------------|------------|
| 9.00am  | Holy Communion | Revd Preb John Daniels | Silvington |
| 10.30am | Holy Communion | Revd Preb John Daniels | Stottesdon |

#### Sunday, 30 August Benefice Group Service

|         |                |                             |                   |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 10.30am | Holy Communion | Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones | Middleton Scriven |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|

#### Sunday, 06 September

|         |                |                   |            |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| 9.00am  | Holy Communion | Revd David Poyner | Farlow     |
| 10.30am | Morning Prayer | Revd David Poyner | Stottesdon |



We had 16 children and 12 adults at Messy Church in July.

We read the story of the Tower of Babel together and talked about the importance of listening to each other and working together. We made Towers using Dolly Mixtures and cocktail sticks working together to see who could make the tallest ones. We had lots of fun and thought about an important message.



The August Messy Church morning will be on 5th August.

## News from Middleton Scriven *Ann Constable writes:*

Our community events are a great way to bring people together and our July BBQ was no exception. Thank you to all our volunteers who made this new venture a success.

This was instead of our regular coffee morning and our trial event on Saturday 11 July from 12-2pm was enjoyed by more than 25 people all sitting or standing in the shade in the churchyard!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Community BBQ. What a glorious sunny day, with very tasty burgers and sausages and of course plenty of chatter. A Huge thank you to BBQ chefs Alan and Philip slaving away over very hot BBQ; with all the Fun Raising team. Thanks for all the raffle prizes too. Well done one and all.

In August, on Saturday 8th, we are back to the regular coffee morning time 10-12pm and back to coffee/tea plus cake!

We hope to see you there.



What a joyful celebration as we marked the patronal festival at St John's Middleton Scriven and gave thanks together in worship. It was especially good to recommission Ann Constable as a local worship leader. Ann's work, faithfulness and support are greatly appreciated, and her thoughtful reflection on John the Baptist gave us all plenty to ponder.

It was also a real blessing to welcome worshippers from other congregations in the Benefice as we came together to worship and give thanks.

If you might be interested in helping to lead worship, sharing intercessions, reading from the Bible, or undertaking parish visiting, you would be warmly welcomed. Please get in touch with Rev Sally if you'd like to have an informal chat about what God may be calling you to. Lay ministry is a vital and rewarding way to share faith—so don't be shy about coming for a conversation if you'd like to know more.

Thank you, Ann, for all that you do and congratulations on your recommissioning.

At the Stottesdon Primary School and Church village fete why did Revd Sally feel she had to be rescued by 3 hunky firemen?

It was a wonderful evening with lots to do for all ages. The fireengine from Cleobury Mortimer station was a big hit with the children (and obviously with Sally!). There were games, raffles, food and drink. The school children sang and were accompanied by their orchestra, a great time was had by everyone.

The fete raised £3,200. With money being tight in both both education and the church, these occasions, apart from being good fun and bringing the community together, raise important money for the church and school.

Thank you to everyone who supported it.



## QUIZ NIGHT

### Quiz Nights are back at the Fighting Cocks!

Georgia and Matt held the first Quiz Night at The Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon in June with another to follow about the time of sending to print in July. Please see the Fighting Cocks Facebook page (search for Fighting Cocks Stottesdon) for future events. There is a £10 charge for teams of up to 4 with proceeds going to Midlands Air Ambulance. The June quiz was a sell-out, many thanks to David for setting the questions.

See a separate advert about a go-kart raceday in Hereford in August organised by the pub (also in aid of the Air Ambulance) on page 42.

Georgia and Matt are doing a fabulous job running the pub, we've had Alfies's Kitchen, soon there will be the Pizza Trailer and Alfie's Kitchen back again later on. Stay up-to-date with events through the facebook page and please support Georgia and Matt with these events and supporting our local pub.

### News from Farlow and Oretton *Caroline Bilson writes:*

#### JULY 100 CLUB WINNERS

|                            |    |     |
|----------------------------|----|-----|
| Joan Phillips              | 5  | £20 |
| Alastair and Ann Blake     | 31 | £10 |
| Robert Downes              | 9  | £10 |
| Gill Parsonage             | 40 | £5  |
| Chris and Jackie Derricutt | 77 | £5  |

### News from Stottesdon

I am sure this *not* news to anyone reading these pages but the decision whether to water or not to water looms large in the mind of any gardener at the moment. We know that the first shower of rain will green up the parched lawns as if by magic but that some of the plants will never recover and be part of the changing landscape as climate change sends gardeners and farmers and growers as Farming Today reminds us (5.45am on Radio 4 if you are around at this time) to use plants more tolerant of extremes of temperature.

A failure in the water supply recently created a sense of absolute challenge as the cattle (who drink between 27 and 55 litres of water a day, depending on their weight and air temperature etc) gathered in mournfully noisy clusters around empty water troughs. Water comes into an ordinary galvanised trough through the usual system of pipes and ballcocks housed in a metal casing to try to protect the mechanism. Cattle know where the water comes into the trough and can bash the system to destruction should the water cease to flow. As it seems the hot summers will continue and the water supply can fail the farmer has invested in the trial of a concrete trough roughly four times the capacity of the usual trough and much more than four times as robust. Seeing one of these full of cool water and looking remarkably like a bath tub does give pause for thought amongst the humans on a hot day. Hummmm.....maybe even a business opportunity if the pool at Highley seems a long way away.

## **Stottesdon & District WI Meeting – Guest Speaker from Severn Valley Railway (SVR)**

*Belinda Kennet writes*

We had a remarkably good membership turnout for the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> July with two partners also in attendance, where we had a super evening with a talk by Jim from the SVR.

Jim was very knowledgeable and engaging. He has worked as a volunteer for many years, and in fact came to the meeting straight from work in his uniform! We learnt that they have some 1,400 volunteers, and have specialist boiler makers and other craftsmen employed. It was super to hear that they have apprenticeship schemes for the various crafts as well.

Fundraising is always a challenge, but with the help of some grants, they have been able to enhance the railway in various ways. Their current project is to install a platform canopy at Kidderminster station. It was refreshing to hear that with anything they do, they try to use reclaimed historically correct materials, or manufactured items to replicate the historical. He also reminded us about the Engine Shed at Highley and the fascinating and the railway rolling stock it contains. Not to be missed as the school summer holidays have arrived.

The evening inspired members to want to revisit the railway and enjoy a wonderful day out.

If you are interested in the W.I and want to find out more or come along as a visitor to a meeting please call Debbie Haynes our President on 07780 113869 ([debbiehaynesflp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:debbiehaynesflp@hotmail.co.uk)) who will be delighted to speak with you.

## **Standing Up for Brown Clee: Protecting Our Countryside and Communities**

One of the most important issues facing Brown Clee over the coming years is the preparation of Shropshire's new Local Plan. The council is currently undertaking the early scoping stage, which will help shape how and where future development takes place.

The Local Plan affects issues such as:

Where new housing may be built; Protection of the countryside and local character; Infrastructure, roads and public services; Employment land and economic growth; Environmental protection and sustainability; The future of our villages and rural communities

### **Protecting Brown Clee's Rural Character**

As work begins on the new Local Plan, I will be arguing strongly for policies that recognise the importance of safeguarding our green fields, agricultural land and rural landscape. While there will always be a need for some new homes, I believe that should mean small developments that fit naturally within our villages, helping local families remain in the communities they know and love. I do not believe Brown Clee is the right place for large-scale housing developments and I will oppose proposals that would fundamentally alter the character of our communities or place unacceptable pressure on roads, schools, healthcare services and other local infrastructure. Our villages are surrounded by beautiful countryside, productive farmland and green spaces that define the area we call home. Throughout the Local Plan process I will continue to make the case that Brown Clee's future must be shaped by the people who live here, work here and raise their families here.

### **Your Voice Matters**

I encourage you to get involved when consultation opportunities arise. You can find all the details and relevant forms on Shropshire Council's website. Please take a few minutes to complete surveys, attend consultation events where possible and make your views known. Too often, decisions are influenced by a relatively small number of responses. The more residents who participate the stronger Brown Clee's voice will be when decisions are made.

Together, we can help ensure that the future of Brown Clee reflects the wishes of local people while preserving the countryside and village character that make our area so special.

If you have concerns, ideas or questions about planning and development within Brown Clee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

George

**Cllr George Hollyhead** - County Councillor for Brown Clee Division (Shropshire Council)

[george.hollyhead@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.hollyhead@shropshire.gov.uk)



## St Mary's press release July 2026

The *Common Treasury* project at St Mary's church Cleeton has got off to a roaring start. Songwriter Sid Peacock has been working with children from Farlow Primary School to write new pieces for the Song of the Hill. This collection of works celebrates the Clee hills and their heritage. The new songs had their first performance at St Mary's with a full band, historic instruments and a very full audience. There was standing room only as the children sang and played for villagers and parents.

One parent commented: "This has been such an amazing experience for the children. They will remember this for a very long time and it was so good to see it come together so beautifully."

As well as bringing the community together to celebrate this heritage, the project will see the church preserved and enhanced for the next generation. The roof is being retiled and power and lighting improved along with new displays about the unique history and nature of the area for visitors and locals.

Central to the project is the fact that the village is surrounded and shaped by common land, which residents can use for grazing and gathering materials. Inspired by this history, potter Rupert Brakspear has been investigating the sources of wild clay around Cleeton. On the 10th of July he led a walk to the historic clay pits and participants had the chance to work the clay straight from the ground. On August 22nd there is the opportunity to make and stamp a small tile from the clay of Clee Hill which will form part of a display about the people and landscape. Spaces are limited (as is the clay!) So please contact [hello@cleetonstmary.uk](mailto:hello@cleetonstmary.uk) for a free place. The tiles will then be fired overnight in a traditional pit kiln in September.

Sue Burbidge, project lead explains: "There are few places in the country where the complex and intimate relationship between people and their environment is so clear. Commoners rights embody a principle of care for the landscape that, if looked after well, will continue to flourish and provide resources for the community."

What the project really needs is your information, your photographs and documents to help share this important community heritage. If you have material relating to Cleeton St Mary or the land around it, the project team would love to see it. Please get in touch or come and join one of our events.



*Making thumb pots with wild clay from Cleeton*

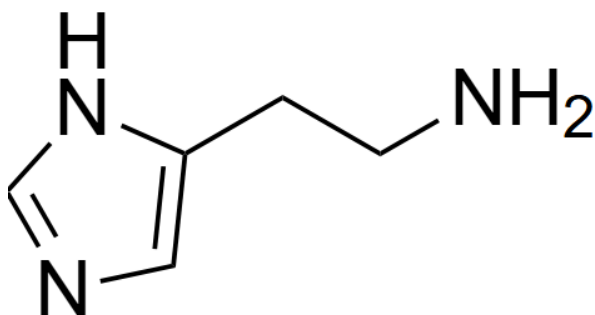


*Performance of Song of the Hill at Cleeton St Mary church*

## Molecule of the month; Histamine by David Poyner

Recently, your editor complained of Hay Fever and laid down a challenge to Molecule of the Month to explain what was happening. As I am limited to a page of A4, not a 300 page text book, that is going to be difficult. What I can do is give an account of one of the main molecules that is released during hay fever, histamine (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Histamine (By AlyInWikiWonderland - Own work, CC0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=194010530>)



Histamine is a simple molecule. Chemically it is made up of a ring to which is attached nitrogen (N) and hydrogen (H); what is known as an amino group (NH<sub>2</sub>). That gives the “amine” part to its name. The “Hist” comes from the Greek word for body tissues, because when it was first discovered in 1910 by Sir Henry Dale and Patrick Laidlaw, they found it was abundant in almost all tissues of the human body but was not found in nerves. Histamine is mainly found in two types of cells connected with how the body protects itself by producing inflammation; mast cells in solid tissues and white blood cells called basophils. Inflammation is normally a good thing; it is key way the body protects itself. During inflammation a number of things happen. Blood vessels expand and become leaky. This is important as it brings white blood cells to a vulnerable area where they can fight infection, repair damage and remove toxins. The

increased blood causes swelling (due to the extra fluid), redness and also an increase in temperature. Nerves that respond to pain are also made more sensitive, so the damaged area is rested to give it time to recover. However, sometimes the inflammation is inappropriate; it can do more harm than good. Hay fever is an example of this.

During hay fever, the person breathes in grass pollen. Some of this gets into the body via the lining of the windpipe and the lungs. The body can react by making antibodies against this. These antibodies bind to the surface of mast cells. When the antibodies on the mast cells next encounter the pollen, they activate the mast cells, causing them to release histamine. Blood vessels, particularly in the nose and eyes start leaking fluid and nerves that cause itching are activated, hence the symptoms of hay-fever. People who suffer from hay fever are particularly prone to making antibodies against grass and tree pollen. The reason for this remains unclear, but there are various regulators of the immune system called interleukins which may become unregulated in hay fever sufferers; there is particular interest in one called interleukin 33. Genetics may play a part in why this happens.

Histamine causes blood vessels to expand and become leaky by activating a protein called the histamine H<sub>1</sub> receptor, found on the outside of cells that line blood vessels. The receptor is also found on nerve cells that cause itching. There are drugs that can stop histamine from binding to this protein and they are the active ingredient in many of the anti-histamine remedies that are available. Unfortunately, when mast cells become activated they release other chemicals besides histamine and so sometimes simply blocking the histamine receptors will not bring effective relief. More advanced therapies for hay fever work by stopping the mast cells from becoming active, by down-regulating the immune system or by neutralising the antibodies against the pollen so they no longer recognise it.

Histamine is a molecule of many parts. Antihistamine creams are used to treat many minor rashes or itches, such as those caused by insect bites. The expansion of blood vessels produced by histamine can, rarely, cause a potentially fatal fall in blood pressure; this is known as anaphylactic shock and is why wasp and bee stings can be dangerous in a few individuals. The histamine-H<sub>1</sub> receptor is found in the brain, where, amongst other things, it promotes wakefulness. This is behind one of the main side effects of H<sub>1</sub> blockers, as they can cause drowsiness.

## Severn Valley Benefice Services



### The Severn Valley Group of Parishes

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

[www.stmaryshighley.co.uk/st-marys-highley](http://www.stmaryshighley.co.uk/st-marys-highley)

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

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

Revd Angie Foster – Assistant Curate (in training) [revangiefoster@icloud.com](mailto:revangiefoster@icloud.com)

|                                                           |                                                       |                                                      |                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| St Mary, Highley<br><i>CHURCHWARDEN</i><br>Carl Hinkinson | St Mary, Billingsley<br><i>CHURCHWARDEN</i><br>Vacant | St Peter, Chelmarsh<br><i>CHURCHWARDEN</i><br>Vacant | St Bartholomew, Glazeley<br><i>CHURCHWARDEN</i><br>Vacant |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> August

|         |                |           |
|---------|----------------|-----------|
| 9.30am  | Morning Prayer | Chelmarsh |
| 10.30am | Holy Communion | Highley   |

#### 9<sup>th</sup> August

|       |                                   |             |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 9.30  | Holy Communion                    | Chelmarsh   |
| 10.30 | Morning service                   | Highley     |
| 6pm   | Evening Service; A visit to Nepal | Billingsley |

#### 16<sup>th</sup> August

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

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> August

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

#### 30<sup>th</sup> August

|       |                  |         |
|-------|------------------|---------|
| 10.30 | Benefice Service | Highley |
|-------|------------------|---------|

## Chelmarsh News:



The annual plant sale on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June attracted a good turnout, despite the very hot weather. Business started rather earlier than the official 10am opening, as people took advantage of the cool of the morning. The marque and the trees in the churchyard gave some shade; the church itself was pleasantly cool. It was good to see so many people from the community coming to support us. The church was also well represented at the fete on 11<sup>th</sup> July, another very hot day. As with the plant sale, people seemed to brave the heat and my impression was that it was well-attended

All our August services are listed in the table at the start of our section for the Wheatland News; we alternate every Sunday at 9.30

between morning prayer and Holy Communion.

We were fortunate to obtain a grant of £550 from the “Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins” fund administered by Hereford diocese to repair leaks around the lead at the top of the church roof. The hot weather has allowed this work to be completed by our contractor Richard Poyner.

We are looking into how we manage the unmown area of the churchyard. A few years ago, around 50 different flowers were growing here, but this number has declined due to problems with mowing it so as to encourage them. After talking to Caring for God’s Acre we have some ideas on how to restore this.

## Billingsley News:



We had a visit from the Caring for God’s Acre team on the 8<sup>th</sup> July, to cut the grass in the churchyard. For the most part, they cut back the coarser vegetation to encourage the growth of flowers and more delicate plants. However, some clumps of brambles are allowed to remain as they are particularly important for the various animals that live in the churchyard. Alex, who is in charge of the work, told us that they have found slow worms in the church, although not today as the weather was too hot. We did however see a dragon fly and various butterflies, The church mouse, spotted by the cleaning team, remained in doors, out of the sun.

In July, our 6pm service was a look at the Shetlands. These are the most northerly part of the British Isles and of course now feature in a TV Detective series. Sadly, I have to report that during a recent visit, I found no sign of murders or indeed clan atrocities, a staple of the Hebrides. What the Shetlands do offer is stunning costal scenery and abundant birds, seals and otters. For much of its history it was part of Norway and so has a very different feel to many other Scottish Islands. It was a place where I could mentally relax and empty myself. We had a good attendance for the service.

At our August evening service, we welcome back Sue and Phil Bates. Sue gave invaluable service to Billingsley when she and Phil lived her, both to the church and also to the parish council. They are widely travelled and her talks are always interesting.

## Glazeley News:

Our June Sunday service coincided with Father's Day and I am delighted to report that our treasurer brought his daughter and son-in-law and grandchildren to the service. We had almost 20 in the congregation and it was very good to have a range of ages.

We are looking forward to the drive being resurfaced at the start of August. As with the car park, this does not belong to us, but we have a right to use it to access the church. We are grateful to Andrew and Laura for undertaking the work.

The monthly Saturday breakfasts at the Down will pause for July and August, whilst people are on holiday, to resume in September.

Our next service in church is Holy Communion on 16<sup>th</sup> August at 10am when we hope Rachael will be available to play the Organ for us.



## Hapy Birthday Ellen McConnell 80 years young

A surprise 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration (and it really was a surprise to Ellen!) was held at the Eagle and Serpent in Kinlet on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Ellen is a regular church goer at Billingsley and Stottesdon. She is also a wonderful baker and everyone looks forward to when Ellen is providing teas and cakes after the service.

But this time her niece made the cake, and it was delicious, obviously something that runs in the whole family.

The number of people attending the celebration shows how many friends Ellen has across the parishes, somehow she managed to speak to everyone.

It was a brilliant celebration, many people were involved in organising it and contacting people on the strict understanding it was to be a surprise. Thanks also go to the Eagle and Serpent who provided an excellent buffet.

## Looking for somewhere to go over the Summer Hols?



From large aircraft engines from Time Team digs to local artifacts, each exhibit connects our rural community to the wider history of the 20th Century.

The museum is **free to enter** (donations are welcome) and is open on selected days throughout the year. We also welcome visits by appointment and group bookings. The museum offers an accessible and informative experience for anyone with an interest in aviation, military history, or the heritage of the local area.



Blists Hill is one of a collection of museums telling the story of the birth of the Industrial Revolution in Shropshire's Ironbridge Gorge.

The attractions have reopened after being taken over by The National Trust.

The Museum of Iron, the Furnace Kitchen, Enginuity and the Jackfield Tile Museum have also reopened. This is a great way to spend an entire day visiting this site.

English Heritage still own the Ironbridge in the gorge.



# SHREWSBURY PRISON

An attraction with a difference – spend a day (or possibly more!) at a Victorian Prison. Shrewsbury Prison, also known as The Dana, was completed in 1793 and named after Rev Edmund Dana. The original building was constructed by Thomas Telford, following plans by Shrewsbury Architect, John Hiram Haycock. See <https://www.shrewsburyprison.com/> for details



Ludlow Castle is a genuine Norman Castle, Walter de Lacy, arrived in England with the conquering army of William the Conqueror in 1066.

He was granted the manor of Stanton, which contained the site of present day Ludlow. Walter's sons, first Roger and then Hugh, built the earliest surviving parts of the Castle that can still be seen today, and the de Lacy family retained the lordship until the end of the 13th century.



Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre in Craven Arms is the perfect place to begin your exploration of the Shropshire Hills - an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty where you can also learn some rural skills

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

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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   | 4 |   | 8 |   | 6 |   | 9 |
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| 8 |   | 9 |   |   |   | 1 |   | 3 |
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| x  |    | x  |   | + |      |
|    | +  | 9  | x |   | = 32 |
| =  | =  | =  |   |   |      |
| 63 | 63 | 13 |   |   |      |

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

|                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u><b>E</b></u> | <u><b>D</b></u> | <u><b>O</b></u> |
| <u><b>U</b></u> | <u><b>P</b></u> | <u><b>A</b></u> |
| <u><b>T</b></u> | <u><b>A</b></u> | <u><b>I</b></u> |

From these letters make words of four or more letters, always including the central letter "P". 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.

Rating: 14 words – average  
19 words - good  
25 words – very good  
31 words - excellent

## Things are not what they used to be! *By Anni Calver*

It's been delightful recently visiting and working in our churchyards, many of which are full of colourful summer flowers in amongst the gravestones. But not everyone agrees with me! Some people feel that the grass should be kept well mowed and very neat and tidy. This got me thinking about the people who had built our ancient churches a thousand years ago.



In those days the only building in the village was the newly built stone church, started as a small place for worship and then expanded as the naves were added. William the Conqueror was very encouraging after his triumph at Hastings and bringing his forward-looking fancy French clever building ideas. The church would have been novel for our ancestors. Imagine putting all that effort in and only using it once a week for service. That is not what happened then. While the chancel, the part of the church where the altar stands was reserved for the priest, the nave became the meeting place for everyone.

So, while moved by faith to build the church, it soon became a covered space for other activities. There is plenty of evidence, particularly in the Marches, (the area of Herefordshire, Shropshire and parts of Wales) of games being played with balls thrown and caught from the walls of the buildings- something you could do then if the rain was pouring down. The nave was also used for council meetings and as a court if needed, and as time went on other events were introduced. Patronal festivals and the marking of important feast days became more than just a service by the addition of singing, dancing and drinking. They were very busy places.



Ironically today many of our churches are used for services once a month and often little else. Changes are happening to make them more useful but opposition to the addition of toilets and kitchens and removal of the Victorian pews can be very hard work for those keen for change.

Back in the churchyard where we started, the work of Caring for God's Acre has made the meadow approach more popular as many a village now enjoys an amazing

display of wildflowers, a stunning spread of colour, decorating the headstones. They now look as they would have looked a thousand years ago but with bigger yew trees.

## The Importance of Species Abundance

It is widely known that the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. We have lost at least half of our wildlife since the industrial revolution, and 1 in 6 of our species is at risk of extinction. Our destruction of habitats, sterilisation of landscapes, and pollution of waterways have driven the collapse of our ecosystems and much that they support.



Shifting Baseline Syndrome, a gradual change in the accepted norms for the condition of the natural environment over time, masks this loss of species abundance and is not seen by the majority. When combined with an extinction of experience, a generational reduction in knowledge passed down due to less engagement with the natural world, it has caused most of the population to have a very warped sense of what our wider landscape and the species that frequent there should look like, and ultimately cause further extinction.

For many years we have managed land as nature reserves – relatively small, isolated pockets, where we protect a particular habitat and suite of species. While this has largely worked well in saving specific areas, and hugely important so they can act as rich hubs for when we have a wilder landscape, it's forced our perceptions of which species truly belong in which habitat to falter, with many species clinging on to the edges of where they can survive. When given the space, there are now countless examples of species not adhering to the guidebooks – Purple Emperor on sallows at the Knepp Estate and White-tailed Eagles nesting low down on willows in the Oostvaardersplassen just being a couple of examples.



We can't address this exponential loss with incremental change, protecting our existing nature is simply not enough if we want to stop a sixth great extinction. There is now a large push across the UK to move towards extensive, landscape scale restoration, where we can restore natural processes such as water restoration and introducing mixed grazing, to establish mosaic landscapes proven to deliver high levels of species diversity and abundance. Increasing abundance in both isolated populations and meta-populations helps build resilience across a landscape. Resilience is needed to prevent population loss, and ultimately extinction, by better enabling species to withstand both anthropogenically driven and stochastic events such as climate change, pollution, disease, and habitat loss.



As a new Senior Reserves Officer at Shropshire Wildlife Trust, I will be looking to put these principles into practice across any suitable land, helping to drive a nature recovery network across the county.

If you would like to get in touch, please feel free to email me at [sebe@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:sebe@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk).

# Stanton Sweeps

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## Fighting Cocks Grand Prix, in Aid of the Air Ambulance

**When & Where:**  
Sunday 30th August  
Hereford Raceway

**Raceday Info:**  
Arrive at the circuit by 9:30 AM.  
Racing: Two 15-minute races.  
All races are timed; the quickest wins!

**Registration & Deposits:**  
£40 per person entry fee.  
£10 deposit behind the bar with your name and details to register.

**After the Race...**

Heading back to The Fighting Cocks pub.

Drinks and celebrating the winner!

Hog Roast!

Open Mic and Karaoke!

**All Proceeds Go to the Air Ambulance**



Amanda and Karn welcome you The Willows Café in Ditton Priors. A small independent cafe serving delicious coffee, breakfast & lunch and wide range of homemade cakes.

## Who Doesn't Love Foxgloves!



In July we decided to meet informally at Stockton Bury Gardens, near Leominster for a cuppa and a look around the gardens. But with temperature predicted to be in excess of 30 degrees, Stockton Nury decide to close early each afternoon and so our visit was cancelled. This gave me a dilemma about what to write for August's edition of this magazine, but it seems like a good opportunity to republish an article written by our former president Dr. John Bell, who sadly passed away earlier this year. John wrote so beautifully and his article were extremely informative, so I have chosen 'Foxgloves'. This is something quite magical about them and John used his medical knowledge and expertise to enlighten us about the use of this common but versatile plant in modern medicine.

The name 'foxglove' is as old as the time of Edward III. In Wales it is thought to be the hideout of fairies and so is called 'fairy folks finger' or 'lamb's tongue leaves'. In Scotland, it is called 'bloody fingers' and moving further north 'dead men's bells'! The Scandinavian legend regarding the prefix 'fox' tells that mischievous fairies gave the flowers to muffle his paws as he prowled around village hen houses.

Digitalis is a genus of about 20 species, mainly perennials, shrubs and biennials. It grows over large areas of the world and the best-known is **Common Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea***. It thrives in acidic soils in partial sunlight to deep shade commonly found where the ground has been recently disturbed. Country lore advises its use in companion planting, where it is suggested that placing it around apples, tomatoes and potatoes simultaneously, stimulates growth of these plants.

In 1775, Dr William Withering working at the new Birmingham general hospital, was treating a patient for heart failure, the treatment was failing. The patient sought a herbal remedy from a gypsy woman and recovered, which roused Dr. Withering's interest. He found a woman in Shropshire and learned from her the concoction of herbs which included the foxglove. This was at the time the traditional cure for dropsy, a condition suggested by the swelling of the tissue due to the poor action of a failing heart. He knew that the extract from foxgloves was potentially fatal. He spent ten years experimenting to find a safe standard dosage, sometimes trying the infusions on himself. In 1885, he published his research with over 150 successful cases, and it followed that an extract of powdered leaf was used for treatment in medicine. Prior to this date, going back 100 years, foxgloves were recommended for skin complaints with the leaves applied directly to wounds as a poultice. The entire plant is toxic, including the roots and seeds, but Dr. Withering used ***Digitalis purpurea*** extract containing cardiac glycosides which increase the contractile muscle power of the heart, as well as being an antiarrhythmic agent to control the heart rate. It is thought that this was the beginning of modern therapeutics. ***Digitalis lantana*** is grown commercially for pharmaceutical use. Though there are over 20 species of digitalis in cultivation, only a few enter the plant catalogues and hence into private gardens.

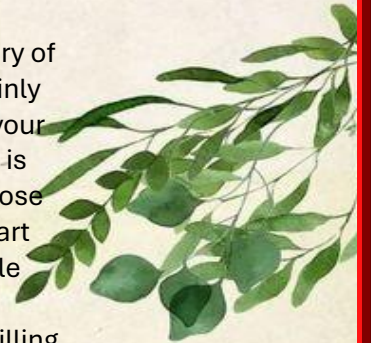
The genus is placed in the figwort family, ***Scrophulariaceae***. The flowers of the foxglove ***Digitalis purpurea*** are produced in a tall spike in the second year of growth. In the first year only one stem develops with long basal leaves, but in its second year the long leafy stem grows to over 100 inches. ***D. purpurea*** 'Apricot' has delicate shades of apricot-coloured flowers. ***D. purpurea*** 'Pams' Choice' has dense spikes of large creamy white bell flowers and splotches of deep burgundy colour in their throats. ***D. ferruginea*** 'Rusty' has striking, almost globular rusty red coloured flowers on long leafy spikes. ***D. lutea***, the small yellow foxglove has glossy green leaves and pretty yellow flowers crowded down to one side of the spike. A larger, but short-lived, yellow/white flowered species ***D. grandiflora***. ***D. x Mertonensis*** is a very fine hybrid described as having flowers the colour of crushed strawberries!

Dr. John Bell and Bev Harris

## The Back Page

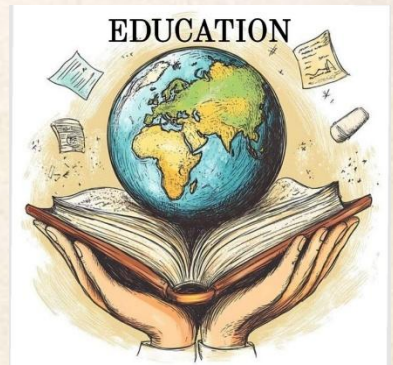


A recent service led by Revd Sally reflected on the story of seeds falling on stony and fertile ground. This is certainly true of how education and schools shape the rest of your life. There are some very insightful quotes “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today” (Malcolm X); “All children start their school careers with sparkling imaginations, fertile minds, and a willingness to take risks with what they think” (Sir Kenneth Robinson); “Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire” (William Butler Yeats)



Reflecting on the classroom environment, it is clear that education now extends far beyond exams. The playground, group projects, and daily lessons teach students how to navigate social dynamics and overcome challenges. By looking back on past learning methods, both students and educators recognize the importance of shifting focus from just hitting academic targets to building a lifelong love of learning. Possibly not a person who you would normally attribute teaching quotes to, but the American Blues guitarist, B. B. King said “The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can ever take it away from you”.

Our three schools at Brown Clee (Ditton Priors), Stottesdon and Farlow have achieved in many areas well beyond their size. Last month this newsletter highlighted sporting achievements of Brown Clee; recently Stottesdon is listed as one of the best primary schools in Shropshire; and Farlow upholds the true values of a village community school. For many of our readers, leaving Primary School happened many years ago but I’m sure you can remember some of the memories from leaving your primary school. I can still remember one of my teachers, Mrs. Stephens, who was very proud of having taught me as the last one of three brothers all taught by her, I still have a lifelong love of reading mainly because of her.



Malala Yousafzai who with two other girls were shot by a gunman targeting her for her activism in educating girls who were banned from school said “Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world”.



As the children leave these schools and prepare to embark on going to “big school” it brings a mix of emotions—excitement, stress, nostalgia, and everything in between, some will be going to different schools, there will be different teachers and different routines, so remember as you leave “goodbyes are not forever; goodbyes are not the end; they simply mean I’ll miss you until we meet again”.

