

Dear Friends

The end of May and beginning of June is a time when we recall The Visitation, the occasion on which Mary, now expecting Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth, who was also pregnant and expecting her son, whom we know as John the Baptist. He grew up 'preparing the way of the Lord' and had gone round preaching about repentance (the word in Greek is *metanoia*, change of heart). He got people to think about what they were doing and where they had gone wrong so that when Jesus began His ministry, people were in some way prepared to hear His message.

Jesus and John were telling people to examine their consciences in order to understand what the Gospel message was all about, loving God and your neighbour (i.e. other people). The idea of thinking about your conscience was not new. The Greeks placed above the doorway into the Temple of Apollo at Delphi the words *gnōthi seauton* which means 'Know thyself' and the Roman poet Catullus wrote that a person never sees the sack that is on his own back (is unaware of his own faults).

Archers listeners are well aware that Brian Aldridge is paying the hefty price for actions he took 40 years ago. Again and again, the old adage 'Honesty is the best policy' is shown to be true. Honesty can come at a heavy price, as John found in his dealings with King Herod, as he was imprisoned and then beheaded. This was the penalty for speaking out. The early Christian martyrs would not forsake their faith by merely burning a few grains of incense in front of the statue of the Emperor, and for that they faced death. It took much courage and I wonder how many of us would have that sort of courage.

Perhaps with the help of God we would.

Margaret Cooling

BROCKWEIR MORAVIAN CHURCH

Church Services for June 2018

Sun	3 June	9.00 am	Rev Patsy Holdsworth (<i>Holy Communion</i>)
Sun	10 June	6:00 pm	Malcolm Otton
Sun	17 June	6.00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth (<i>Start of the building of Herrnhut 1722</i>)
Sun	24 June	6.00 pm	Rev Jan Pain

REGULAR MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Tap Dancing

6.45-7.45 & 7.45-8.45 – Mondays in the School Room. 'Tap for Fun' classes for adults from complete beginners to intermediate levels. Please contact Deborah Stock on 07801 479269, email deborahstock@aol.com for more information.

Table Tennis

2.15 - 4.00 p.m. - Tuesdays & Thursdays in the School Room. Players of all abilities always welcome - for more information contact Jean Taylor on 01291 689565.

Charity Lunch, 12 noon, the Sunday School Room, 1st Thurs of month

Thurs 3rd May – In aid of Christian Aid.

Thurs 7th June – In aid of Brockweir Church Gift Day

Book Group

Please contact Heather Armstrong (01291 689326) for details.

Brockweir & Hewelsfield History Group

Normally on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Sunday School.

Food Bank Collection

Donations for the foodbank may be brought to services, charity lunches etc or left in the church porch at any time. We welcome your gifts of tinned and dried food, and also toiletries.

Ecumenical Welcome



Because we are the only church offering regular public worship in the village of Brockweir, we invite all Christians in the local community to play as full a part as they are able [allowing for any continued commitments to their own denomination] in the life and fellowship of this congregation. We invite those of all

Christian traditions, and those having no particular denominational affiliation, to worship and to share in Holy Communion with us, and to share in the ministry and mission of the Church in this area.

Minister: Rev Patsy Holdsworth, 35 Quarry Way, Emersons Green, Bristol, BS16 7BN
Tel: 0117 907 8994 email: Patsy.holdsworth@moravian.org.uk

Please note that Patsy's day off is normally on a Tuesday. Please try to only contact her in an emergency on that day.

Church Committee

Katie Groves-Bond	07814 431892	Jean Green	01594 530955
Heather Armstrong	01291 689326	Sue Groves	01291 689804
Carol Ostler	01291 689675	Judith Ashton	01291 689572
Philip Ashton	01291 689572		

ST BRIAVELS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

We're a group of ordinary people, united by our belief in Jesus Christ and with a desire to follow him.

Our services are at 10am and 6pm. Our morning service is a family service when we have a "Sunday Club" for young children.

In our evening services we're examining what John, a friend of Jesus and one of his biographers, thinks you should know about the most influential figure in history. Why not investigate?

We meet for Bible study and prayer every Thursday (8pm, venue changes) and Tuesday (10:15am in the chapel).

Coffee Morning on Tuesday June 5th (10am-12noon). We raise funds for charities that we support and also provide a great chance to meet up for a chat. Everyone is welcome.

Coffee Morning Tuesday June 5th, 10am to 12 noon

If you would like to know more about us please get in touch or visit our website: www.stbriavelscongregational.org.uk

Matt Rees, Pastor



FOREST OF DEAN QUAKER MEETING

We meet for Worship every Sunday at 10.30am in Staunton Village Hall (near Coleford.) There is a car park behind the hall. Contact me for more information.

Jen Cothier 01594 530348

St Mary the Virgin St Briavels & St Mary Magdalene Hewelsfield

All are most welcome to join us for worship, which is welcoming, relaxed and open to all. Join us to find what God's love could mean for you.

Both Churches are open from 9.00am until 4.00pm for those who wish to look around or find a space for quiet and reflection. More can be found on our website www.stbandhchurches.org.uk which gives up to date information.

For a wedding, baptism or blessing, or to request healing or other prayer please contact me, robert.simpson02@btinternet.com or 01594 560202 or our Reader, Mandy Vaughan - 01594 530844. I usually work Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and mornings on Wednesday and am available anytime for urgent requests.

After 5 busy months, June is a little more relaxed. This month, we will be looking at key issues affecting our Christian Faith and Life. We start with Suffering, then the importance of Work and Rest in living fulfilled and effective lives, followed by how we live as family.

JUNE SERVICES: PREACHERS AND THEMES:

SUNDAY 3rd June – Trinity : 'Dealing with Suffering.' Robert

8.30am	St Briavels	BCP Communion
9.30am	St Briavels	All Age Worship
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Worship

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

5 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
6 th Weds	10.30am	Communion
7 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 10th - Trinity 2: Mandy

9.30am	St Briavels	All Age Eucharist
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Communion

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

12 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
14 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 17th – Trinity 3: Fit for Purpose 1 - Rest. Robert

8.30am	St Briavels	BCP Communion
9.30am	St Briavels	All Age Eucharist
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	All Age Worship & Baptism

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

19 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
20 th Weds	10.30am	Communion
21 st Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 24th - Trinity 4: Fit for Purpose 2 - Work. Robert

9.30am	St Briavels	All Age Eucharist
10.30am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Communion

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

26 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
28 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 1st JULY – Trinity 5: Being Family! - 1 *Around the Table!* Robert

8.30am	St Briavels	BCP Communion
9.30am	St Briavels	All Age Eucharist
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Communion

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

3 rd Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
4 th Weds	10.30am	Communion
5 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

Hewelsfield St Mary Magdalene Church

ANNUAL REPORT - AGM - 22ND APRIL 2018

How to reach out to the community was the focus of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) during 2017, and will continue to be so during 2018. One of the schemes being followed up is to update and improve the Vestry so it can be used as a meeting place. In conjunction with this idea is the plan to improve its kitchen facilities. Carol Stickland, who leads this initiative, has organised a visit to other churches who have managed to update their kitchens, so we can gain more ideas on how to do it. We will have special fund raising events to make this project a reality.

Last Christmas, PCC members and friends knitted angels, which were given to everyone who visited the church during our Nativity Exhibition. Angels were also given out to villagers who attended the Senior Citizens Annual Christmas lunch at Mackenzie Hall. We aim to have a similar project in 2018.

We are a small church, and although the PCC tries not to think of fundraising as one of its major activities, there has been a need to meet financial commitments, not just to repair and maintain the church building but also to pay its Parish Share. It is thanks to the fundraising efforts of the PCC that we were able to meet our commitments. This year, fund raising activities included: morning teas at church, Craft Sales, Local Artists Sale, Silent Auction, Walking Events, Nativity Exhibition, Scone afternoon and Car Boot Sales. This year, our Parish Share has increased yet again and we hope to be able to raise funds to meet it. We thank all parishioners and donors who regularly give generously and who attend our fundraising events every year.

The church always welcomes visitors and we invite everyone to come and spend some peaceful meditation or contemplation among the lovely flowers arranged by Marion Harrison and her band of flower arrangers. The culmination of Marion's involvement with church flowers will be our Flower Festival, which will be in July. Do watch out for details in the Village News. (see p X in this edition)

Hewelsfield Church is here for everyone in the community. We are a friendly church and everyone is welcome to our weekly Sunday service at 11.00 am.

Pearl Bradney

ST. BRIAVELS PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Meeting held on Monday, 14th May, 2018 in the Assembly Rooms, St. Briavels

The Annual Parish Council Meeting was the first meeting of the evening with Cllr. Piers Chivers being re-elected as Chairman and Cllr. David Rees elected as Vice-Chairman. Lead Councillor roles remain unchanged and are as follows: Finance and Planning – Cllr. Chris McFarling, Governance & Staffing / Cemetery – Cllr. David Rees, Footpaths – Cllr. John Hurley, Assets & Maintenance – Cllr. Piers Chivers, Emergency Planning/Snow Warden – Cllr. Glenys Walker, Highways – Cllr. Paul Lounds.

Parish Assets – these include such items as the Tump, the flagpole, bus shelters and benches to name a few. In April, several Councillors went on 'walkabout' around the Village and as a result the Council's Asset Register has been updated and any maintenance work required has been recorded and will be scheduled for completion throughout the year.

The first 'normal' PC meeting of the Parish Council year followed on from the Annual Meeting and Councillors considered six planning applications.

A Tree Management Plan is being formulated, which will identify any work required in the short and long term to protect and maintain healthy trees around the Village.

Three Posts Lane is in need of repair and attempts to obtain quotations for the work have not come to fruition. However, it is hoped that a solution is in sight, with the Parish Council only having to make a small contribution to the costs. Discussions are on-going and will be reported back at a future date.

Traffic Regulations Order – School Parking – Councillors were shown a proposal to limit parking in the vicinity of the school to improve child safety when being dropped off or collected. Following lengthy discussion regarding the proposal, the Parish Council looks forward to receiving a formal proposal from the School.

Land at Whittington Close – the Council is currently liaising with Forest of Dean District Council's Estates Department and the Guinness Partnership to explore options for the future use of land adjacent to the new homes at Whittington Close. It is hoped to create an area that can be enjoyed by all.

St. Briavels Carnival – the PC will have a stall at this event; so, make sure you drop by and have a chat about what we do and plans/projects for 2018/19.

Remembrance Sunday – the Council heard a proposal for a special event to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War after the Remembrance Sunday service.

Farmers' Market – pop along to see the Parish Councillor in attendance at each of the markets and have a chat. If you don't have time for a chat, there is a book on the stand where you can leave comments.

Next meeting – Monday, 11th June, 2018 at 19.00 in the Assembly Rooms, with planning applications available to view from 18.30 and Councillors available for you to raise any issues you feel the PC may be able to resolve. Full minutes available on the Parish Council website.

Ursula Deighton, Clerk, St. Briavels Parish Council. Tel: 01594 516518
E-mail: stbriavelsclerk@outlook.com

HEWELSFIELD AND BROCKWEIR PARISH COUNCIL

Summary Minutes from the meeting on Tuesday 1 May 2018.

Full Minutes available on website.

Mr Kim Hilton attended the meeting to discuss an issue following the planning application to erect camping pods on land adjacent to Mill Hill. Mr Hilton asked that the following statement be recorded in the minutes:

"It has come to my attention that certain people locally have been spreading false rumours about me, saying that I am intending to use a field I own locally to do the same. They have used my name in local email correspondence in the campaign against the pods, and also, in writing, encouraged my exclusion from local communications concerning the campaign. I want to put on record in the minutes and the printed version that goes out in the Village Magazine that I have no involvement whatsoever with the proposed pods and have no intention of having pods on my land – these are false rumours and completely untrue. I would further say that I don't appreciate the spreading of these malicious lies and urge people locally not to listen to them."

Councillors were shocked and stated that they could not condone such behaviour.

P0523/18/FUL – Mill Bank, Mill Hill, Brockweir. Erection of a two-storey garage to provide first floor residential accommodation over, replacement of roof on existing dwelling and external wall alterations with associated works. Councillors concurred with pre-planning advice regarding the roof height and commented that a larger building would be dominant in the AONB landscape.

P0592/18/FUL – Annexe, The Rock, Mill Hill, Brockweir. Variation of condition 02 (Approval

Plans) to allow changes to the shower room of planning permission P1022/17/FUL. No comment.

FODDC Enforcement Officer confirmed no planning infringement at Ferry Farm.

APP/P1615/W/17/3177951 – P1102/16/FUL – Gregory Farm, Brockweir. Following contact with the developer, Councillors Endersby, Haythornthwaite and

Sinfield would meet him to gain information about future plans.

Parishioners enquired about the council's involvement in commemorating the end of WW1. Purchase of seated perspex models would be investigated, to represent parishioners who lost their lives in WW1, for display in the church.

Playground Committee to be reminded to make a formal request for funding to be reviewed by the council.

The definitive footpath map is being revised. Cllr. Bowen assisting to identify paths within the parish.

GCC Highways confirmed that plans for additional parking in the layby at the bottom of Mill Hill were in place when funding was available. Also discussed an additional street light required for a speed restriction of 30mph. The new light would be sited on the left-hand side going up Mill Hill, where the footpath ends, and 30mph signs would be installed at either side of the road and at the Monmouthshire side of the bridge. This work would be fully funded by Highways. Also agreed that the running water at the side of Weir House would be investigated by Highways and also the situation with clearing drains in the parish.

The date of the next meeting is 5 June 2018 at 7pm, The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop.

**LADIES! Keep Thursday 7th June free for:
THE BROCKWEIR BOUTIQUE at MACKENZIE HALL**



Now is the time to **refresh your wardrobe** and **assist good causes** in the process. All proceeds will go to the village – the Mac Hall and the children's play area. Come along and shop for **quality pre-loved clothes** (for adults and children) and **accessories** at **extremely reasonable prices**. You can have your **hair cut by a professional stylist**, your **eyebrows shaped**, a **Tarot reading**, buy **fresh strawberries and cakes** and **chat with friends** in a relaxed atmosphere.

Tickets available on the door (from 7.30pm)
£5 inc. glass of Fizz, Pimms or soft drink & nibbles

Donations of good quality ladies' and children's clothes and accessories would be appreciated and can be left at Manor Cottage, The Quay, Brockweir or at the Village Shop. Call Pat on 01291 689382 or Lyn on 01291 680053 for further information or to arrange collection.

JOIN US TO HAVE SOME FUN AND GRAB A BARGAIN!

LETTERS TO THE VILLAGE NEWS



WHERE THE LETTERS WENT BYE-BYES

I don't know how long the postbox in the corner wall at the junction of Cockshoot Hill and Coldharbour Road has been there, but it must be quite a while as it has always been referred to as 'old'. I don't know who broke the metal door or why, but now there is no door and the box cannot be used to hold letters securely. When I reported the damage to the Royal Mail in December they said they would fix it within 3 months. I don't know why they said that without meaning it, but last week's response suggested the need to check whether it's worth replacing the old box with another one, on a post, on the opposite side.

I have used that postbox ever since I moved here, just after the turn of the millennium. It's been a familiar feature, a part of my life, for I continue to write occasional letters and send cards, despite the advent of electronic mail. This old landmark has been part of our local heritage, like telephone boxes, pillar boxes and, dare I say, bus-stops. I hope Royal Mail, in their finite wisdom, can fix the old box in the wall with parts they have kept precisely for that purpose. If not, then a little piece of our historic jigsaw will be removed, and lost from our rural experience. I don't know why we can't hold on to these beautiful objects of cultural heritage just because they are no longer 'economically repairable'.

And neither will my son, in future, point to the box where "the letters go bye-byes". What letters? you say.

Chris McFarling

Strut your stuff to

BLOCKBUSTER HITS



Hits from the

60s, 70s & 80s

PLAYING LIVE

SAT 16th JUNE

St. Briavels Assembly Rooms

8pm til late / £7.50 / Licensed Bar

Hot dogs, bacon rolls and other snacks available

Bring your own air guitar & dodgy hip



SUMMER FETE

Saturday 16 June
2 -4pm at the Hospice

The Gorse, Coleford, Glos. GL16 8QE

Tel: 01594 811910 www.great-oaks.org.uk



Church Farm Barn

St Briavels

21 July 5pm - late

Licensed Bar

Vegetarian alternative available

The Beaujoladies' Music

All proceeds will be used for urgent work to St Briavels Church

Tickets £10 from Brockweir Village Shop and St Briavels Pantry
Or call 01594 531151

MAY BANK HOLIDAY COFFEE MORNING & ST BRIAVELS CARNIVAL

We have received these thank you letters from the charities from the last Coffee Morning and thought it would be nice to share them.

From the Hospice

On behalf of Great Oaks, please accept our thanks for the donation from the Coffee Morning.

The support of the local community continues to assist us in caring for the people of the Forest of Dean. We offer support through many services - Day Care, Bereavement and Family Support. We also provide Hospice at Home. This work is done by our experienced staff and volunteers.

Once again thanks, Ceri Evans - Chairman

From Heart of The Forest School

Thank you so much for the donation from your Coffee Morning at Easter. What a fantastic amount. We are delighted that you chose the school to share the proceeds of the day and we appreciate it. The money will be used for the benefit of primary pupils at School.

Thank you once again, Judith Leadbeater

On another note, please could I once again ask for help at the **Carnival** with teas and refreshments. If you have a spare hour or whatever, I would appreciate it. Any cakes can be dropped off at the Pavilion in the morning. Thanks.

For further information, please contact me on 01594 530571.

Adele James

HEWELSFIELD CHURCH COFFEE MORNING – SATURDAY 2 JUNE

Hewelsfield Church Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 2nd June from 10am to 12noon.

This event is to raise funds to tidy up and replant the old pond area where, due to the severe weather conditions, the Weeping Cedar tree cracked and had to be cut down. The tree was planted in memory of the late Miss Dorothy Woodcock M.B.E, a former Church Warden who led the campaign to keep Hewelsfield Church open and the Restoration of the Church, which began in 1971.

The decision is to replant this area in her memory and the parishioners that supported her as a wildlife area with surrounding shrubs, which could be used for future foliage in the church. If you have any spare shrubs, ground covering plants, herbs or country flower seeds we would be very pleased to receive them. Please come and support our new vision for this area so that we can enhance the beauty of the churchyard and provide a natural home to encourage our wildlife and insects for future generations.

If you have any items that we could sell or raffle prizes, please contact me.

Mandy Vaughan 01594 530844

★★★★★★	Film Night	★★★★★★
Bring your own wine, drinks & snacks.	Friday 8th June	Information:
Teas, coffees & ice cream on sale.	Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri	Andrew Reid
★★★★★★	Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson	andrew.reid@huntermillerreid.co.uk
	Tintern Village Hall 7.45pm	or phone 07774 726860
	Tickets £4.00 15s & under £2.50	★★★★★★

FOREST ROUTES CELEBRATION EVENT – THURSDAY 7 JUNE

Everyone is welcome to drop in to watch our project films, learn about project achievements and talk to providers over free tea, coffee and pastries: 10am-12noon at Forest Hills Golf Club, Mile End Road, Coleford GL16 7QD

For more information and to let us know you are coming, call 01594 812613 or email Anna-Marie.Daniels@fdean.gov.uk

Celia Wear

A DECADE OF BADS, and AGM.

Saturday 7th July at 7.00pm is the date of the Brockweir Amateur Dramatic Society's (BADS) AGM, which will be held at the Assembly rooms in St. Briavels. After the AGM, we will have an American supper (bring your own liquid refreshment) followed by the World Premier of the DVD: BADS -- THE HIGHLIGHTS, a compilation of the 'best bits' of BADS productions from 2006 to 2018.

If you have been involved in past productions or simply have been in the audience and want to be reminded of the many hilarious evenings we've had over the last 12 years and would like to come along, then please contact us for more details on 01291 689512.

BADS

DRAMA & MUSIC AT THE MORAVIAN SCHOOL ROOMS

Join us for an afternoon of jolly drama, beautiful music and more on Saturday 14th July at 3pm at the Moravian School Rooms in Brockweir. Hopefully, the weather will be kind to us and we will be performing on the lawn outside. There will be tea and cake in the interval. Entry is free, but donations towards the church repair fund are more than welcome. Any questions, please contact me on 07518 282220 or mistral180482@hotmail.com.

Renske Bouwens

FLOWER FESTIVAL AT HEWELSFIELD CHURCH

This event will take place from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th July, 11am-5pm daily. The theme of this years Festival is 'Song and Dance.' As usual, we will be serving refreshments throughout the day, including light lunches from 12noon - 2pm. We will also have the usual range of sales tables – contributions welcome.

The festival weekend will close with a Service of Celebration at 4pm on Sunday 8th July.

If you would like to help in any way with this weekend, do please let me know.

Marion Harrison (01594 530264)

OPEN GARDENS

Due to the effects of the long winter weather, many of us have been unable to get out in our gardens until now. This does not give sufficient time to prepare for the Open Gardens, which was going to be held on 1st July. We have therefore decided to CANCEL the Open Gardens, for this year.

Hopefully next year will be a gardeners' year and we can again enjoy the delights of an Open Gardens in 2019. Our apologies to all those enthusiastic gardeners and for the disappointment to those who were hoping to enjoy the fruits of their labours.

Jean Sheraton

SOFT (Sharing our Faiths Together) Meeting

Our regular SOFT meetings will be held on Wednesdays 6th & 20th June in The Loft above the Village Shop. People of any or no faith are welcome to join us for a time of discussion. Refreshments are provided and there is no admission fee, though a contribution towards costs is always welcome.

For more information contact: Carol Stickland - 01594 530882
or Sue Groves 01291 689804

COMMUNITY VINYASA YOGA

9 - 10am on Wednesdays at The Assembly Rooms, St Briavels

Payment is by donation and proceeds go towards charities / local causes chosen by class members. Classes are designed to strengthen & improve flexibility within your body and to quieten & create space within your mind. This is a dynamic practice but lots of options are offered and you are encouraged to work to your own abilities. No previous experience is necessary.

For more info or to book a class please contact Lorna Kennedy
07793 381849 lornayoga@me.com www.lornayoga.com

NOSH & NATTER

For May, Liz Fraser made her debut at hosting a Nosh and Natter meeting. She provided a sumptuous afternoon tea and many of us wished we had not bothered to have some lunch! After the sunny week we hoped to be able to sit outside, but the weather was not kind that day, so some of the group stayed in the dining room to chat while others enjoyed the comfort of the living room. We had a lovely afternoon and many of us left beyond the allotted time! Thank you Liz.

We have received letters from both SARA and Forest Pulse, thanking Nosh and Natter for its monetary donations. Thank you all who have given at our meetings.

News and Activities continued on next page...

Our next meeting on Tuesday June 12 is a vegetarian lunch between 12.30 – 2.00 at Lawhill, Hewelsfield, GL15 6UT. Tricia Willder and I are co-hosting this. We are pleased to see new ladies at our meetings. If you are interested in joining us once a month for a friendly, social couple of hours please contact me on 01594 530524 or email siddonspauline@aol.com

Pauline Siddons

A MESSAGE FROM ALAN JOYCE

Alan Joyce of the Assembly Rooms Committee, and volunteer at the Brockweir & Hewelsfield Village Shop, would like to thank the very many of you for your kind messages, visits and good wishes for his recovery from his stroke in November.

Alan is back home now, and is still making progress with care, physio, and speech therapy. It has been a long hard slog for Alan far, and so knowing how many of you are thinking about him is a great comfort and encouragement for his recovery.

He pops in to the café from time to time, so he will be glad to see you there.

FUND RAISING IS A WALK IN THE... BLUEBELLS!

(Followed by a delicious cream tea).

A lovely guided walk in the Sunday afternoon sunshine with friends, neighbours and pooches, before a guilt free cream tea, was so enjoyed that it will become a bi-monthly event for the Assembly Rooms! Many thanks to all of you who joined John & Roger to make it such a pleasant occasion, whilst raising money for the restoration of the community's Reading Room.

The next date will be Sunday 22nd July leaving at 2.30pm. £5 per head. £2.50 for children. Please book ahead if you can, for catering.

John: 01594 530890 walk@st-briavels.com

ST. BRIAVELS ASSEMBLY ROOMS UPDATES TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

To keep the local community informed about matters concerning the Assembly Rooms, the Trustees have published statements on our website: www.st-briavels.com, which will be updated regularly. You can also email us at: trustees@st-briavels.com

Many thank to all of you who have offered support and feedback so far. It is much appreciated.

The Trustees

TINTERN WINE TASTING

The May tasting was hosted by Stan and Marina (thanks to you both) when we travelled to Spain to taste the wines of Rioja. We started the session with a White Rioja made from the Viura grape that had benefited from three months ageing in new oak barriques. A modern twist on an old-fashioned

style, unusual, but well enjoyed. The next was a Red Joven (young), and then followed the main wines of the tasting. A Crianza, a Reserva and a Gran Reserva from one house, which allowed us to see the progression in quality levels. Instructive as well as fun!

Our next tasting will be on Monday, 4th June, when we shall be tasting the wines of Jura and Savoie. This will be followed by Sparkling Wines on the River Bank on Monday, 2nd July.

Tintern Wine Tasting is self-funded at £10.00 per head for each session with all surpluses going as fundraising to St Michael's Church, Tintern. Since the beginning of the year, we have raised £170.00 for St Michael's.

For further information about events, please write to alan.hillard@gmail.com

Alan Hillard

ST BRIAVELS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB DAY TRIP

Seniors please note that this year our day trip is on Tuesday 3rd of July, leaving the square St Briavels at 9am. The outing will be either to Weston or Exmouth. If any seniors haven't booked their seats on the coach could they please do so with Sue Barnby by 28th June tel no 530845 Many thanks

Sheila Brown

BLITHE SPIRIT - AUDITIONS

Auditions for 'Blithe Spirit' by Noel Coward, a farce being staged in October are on Wednesday June 6th 7pm at The Brockweir Village Shop.

If you are interested and cannot attend or would like to find out more about this, please contact me on 01291 680120 or email alisoninbrockweir@yahoo.co.uk

Alison Macklin

DO YOU HAVE SURPLUS PLANTS?

The Moat Society will be running its plant stall as usual at the St Briavels Carnival on 9th June. If you have any spare, good quality, labelled plants you could donate, please call me on 01594 531460. Flowers, shrubs, vegetables, herbs, fruit – all very welcome. Thank you.

Sue Davis

BROCKWEIR COMMUNITY FÊTE

There will be a Community Fête on 21st July, held on the field next to the Village Shop. Local groups will be invited to run stalls to raise their own funds – for example selling plants, cakes or books or games like hook a duck, guess the weight of a pig etc. There will also be some silly family races like Egg and spoon, and a three legged race.

More information to follow but put the date in your diary now!

Alison Macklin

AN ECUMENICAL EVENING SERVICE FOR ALL

A Taizé service will take place at 7pm on Saturday August 4th in Brockweir Moravian Church.

Practice for a volunteer choir and instrumentalists will precede the service at 5.00 pm in the church. (We have 12+ volunteers already). Welcome to all at one or both services.

Taizé services offer a nice mix of contemplation and readings and use simple repeated chants from the world famous community, based in Burgundy.

Please come and share an hour with folk of all churches and of none, with small refreshments afterwards for all.

John Perryman

ST BRIAVELS LUNCH CLUB, THURSDAY 28TH JUNE 2018

We all meet at 11.45 for a glass of sherry and a three course lunch at 12 o'clock in St Briavels Pavilion. We are a happy group of about 22 and are always pleased to see a new face. If you are new to the village and would like to join us, please contact Mary (530505) for more information. The three course meal, sherry and coffee costs £5.50. There is also a raffle. We look forward to meeting you

Mary Perryman

ST BRIAVELS – A FORTUNATE PLACE?

In 1968, a book was published that became a literary phenomenon because of its appeal as a portrait of the daily life of a country doctor. Art house critics and many responsible for training GPs lauded *A Fortunate Man*. Its appeal rested on the words of art critic John Berger and the pictures of documentary photographer, Jean Mohr, who worked together recording material for the book across a three-month period of shadowing the GP. The book has remained in print for over fifty years and been used as an ideal representation of the doctor-patient relationship. The setting and the GP were never made explicit. Scrutiny of the photographs makes clear that this was St Briavels and the surrounding community. Five decades later, the book has garnered some critics. Was it a fair portrait of the place and people at the time? Was it a fair representation of contemporary health care? Was it fact or fiction, a real documentary or a work of art conforming to the political outlook of the author? Is it sexist? How have things changed since it

was written? If you don't know the book or have heard of it and want to know more, come to a series of events designed to let local people have their say about its merits or otherwise.

The event, organised by the University of Gloucestershire's Reading the Forest Project (part of the Foresters' Forest HLF Landscape Partnership Programme), features rarely seen archive film footage recorded by the BBC in St Briavels in 1967 for a feature about the book, and also a film based on the book made by the British Film Institute, filmed in Soudley and Blakeney in 1972. There will be an exhibition, discussion and guided walk based on life in the village in the 1960s. Also on show will be St Briavels School pupils' work from their photography and writing project inspired by the book. Anyone with local memorabilia from the 1960s/70s will be very welcome to bring things along to add to the picture of life during the period of the book. The events are free, and everyone is welcome.

Saturday 23rd June, St Briavels, Assembly Rooms

- 11.00 Doors open to exhibition
- 13:00 Introduction to the book & its authors, *A Fortunate Man* (1967)
- 13:30 Screening of the film, *A Fortunate Man* (1972) the film of the book
- 14:10 Those "The Foresters" – your views on the book, then and now
- 14:30 Screening, BBC interview (1967) with John Berger about the book
- 15:00 Panel discussion, with Q&A
- 16:00 Doors close

Sunday 24th June, St Briavels, Assembly Rooms

- 11.00 Doors open. Exhibition and an opportunity to bring 1960s/1970s memorabilia, photographs and offer recollections if you remember the village in that era.
- 14.00 Guided Walk, St Briavels & the Forest in the late 1960s
- 16.00 Doors close

For more details, visit the website: www.readingtheforest.co.uk

Jason Griffiths 01242 715094 jgriffiths@glos.ac.uk

ST BRIAVELS CARNIVAL - SATURDAY JUNE 9th

This year's Carnival will be held on the Playing Fields on Saturday 9th June. The Carnival proceedings will start around 1.30 pm, when floats and fancy dress competitors are invited to assemble at "the Tump," alongside the Castle. Judging starts at 1.45 pm prompt and then the procession will make its way through the village to assemble on the Playing Fields.

The licensed bar will be open in the Pavilion and tea and cakes will also be available from the Pavilion kitchen. There will be other refreshments around the field, including a Hog Roast, Burgers, Hotdogs and Ice Cream. There will be plenty to see and do, including performances by Djabot Drummers, Ukelele display by Lightly Twined, Zumba display and Morris Dancers. For the children's entertainment we have inflatables, trampolines, children's rides, races and beat the Goalie. For the adults, we have Craft Stalls, Coconut Shy and Skittles.

This is a special day in our Village's calendar and every effort is made to make it an enjoyable one. Entrance is by programme only, at a cost of £1.00 per adult and 50p for children and concessions. We look forward to seeing you and your family on June 9th.

Judging will commence at **1.45 p.m. PROMPT**. All entries must be assembled on the **Tump** by **1.40 pm**. **The Classes are as follows:**

- a. Lorries, Floats, Tractors, Trailers, Bikes etc
- b. Adult Fancy Dress
- c. Children under 7 years
- d. Children 7-10 years
- e. Young People 11-18 years
- f. Group Entry

Entry to all classes is **FREE**. Cash prizes and certificates are awarded for ALL entries in Class a) and for 1st Prize only in all other classes.

The **EDWARD PAGE MEMORIAL CUP**, **JANET PARRY MEMORIAL CUP** and **DYKE STEPHENS MEMORIAL CUP** are awarded each year at the judge's discretion. The judge's decision is final and the committee reserves the right to issue prizes only if the entries are of a reasonable standard. Any issue or problem arising should be brought to the committee's attention by letter, for their consideration.

Any queries, please contact me on Dean 530650

Tessa Charley

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

PASTA, SAUSAGE AND CABBAGE

This is a quick pasta supper that can be put together in under half an hour. It is a good way of enticing the veg-shy to eat their greens.

- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 8 small or 4 large sausages
- 300g pasta shapes
- ½ green cabbage e.g. savoy, tough ribs removed and shredded.
- Seasoning



Heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add sausages and cook gently, turning often, for 10 minutes, until nearly cooked. Remove sausages, cut into bite sized pieces and return to the frying pan for a further 5 minutes.

Meanwhile bring a large pan of water to the boil, add the pasta and cook until "al dente". Add the cabbage and cook for a further five minutes. Once cooked, drain the cabbage pasta mix, add the chunks of hot sausage, season and serve immediately.

NB You can use any greens

Mary Perryman

Mondays

ZUMBA TONING WITH JO 9:15-10:15am - Mackenzie Hall Brockweir.
 TABLE TENNIS: 7.30 - 9pm (except 2nd Monday of the month). Assembly Rooms. St. Briavels. No need to book, all levels welcome. Good exercise and great fun. tabletennis@st-briavels.com.
 ADULT TAP FOR FUN: 6.45 - 7.45 improvers+ / Intermediates; 7.45 - 8.45 Beginners. Moravian Church Hall. Call Deborah: 07801 479269.

Tuesdays

YOGA WITH ALI ROSE: 9:30-11am. Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. 07883 678629. simplyalirose@yahoo.co.uk
 COURTYARD CAFE: 1:30-4:30. Assembly Rooms - hairdresser, seamstress services, "Pop- up" shop: French bread/patisserie.
 ST. BRIAVELS "WALKING for HEALTH" walk every Tuesday for approx. 1 hour. Starts 2pm, Assembly Rooms, St. Briavels. Call John for more info - 01594 530890.
 KNITTERS GROUP meets every Tuesday, 2 – 4. 30 at St Briavels Assembly rooms. For info contact Claire@nissel.co.uk
 OPEN MIC and NEW Wye Valley Acoustic Music Club at the Rose & Crown, Tintern, every first Tuesday of the month. For more info call Adrian on 01291 689812.
 ZUMBA GOLD WITH JO at 7-8pm St Briavels School Hall
 GET CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, from 7.30 until 9.00pm at the Loft, Brockweir Village Shop. chrissybirch@ymail.com
 ZUMBA WITH JO at 8:15-9:15pm, Fitness, St Briavels School Hall

Wednesdays

COMMUNITY VINYASA YOGA 9-10 am, Assembly Rooms, St Briavels, Lorna Kennedy 07793 381849 lornayoga@me.com www.lornayoga.com
 ECSTATIC DANCING 9.45 am -11.30 pm Mackenzie Hall
 FRIENDLY ART GROUP Most Wednesdays, 10am-1pm Assembly Rooms. Call Ann Kilminster on 07980 978348.
 SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS: 12 noon - 1:45 pm, Assembly Rooms
 PILATES: 2-3pm. Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. For info call: 01291 627243 / 07787 193302.
 BROCKWEIR BOWLS CLUB: 2-4pm Wednesday afternoons. Last meeting 30 May. Meetings resume in early September. For more information email Trevor Williams. fishthw@gmail.com
 BROCKWEIR YOUTH CLUB - the club meets during term time. For further information please ring 01291 689 327 or visit: www.brockweiryouthclub.co.uk.
 SOFT MEETING. On two Weds each month. 7.30pm. The Loft above Village Shop.

Thursdays

SPANISH (Level 2) 10-12 and SPANISH (Level 1) 12:15-2:15 Assembly Rooms
 COURTYARD CAFE: 1:30-4:30. Assembly Rooms - hairdresser, seamstress services, "Pop- up" shop: French bread/patisserie.
 BASIC COMPUTER & INTERNET CLASSES - St. Briavels Assembly Rooms, 2 - 3.45pm
 MIXED CIRCUITS CLASS: 6:30pm at Mackenzie Hall
 YOGA WITH ALI ROSE: 7- 8:30pm, Assembly Rooms. 07883 678629 simplyalirose@yahoo.co.uk.
 ZUMBA WITH JO, 'Zumba Strong', St Briavels School Hall, 8.15pm - 9.15pm
 ST BRIAVELS WALKING GROUP - monthly walks. John Hurley 01594 530890

Fridays

TEA AND TOTS: 9:00-10.30am - term time only, Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. For more information please visit our Facebook page: St Briavels Tea and Tots.
 IYENGAR YOGA: 10.30-12pm. Mackenzie Hall, All welcome. Wildwoodyoga.co.uk Or call/message Kishe Redwood on 07805 729893.

Saturdays

YOGA WITH ALI ROSE: Once a month, last Saturday of month, 9.30-11.00am Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. 07883 678629. simplyalirose@yahoo.co.uk
 ZUMBA WITH JO, 'Toning', St Briavels School Hall, 9.00 - 10am.

Sundays

ST BRIAVELS PEOPLE'S CHOIR will meet at 7 pm at the Assembly Rooms after the summer break on September 9th.



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DIARY DATES FOR JUNE

Walking for Health every Tuesday – meet at the Assembly Rooms, 2pm			
2 Sat	Produce Market	10am-12.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
2 Sat	Hewelsfield & Brockweir Coffee Morning	10am-12noon	Hewelsfield Church
4 Mon	Tintern Wine Tasting		alan.hillard@gmail.com
5 Tues	Coffee Morning	10am	Congregational Church, St Briavels
5 Tues	Brockweir & Hewelsfield PC meeting	7pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
6 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
6 Weds	'Blithe Spirit' auditions	7pm	Brockweir Village Shop
7 June	Charity Soup Lunch	12noon	Moravian Sunday School Hall
7 Thurs	St Briavels Walking Group	1pm	meet at St Briavels Church
7 Thurs	Forest Routes Celebration Event	10am-12noon	Forest Hills Golf Club
7 Thurs	Brockweir Boutique Ladies' Fun Charity Event	7.30pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
9 Sat	Moat Society Working Party - All welcome	10am to 12noon	Castle Moat.
9 Sat	St Briavels Carnival	1.30pm	the Tump, St Briavels & then the Playing Fields
12 Tues	Nosh & Natter: Vegetarian Lunch	12.30-2.00pm	Lawhill, Hewelsfield
14 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
15 Fri	Garden Society: behind the Scenes at Chelsea	7.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
16 Sat	Great Oaks Summer Fête	2-4pm	the Gorse, Coleford
16 Sat	Wye Valley Music Concert	7.30pm	St Briavels Church
16 Sat	'The Black Pearls' playing live	8pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
20 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop

20 Weds	St Briavels WI meeting: 'Victorians' Secrets'	7.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
28 Thurs	St Briavels Lunch Club	11.45am	St Briavels Pavilion
28 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	meet at Hewelsfield Church

ADVANCE DATES

1 July	WVM concert: Carismático Tango Band	7.30 pm	Drill Hall, Chepstow
3 July	St Briavels Senior Citizens Day Trip	9.30am	
7 July	BADS AGM & social evening	7pm	Assembly Rooms, St. Briavels.
6-8 July	Flower Festival 'Song & Dance'	11am - 5pm	Hewelsfield Church
14 July	Drama & Music Entertainment Afternoon	3pm	Moravian
14 July	Sevenoaks Shakespeare Co. 'The Tempest'		St Briavels Castle
15 July	Sevenoaks Shakespeare Co. 'The Tempest'		St Briavels Castle
21 July	Brockweir Community Fête		Chidren's Playing Field, Brockweir
21 July	Friends of St Briavels Church: Hog Roast	from 5pm	Church Farm, St Briavels
22 July	Guided Walk	2.30pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
4 Aug	Taizé Service	7pm	Brockweir Moravian Church
27 Aug	Bank Holiday Coffee Morning		St Briavels Pavilion



NEWS FROM THE BROCKWEIR VILLAGE SHOP

To me all year round is ice cream season, however for some it needs to be warm and sunny.

Whatever the weather we have a wide range of frozen delights for every budget ranging from mini milks to magnums, to local Apple Crumble or Lemon Curd Forest and Wye Ice cream and the famous Welsh Gold or Vanilla Tubs from Brookes Dairy. For those who don't like dairy we have Dairy Free Ice cream from Booja Booja, including a fabulous chocolate one and we also have a Lemon Sorbet from Marshfield Farm near Bath. If you prefer wet and cold, we have a fabulous selection

of Alcoholic Drinks, ranging from Rosé wine to Prosecco, Local Beer to Lager, Local Cider to Strongbow. We also have a small range of spirits, including Gin, Pimms and Vodka, and of course we sell, Tonic, Ice, Lemonade and Lemons.

Recently, we have been celebrating Natrional Vegetarian Week and we have some new vegetarian options, including, Vegetarian Snitzels, Kievs and Falafels and in the chiller a Heidi Pie from Pie Minister that is also Gluten Free!

1-7th June is National Volunteers Week.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers in the community who work tirelessly behind the scenes to help, whether helping out at youth club, in the church, parish council, at Mackenzie Hall or anyone of our other clubs and societies that add so much enjoyment to living in the area. I must however say a special thank you to all the volunteers who help out in the shop. Every contribution is valuable, no matter how small, whether in the shop or café, maintenance, publicity,

fetching fish, writing Facebook posts and the myriad of other jobs that we need to do to continue to make the shop a success.



Alison

ART IN THE CAFÉ

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY ANN BAXTER WRIGHT

21st MAY to 2nd JULY, 2018

Originally from the Lake District, Ann Baxter Wright describes herself as having been a "sickly child who spent months in bed drawing and colouring."

From an early age she dreamed of studying art, but this was not favoured by her father, and instead she read English at Birmingham University.

Whilst at university, she gave expression to her creativity by painting backcloths for theatrical productions, but otherwise concentrated on her literary studies. Having obtained her degree, Ann became an English teacher at the Newport College of Art (now part of the University of South Wales), in their Liberal Studies Department. She was employed in this capacity for a number of years, up until her retirement, but did, however, also find time to study photography at the college – learning, as she says modestly, "How to fill a square."

On early retirement, Ann began to study art more seriously, through the classes offered by the renowned local artist Richard Wills, and started painting in earnest. She became, and

still is, a member of the Wye Valley Art Society. Ann lives in Monmouth with her husband, where she continues to paint. Her favoured media are gouache and oils and her inspiration is Mary Fedden, RA, whose sense and love of colour and design is also paramount in her own work. Accuracy is secondary and she regrets being too well trained in perspective, as she can find this a hindrance.

As she has previously exhibited her work in the Brockweir Village Shop, and other local venues, many will already know Ann's work and will appreciate its unique qualities, as will those who meet it for the first time.

Annie Charlton

VILLAGE SHOP AGM, 2018

The 2018 AGM was held in the loft on the 28th April. The Chair, Philip Bradney, reported on the events of 2017 and outlined some plans for the future. He said the shop had increased its turnover in 2017 and had made a small profit. Increasing competition made it imperative that everyone concentrated on reducing costs and wastage. It was planned to revamp the shop interior, to keep the displays up to date, and it was intended to involve the volunteers as much as possible in this. The capital expenditure on new chillers and the ramp and block paving had been done from the shop's own resources without recourse to borrowing and he felt sure the continued investment in the shop's appearance and equipment was beneficial. Future necessary planned expenditure included the heat pump replacement and increasing the capacity of the septic tank.

Philip thanked the Committee and Volunteers and Staff for all their hard work over the year and outlined the administrative work done by the committee, such as health and safety, risk management and future planning. The shop had achieved a five star food hygiene award and been runner up in several retail competitions. He also thanked Alison for her hard work and highlighted the Brockweir Bistro and other food related events that Alison organised and which were one of the strengths of the shop. The shop continued to be conscious of its environmental responsibilities and was particularly targeting a reduction in the use of plastics. The shop had been active in providing services to local events like the Soapbox Derby and the Bonfire and he outlined how the shop continued to support the local community in other ways.

In his report, the Treasurer, Rick Durrant, said price inflation meant the increase in turnover was not necessarily an increase in the number of items sold. He gave details of cost pressures. He said the challenges for 2018 included improving sales volume in both Café and Shop, whilst being sensitive to the pressures already experienced by volunteers; improving gross profit margins by further improvements in control of what we buy, how much we buy (to avoid wastage but having full shelves), and increasing sales prices without losing custom; creating new sales through focus on Events (now a separate trading area); looking to external sources of funding, e.g. grants, for major capital replacement and new initiatives required over the next 5 years; and, improving the customer experience through, for example, adopting "Excellence in Retailing"

The Company Secretary, Jo Jenkin, said membership had slightly increased over the previous year. Philip Bradney and Carol Stickland retired from the Committee, having completed five years and four years respectively, and a new Committee were elected, as follows: Adele Bates, Rosie Blogg, Rick Durrant, Ellie Van der Heijden, Pauline Siddons, Peter Stickland, Jeremy Wilder, Peter Williams. Jo Jenkin is Company Secretary.

Philip Bradney

ACTION4OURCARE UPDATE

Action4OurCare had a very positive meeting on 14 May 2018 with the Director of Commissioning for NHS England, Mr I Ellul and his team, who have been charged with resolving the Cross Border Healthcare issues that have arisen due to the unlawful Cross Border Protocol signed in April 2013. The Statement of Values and Principles (SVP) which replaces the unlawful Cross Border Protocol is in its final draft and will be submitted for formal approval by Welsh Local Health Boards, English Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England's Commissioning Board and the Secretary of State for Wales. NHS England are pushing for the SVP to be signed off by early July 2018.

Patients of GP surgeries in the Referral Assessment Service (RAS): most Gloucestershire cross border patients are already in the RAS and being referred for elective surgery via the RAS to the hospital of their choice within NHS England waiting times. The RAS has been a great success, both in managing these cases promptly and reducing bureaucracy for the GP surgeries involved.

Patients of GP surgeries not in the RAS: a number of GP surgeries further up the border still need to go into the RAS but while NHS England are working with Welsh Health Boards to ensure that as many as possible do so, some of these surgeries need to resolve some IT issues first. However, some GP surgeries with very small numbers of English residents (eg a dozen in one case) may decide never to go into the RAS because it is just not practical for them to do so. We therefore asked NHS England to ensure that these patients are made aware that they have the right to register with an English registered GP and that their Clinical Commissioning Group is legally obliged to facilitate this move if these cross border patients do not want to be treated to NHS Wales standards. We understand that this will be explicitly expressed within the SVP agreement.

Urgent cancer referrals for Gloucestershire cross border patients: are currently dealt with outside the RAS via a local agreement between Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. This means that these Gloucestershire patients are being treated to English targets and can access NHS England cancer services. NHS England are now investigating using the RAS for urgent cancer referrals and (and mental health services) as well which will be another major step forward for patients and GPs in the RAS.

NHS England Website: will be updated to reflect the new arrangements and is the next area of NHS England's focus. NHS England will ensure that English resident Cross Border patients are fully informed of their legal healthcare entitlements and that they are able to identify whether their GP practice is in the RAS.

Action4OurCare are hoping all cross border surgeries in Gloucestershire will be in the RAS soon (one is left to go in). If this happens, we will have achieved our campaign objective: "Equal Access for All Gloucestershire residents."

Pam Plummer



NEWS FROM THE CASTLE

Hurrah that the Spring sunshine has arrived (well it had at the time of writing this) and the promise of long hot Summer days to come! Our YHA green umbrellas are out on the picnic tables and the summer pot plants are in and growing. So what has Summer in store for us?

Further Investment Work - We are still awaiting approval from English Heritage for a number of projects, both internal and external. Internally, we are hoping to add to our guest experience by updating the electrics in both Towers to allow for more charge points for mobiles and other frivolities of the modern era! Externally, we are looking to put a screen up around our waste bins in the car park (but this will need to wait for English Heritage test pits first so might be a longer project), and in the castle grounds we are looking to improve the appearance of our archery range, which is now quite bald! Current plans are to preserve the "green" appearance by using Astro-turf.

New Activity - We have introduced a new activity into our Alex Rider Spy Package and History Package. The noble art of Fencing. This has proved to be very popular so if you do pop into the Castle grounds to be confronted by a group of armed warriors in training do not worry!

Shakespeare Returns - Tickets are now on sale for The Tempest and the welcome return of the Seven Oaks Shakespeare Society. Performances are 7.30pm on Saturday 14th July and 2pm on Sunday 15th July. For all early bird tickets bought before the end of June (quoting "Village News") we are offering a further discount to £10.00 for a ticket per adult (£5.00 for under-26s). All other advance tickets for adults are available at £12, with the price £15 on the gate.

Linda Harrison, Manager

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ST BRIAVELS LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET

Saturday 2nd June

The Pavilion 10-12.30 pm



WYE VALLEY MUSIC (ST BRIAVELS MUSIC SOCIETY)

SUMMER CONCERT CONTRASTS: VIOLIN RECITAL AND TANGO BAND

The two concerts that conclude the Society's 2017/18 season could hardly be more different. The first, a violin and piano recital by **Siwoo Kim** and **Mishka Momen**, brings a selection of European classical music played by two young but extremely talented musicians who have already made their mark on the world stage. The second takes us to South America and the modern tango, performed by the inspired **Karen Street**, one of the UK's leading exponents of the accordion, and her equally talented tango band **Carismático**, delivering music full of energy, passion and robust romance. Your diary dates are Saturday 16th June at 7.30 pm in St Briavels Church for Siwoo and Mishka and Sunday 1st July at 7.30 pm in the Drill Hall, Chepstow for the Carismático Tango Band.

Full details of these concerts are in the leaflet included with this issue of Village News. The St Briavels concert will be a tremendous tour of classical composers, featuring works by *Mozart, Mendelssohn, Debussy, Messiaen, Bach* and *Brahms*. It will be a particular thrill to welcome

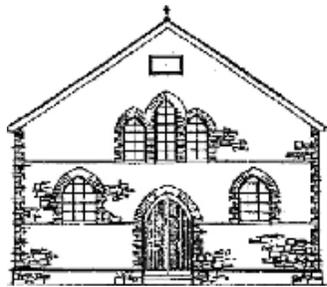
for the third time the wonderful Mishka Momen and to be able to hear Siwoo Kim, who has received outstanding reviews. There will also be the now-customary celebration with Strawberries and Pink Fizz in the Castle Moat from 6.00 pm. The Chepstow concert will be a very lively evening of irresistible Argentinian passion and musical virtuosity, with music by *Cosentino, Varela, Gardel* and, of course, *Piazzolla*, together with compositions by Karen Street herself. Interval refreshments will have a South American twist.

Admission to the St Briavels concert is £15 for the general public, £12 for Wye Valley Music members and £2 for students; Strawberries and Pink Fizz costs £5. Pre-booking on-line at wvm.org.uk is essential for the Strawberries and Fizz and highly recommended for the concert.

Admission to the Chepstow concert is £18 for the general public, £15 for Wye Valley Music members and £2 for students, to include the interval refreshments.

Keith Norman 01594 530419

Membership special offer: our membership year runs from 1st August to 31st July, but for anyone joining after 1st May we are offering 15 months for the price of 12. This means you need pay only the lower (members) price for these summer concerts – and for all of next year's concerts too! Enquiries can be made to our message line at 01291 330020 or by email to info@wvm.org.uk.



WYE VALLEY ARTS CENTRE, LLANDOGO

Beginners and improvers are very welcome on all the courses as all will enjoy the individual attention which the tutors can give to small groups of students. There are 1, 2 and 4 and 6 day courses. Please ask for further details. We hope you will find an opportunity to come to The Wye Valley Arts Centre to enjoy our beautiful inspirational surroundings, the perfect creative environment.

JUNE

THUR 7, 14, 21, 28	SILVER JEWELLERY (cont) 1.00 - 4.00	Ann Skehel
SAT 16	PAINTING & DRAWING - 1 DAY WORKSHOP 9.30am - 5pm Cost - £50	Ann Hulme

JULY

THUR 5	SILVER JEWELLERY (cont) 1.00 - 4.00	Ann Skehel
SAT 7	4 SEASONS PHOTOGRAPHY 9.30am to 12.30pm Second of 4 seasonal workshops. £25 per session	David Broadbent
SAT 14 - Sun 15	PAINTING & DRAWING - 2 DAY COURSE 9.30am - 4pm Cost - £50 per day	Ann Hulme
MON 16 - THU 19	PAINTING & DRAWING - 4 DAY COURSE 9.30am - 4pm Cost - £50 per day	Ann Hulme

Tel: 01594 530214 Email: info@wyearts.co.uk Web: www.wyearts.co.uk

All shows start at 7.45pm Tickets £4.00 at the door Summer Season 2018 Tintern Film Nights Big-screen movies close to home Tintern Village Hall	
Friday 8th June Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri Tragicomedy with Frances McDormand "A modern classic"	Friday 11th May Finding Your Feet Romantic comedy with Staunton, Imrie, Spall, Lumley "Tremendous"
Friday 13th July The Post Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Stephen Spielberg together for the first time	Friday 10th August Paddington 2 "A beautifully constructed, deliciously acted joy."



PARISH GRASSLANDS PROJECT

www.parishgrasslandsproject.org.uk

The search for a community orchard site was relaunched at a meeting last month where the nucleus of an organising committee was formed.

We decided not to confine our ambitions to a single site but to be open to the possibility of working on more than one site across the two parishes. We also agreed to relax our earlier stipulation that we would require a lease on any land, and instead to move closer to the "on trust" model in operation at community orchards near Cardiff. A number of sites across St Briavels, Hewelsfield and Brockweir which might have potential were identified,

and approaches are being made to the respective owners to try to enlist their support. We also discussed potential sources of funding and the possibility of having open days on some of the existing small local orchards. Our next meeting will be at the Village Shop Loft at 7pm on Monday June 11. This will be open to all, so if you would like to become involved, or would simply be interested to know more, please do come along.

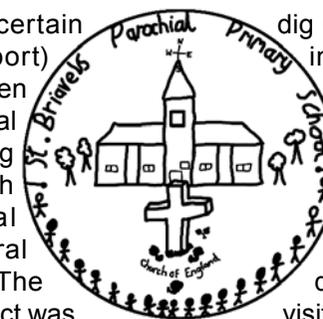
The sudden improvement in the weather last month helped our wild flower challenge to get off to an encouraging start.

We are trying to find some of the more than 200 species that were recorded locally about 100 years ago but don't appear to have not been seen in the last few decades. So far 15 if the wild flowers on the list have been located.

Full details of the challenge are on the PGP website. We are keen for as many residents as possible to take part in the search for the parishes' missing wild flowers, so please consult the website and get out and about plant hunting.

Finally, hearty congratulations to St Briavels Primary School for its Commended in the School Garden Awards at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival last month.

The children (with a certain amount of adult support) created a brilliant garden entitled Mushet's Special Steel – the Forest Taking back the Foundry, which combined industrial history with the natural beauty of the Forest. The Parish Grasslands Project was delighted to assist by giving children from the school the opportunity to



dig up meadow turf and some individual wild flowers to form part of their entry. The garden was built at the school over a number of weeks and then transported and rebuilt at the show site, where it drew much praise from show visitors and judges alike.

Mike Topp

THOSE BOOTS – WERE THEY REALLY MADE FOR WALKING?

Grumpy Old Man

Every so often, when overpowered by a fit of the Grumpy Old Mans, I write a "Letter to the Editor" at some national daily newspaper. Either it never reaches the intended address, or the hapless fellow pays his staff to protect him from the wilder elements of the Great British Public, thus ensuring that my rant is not published. Of one thing I am certain however. I most certainly walked all of 100 yards to post it, and I am sure of this because I make it an unshakeable rule of life never willingly to walk further than 100 yds unless accompanied by a responsible dog. (The post box is located 100yds west of our cottage)

Pedestrian gridlock

Now I know that this flies in the face of received wisdom which tells us that the Nation's Health/Wealth/etc depend these days upon the Nation's willingness to undertake route marches of great length and indescribable tedium, regardless of canine supervision. Clearly the Nation agrees (with wisdom, not me) and the result is a network of lanes and footpaths that is rapidly reaching a pedestrian form of gridlock. Now, I am as indulgent as he next man to most forms of harmless eccentricity, so I can only shrug, and exclaim mildly "Oh well! It's a free country! Or was."

Poodlefaking

My memory of a few decades ago reminds me that there was one other good reason for taking a health-giving hike,

and it was one that involved the sly god Cupid. When a young man weekending with his beloved at her parents' home felt the urgent need to be alone with Best Girl, desperation might lead him to suggest the She and he take the family dog for a walk. My generation called it "Poodlefaking". Very enjoyable, in spite of the walking, and of course, it meets the Moucher specification, involving as it does, Man's best Chaperone.

Mobile phone

I've recently come across one more "walk ethic" that meets my criteria. It involves my friend and neighbour whom I recently encountered on a steep slope far from both our homes. She had an extending dog lead wrapped several times around her legs as she leaned into the hedge to let me drive past, and on the end of the lead a puzzled Labrador. Her free hand brandished a mobile 'phone, and clearly triumphant at having made her contact, she seemed oblivious to the fact that my nearside wheel was about to sink into a pothole by her foot. It struck me that the effort she had clearly made struggling up to the highest point in her vicinity must have had an invigorating effect on all her vital systems, and therefore would qualify for an emphatic "Green Light" from the Obesity Police. It could catch on as a weekend recreation similar to Orienteering. And a name?

How about Hunt the Signal" ?



On June 28th the night sky will be dominated by a full Moon. A full Moon occurs when it is located on the opposite side of the Earth than the Sun and so its face is fully illuminated. This can be a good time to look at the moon and examine the "maria" and the "lunar rays".

Although I have a reasonably large diameter telescope at home I do most of my astronomy with binoculars. Setting up the telescope requires a number of trips, heavy equipment, alignment, and the forethought to set it up ahead of time to allow the scope cool and stop disturbance of the image. Binoculars, on the other hand, simply require me to find a comfy chair or a wall to lean against.

There are three things which I particularly recommend looking at with binoculars when there is a full moon:

- Compare the dark areas called "maria", that were once thought to be actual seas, with the lighter heavily cratered areas. The lunar maria are the basaltic remains of ancient volcanic eruptions on the Moon. They are different shades of grey and you should be able to find numerous smaller craters that appear brighter.
- Trace the extent of the radial rays around the large craters such as Copernicus and Tycho. The rays are thought to be formed from the fine material ejected by the impact of comets and meteorites.
- Scan the edge of the moon against the backdrop of stars. If you watch for a period of time you'll see it eclipse the stars as it races across the sky at a much faster rate than the distant stars.

If you look at the moon earlier in the month when the Moon is a crescent you'll see the craters and mountains along the curved day/night terminator in sharp relief. It gives a very different impression as you see the shadows cast by mountains stretch across the lunar surface.

To all our contributors...
The deadline for the July 2018 edition of the Village News is:
Midday, Tuesday 19th June
As always, the email address to send your contributions to is
editors@villagemag.co.uk



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL PLANT SALE!

Despite the cool Spring providing a challenge to garden society members growing plants for our annual sale, the Pavilion looked wonderful on the morning of 21 April. Tables were laden with high quality plants, soon snapped up by eager buyers and leaving latecomers disappointed. Though we didn't break records, sales yet again produced a healthy contribution to our funds.

Thanks are due from all members to Sue Davis, Sue Burrows and Jackie Healy for all their hard work in making the sale such a success.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT CHELSEA

Sally Nex works as a journalist and garden writer, specialising in all things horticultural - from gardens to plants, and gardeners to garden designers. Her work has been published in national magazines, including a regular column in the RHS 'The Garden'. Every year, Sally goes to the world's greatest flower show, visiting on the days the public don't get to see and working alongside exhibitors, designers, contractors and RHS show staff, often spending time at the showground outside official opening hours. It gives her a unique insight into life 'behind the scenes' at Chelsea.

On 15 June, 7.30pm at St Briavels Pavilion, Sally will present a slide show including lots of anecdotes and insights into the show's less public side and including plenty of gorgeous (and some not so gorgeous!) photos of Chelsea past and present. Whether you have been to the show or just watched the television broadcasts, this will give you a new and fascinating perspective.

All welcome. Visitors £5.

IN MY GARDEN

It's no accident that the days with the longest hours of light coincide with all that growth and fulsome flowering in the garden. Plants and the seasons are perfectly synchronised; more time for photosynthesis means more energy for growth and flower production and for us there's so much to enjoy in the lush splendour of early summer.

I garden for wildlife as much as for myself and where nature and my garden most noticeably overlap is in my meadow lawn, my favourite part of the garden at this time of year. Common blue butterflies are some of my favourites, flitting among the long grasses on sunny days and many bumble and solitary bees

Christine Haines



species are at home here too. I'm always drawn to the tawny mining bees, their bright ginger furry little bodies easy to spot and recognise.

I love my meadow lawn at the end of the summer. A couple of passes of the mower between then and next spring and that's about it - maximum return for minimum input. I love it for its biodiversity but if all I wanted was just colourful summer flowers and very little effort then I couldn't choose anything better. No weeding, feeding, watering, staking, pruning or even much mowing apart from a path around the outside. So what's not to like? Why do so very few gardeners leave their weedy lawns to grow and blossom and so very many weed, spray and mow lawn flowers to oblivion?

Answers on a postcard please.....

Cheryl Cummings

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

Last June, I commented on the driest and mildest Winter and Spring we had experienced for many years (and the welcome spot of rain in May.) It hardly needs to be said that the 2017-18 season has been rather different, leaving gardeners in despair that Spring would ever arrive! It's easy to forget that the late autumn/early winter period was very mild, making the frost and snow when they came a shock to plants that had hardly stopped growing, as well as to their owners. Plants are now enjoying the long days, the soil is warming and wild flowers have been spectacular. My perennials are once again in competition with the less glamorous ground elder, dandelions and creeping buttercup – a dead heat, so far! There is plenty to do but make sure you prioritise regular watering of pots, newly planted perennials, trees and shrubs and keeping them weed free

- Hoe or pull out weeds from vegetable beds. Avoid digging and disturbing the soil more than absolutely necessary, to conserve moisture and nutrients.
- Start feeding tomato plants once the first truss of flowers is set
- Sow small quantities of salad crops every two weeks to maintain a succession
- As night temperatures rise, it's safe to put tender plants outside – avoid leaving them all day in full sun, though – even sun lovers need a little shade
- Keep your greenhouse well ventilated and water daily – but don't leave plants standing in water
- Prune early-flowering shrubs and climbers after flowering (if necessary)

Christine Haines

Find detailed advice, full meeting reports and more on our website
www.wyegarden.com



BROCKWEIR EVENTS AT MACKENZIE HALL



The new Air in G promoters' brochure 2018/19 has now been published. Some great acts are available for booking, including:

Music

Moscow Drug Club, The Brubeck Project - Jazz

The Grahams - Americana,

Harbottle & Jonas - Folk

Paprika - Balkan gypsy band

Swingin at the Speakeasy - Trad Jazz

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Theatre

Earnest - A modern take on Oscar Wilde's classic

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Sarajevo Big Bang by the Big Bang Gang - How did the Great War start?

The Wonderful Discovery of Witches in the County of Lancashire - the story of witches in Pendle, by Dawn State Theatre Co.

If you wish to have a say in what you want to see over the next year...

...then you can view the brochure in the Brockweir Village Shop or go onto the Air in G website www.airing.co.uk.

Call me on 01291 689812 or email me at adrianbirch@gmail.com if you would like to see one of these acts at the Mackenzie Hall. However, you are going to have to act quickly, as I need to get the Application Form in by 7th June!

AIR in G 2018 Prize Draw

AIR in G are looking to supplement their income to cope with a shortfall from the Arts Council by selling tickets at £1 each or £5 for a book of five. The draw will be held at Sheepscombe Village Hall on 7th December at 8.30pm.

1st Prize- Golden Ticket entitles the winner to a pair of tickets to see every artist performing with Air in G throughout 2019

2nd Prize- Fabulous 4 night break at a holiday cottage near Tenby in Pembrokeshire (sleeps 6)

3rd Prize- £150 cash prize

4th Prize- £100 cash prize

5th Prize- 4 tickets to see Aladdin at Cheltenham Everyman.

Tickets will be available from Brockweir Village Shop over the summer. They will be in a box under the counter!

Adrian Birch

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Editorial: all contributions should be sent to: editors@villagemag.co.uk, or contact any of the Committee Members:

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Christine Haines	01594 531050	Joyce McKay	01291 689910

Layout/typing/adverts: Christine Haines & John French; Collation: Sally Secrett; Treasurer: Joyce McKay

Views expressed within 'Village News' are those of individual contributors, and are not necessarily those of the magazine or its committee members. We reserve the right to amend, edit or refuse any articles.

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