

Dear Friends

I trust you are looking forward to the beginning of Spring, which meteorologically starts March 1st.

Time for the garden and allotment, to get out and about to enjoy the wonderful area in which we live and to spend more time with others. A good time to renew our relationships with the natural world and with others.

Disputes and divisions sadden me because, so often, they are unnecessary. Jesus reminds us to be ready to forgive seventy times seven, to go on forgiving. In the Old Testament, we are advised to feed our enemies when they are hungry. This is illustrated by an incident in the 2nd Book of Kings. The king of Damascus was at war with Israel but whenever he sent out an army, the king of Israel seemed to know when and where they were, so could avoid them. This enraged the king of Damascus. He was told that the prophet Elisha was told his every move by God. So, the king sent an army to capture him.

They surrounded Elisha's town, only for Elisha to pray for their blindness. In their confusion, Elisha offered to take them home. In fact, he took them to Samaria, the capital of Israel. Their eyes were opened and Elisha advised the king of Israel to give them a meal and send them home. This he did and the story ends with there being a long period of peace.

We live in a society where this lesson seems to have been forgotten. I was reading of an MP who would never get to know or spend time with a member of an opposing party because of all the bad things they had done. Students interrupt and prevent from speaking those with whose views they disagree. This attitude destroys community and brings strife, not peace.

This month ends with Good Friday, the day of Jesus' death. Jesus shows love to enemies, he shows us the nature of God and therefore of we who are made in his image. His death breaks down these barriers and restores relationships with God, each other, and creation. By receiving God's forgiveness ourselves, we are enabled to forgive and accept others.

May this be a reality for each one of us this month, bringing a real sign of Spring - new life into our lives.

Every blessing,

Robert

(Rev Robert Simpson. Associate Minister, St Briavels, Hewelsfield and Brockweir)

BROCKWEIR MORAVIAN CHURCH

Church Services for March 2018

Sun	4 Mar	6.00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth (<i>Holy Communion & Unity Prayer Day</i>)
Sun	11 Mar	6:00 pm	Rev Jane Avery (<i>Mothering Sunday</i>)
Sun	18 Mar	6:00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth
Sun	25 Mar	6.00 pm	Pat Allen
Mon	26 Mar	7.00 pm	Holy Week Readings
Tues	27 Mar	7.00 pm	Holy Week Readings
Wed	28 Mar	7.00 pm	Holy Week Readings
Thur	29 Mar	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion (<i>Joint Service with Hewelsfield</i>)
Fri	30 Mar	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Good Friday Walk starting at Hewelsfield Church Good Friday Liturgy

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 1st March – In aid of Moravian Unity work in Peru. Thurs 5th April – In aid of the Elim Home for disabled children in South Africa

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.

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

Winter draws to an end, daffodils poke their heads out and March heralds the arrival of Spring; whilst the weather may not have changed much, a warm welcome awaits at the chapel.

Our services are at 10am and 6pm. Our morning service is a family service, when we have a "Sunday Club" for young children. We meet for Bible study and prayer every Monday (8pm in my home) and Tuesday (10:15am in the chapel).

Coffee Morning returns on Tuesday 6th March, 10am.

Our Palm Sunday procession tells the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem in AD33. Crowds followed him, excited about a fresh beginning and throwing off Roman oppression; by the end of the week he would be crucified. Join us on 25th March, starting from the doctors' surgery at 10am and walking via Castle Crescent and the Square, to finish at the school for a short service followed by coffee and croissants. Families particularly welcome to this occasion; the children enjoy meeting the donkey.

On Good Friday (30th March) we join with the parish church to remember the death of Jesus, beginning in Smithville Close at 1:15pm and going via the Memorial Gates to meet at the Tump (behind the Castle) at 2pm. This will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard (approx 2:45pm) and refreshments in the Assembly Rooms.

Our Easter Sunday service, the most joyful day in the year for Christians, will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the defeat of death. 10am on the 1st April. Whether you're a regular church-goer or it's your first-time, we warmly invite to join us at any of these occasions.

We are a collection site for the Forest Foodbank; a box is available for you to drop off non-perishable goods when the chapel is closed. Find out more here: <http://bit.do/foodbank>.

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.

March is a period of change. The signs of spring and the new life it brings, that we have started to see in February, now really become evident. The changes Christ brings are what we continue to explore as we move through Lent, using the Resolve material to explore these changes that could be made in our lives. This is in the context of the God who promises to make all things new, to bring us life in all its fullness. As we move into Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter, we reflect on the cost of these changes for Jesus and for us, explore the continuing significance of Christ's victory over death and so receive Christ's gift of Life Eternal as part of the New Creation.

MARCH SERVICES: PREACHERS AND THEMES:

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

1 st Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer
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SUNDAY 4th March - Lent 3: Resolve: 'Inspiring your soul.' Robert

8.30am	St Briavels	BCP Communion
9.30am	St Briavels	All Age Eucharist
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Communion
2.30 - 4.30pm	Mackenzie Hall	Craft Afternoon for Mothering Sunday

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

6 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
8 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

St Luke's Tidenham

6 th Tues	7.30pm	Lent Course Healing Prayer
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SUNDAY 11th - Mothering Sunday: Resolve - 'Deepening your Relationships.' Robert

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

13 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
14 th Weds	10.30am	Communion
15 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

St Luke's Tidenham

13 th Tues	7.30pm	Lent Course Prayer
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SUNDAY 18th - Passion Sunday: 'I will remember their sins no more.' Robert

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

20 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
22 nd Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

St Luke's Tidenham

20 th Tues	7.30pm	Lent Course Prayer
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SUNDAY 25th - Palm Sunday: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life.' Rev David Treharne & Matt Rees

9.45am	Outside Surgery	Donkey Led Procession
10.15am	St Briavels School	Food for Thought
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Worship - Mandy

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

27 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
28 th Weds	10.30am	Communion
29 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

Moravian Chapel

29 th Maundy Thur	7.00pm	Shared Communion
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Church calendar continued on next page...

30th Good Friday - Hewelsfield & Brockweir: Procession to Brockweir with Cross

10.00am	Hewelsfield Church
10.30 am	Outside Village Shop
11.00 am	Moravian Chapel

30th Good Friday - St Briavels: Procession from outside Surgery to Tump

1.15pm	Outside Surgery
1.30pm	Playing Field Gates
1.45pm	Tump
2.00pm	Service on Tump with Band. Followed by refreshments and Easter Egg Hunt

SUNDAY 1st April - Easter Sunday: 'He has been raised; he is not here.' Robert

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

3 rd Tues	9.00am	No Morning Prayer
5 th Thurs	9.00am	No Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 8TH - Easter 2: The Confused and Fearful

9.30am	St Briavels	Morning Worship - David Rees
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Morning Worship - Mandy Vaughan

St. Briavels People's Choir

SPRING CONCERT

Folk and Inspirational Songs & Choruses from

MUSICAL
THEATRE

Sat. 10th March, 7.30pm £6.00 The Assembly Rooms, St Briavels

Tickets: The Pantry & Brockweir Shop until Sun 5th March, then 01594 531151
or on the door. Proceeds to the Assembly Rooms

BROCKWEIR AND HEWELSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of Minutes: Tuesday 6th February, 2018. Full Minutes on Website.

Cllrs. Fox, Harris, Bowen, Endersby, Sinfield, Haythornthwaite, Parish Clerk + 22 members of the public.

Mr Peterken, Parish Grasslands Committee, gave an overview of the situation of flora in the parish.

Majority of parishioners present interested in planning application 2003/18/FUL. Concerns expressed over increased traffic, particularly heavy vehicles using the narrow lanes and disruption to neighbours and landscape. Also some strong support.

Proposal to restore Cutts Orchard was explained. Councillors gave full support.

P0099/18/TCA Remove 1 Conifer Tree at Rose Cottage, Quayside. Councillors confirmed that it was regrettable to lose a tree from the parish. No further comment.

P0052/18/FUL Belmont Lodge, Belmont Road. Erection of single storey rear extension to lower ground floor and single storey extension to ground floor with creation of balcony and associated works. Installation of inset PV array. Demolition of existing chimney. No comment

P0045/18/TCA The Old Rectory, Church Lane. Crown thin 1 Cedar tree by up to 15% and reduce 1 Eucalyptus stem to 10m in height above ground level. No comment

2003/18/FUL Prince Hill, Sandy Lane. Erection of replacement dwelling with adjoining annexe accommodation and detached garage with associated works. Demolition of existing dwelling and garage. Councillors had no objection to this application but urged both applicants and agents to give serious consideration to the issue of heavy traffic and disruption; to publish a Traffic Management plan as soon as possible and that access be considered from all approaches.

Payee	Service	Amount
AEB Price	Strimming – December	£80.00
Lynda Skuse	Clerk Salary & Expenses	£282.52
Hydrogeo	Professional Report	£360.00
AEB Price	Strimming – January	£80.00
Forest Equipment Services	Litter Bins Etc.	£64.08
GAPTC	Course	£5.00
Andrea Pellegram Ltd	Course	£427.25
Lynda Skuse	Clerk Salary & Expenses	£289.24

The budget/precept agreed as £8559.00.

The Planning Inspector visited former HAPPA site. Particular attention paid to situation of the Stock Barn and the plans from the perspective of surrounding properties.

Questions raised about reinstatement of footpath at Ferry Farm; reinstating part of FHE51 where it crossed the stream as it joins FHE52/FHE27 and the state of the path leading to the Moravian Church.

Discussions ongoing regarding regular clearing/maintenance of The Quay. A letter of thanks to be sent to Mr Finley for clearing The Quay. Agreed regular clearing of the Quay to be included in the contract for grass cutting.

It was agreed that street lighting/speed restrictions would be offered for parishioner comment at the Annual Meeting in May 2018.

An application for Heritage Lottery funding will be completed in respect of creating a village archive.

Due to serious illness, Cllr. Merrett has not attended Council meetings since 3rd October 2017. Council was asked to approve Cllr. Merrett's non-attendance due to ill health for a period to 20th April 2018 (Section 85(1) LGA 1972). Waiver of the six months rule proposed and unanimously agreed.

The third defibrillator would now be installed at Hewelsfield Church

Next meeting: Tuesday 6th March, 2018. 7pm at The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop

ENERGY SAVING WEEK

Worried about rising energy bills? Help is at hand

Make sure you aren't paying too much or missing out on any benefits or support that could boost your income and lower costs. Call your supplier or visit your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau for more information

BIG ENERGY SAVING NETWORK

St Briavels Assembly Rooms, Thursday, 8th March 2018, 1pm – 4pm

Advice on suppliers, switching, best deals, how to stay warm

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Free goody bag. Don't forget to bring your latest bill with you!!!

In conjunction with Forest of Dean Citizens Advice

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

ROCKING ROCK BUNS (Bakes about 8)

225g self-raising flour
100g cold butter (cubed)
100g mixed dried fruit, including dates
75g caster sugar
1 egg, beaten
1 tbsp milk
Grated nutmeg



Pre-heat the oven to 200°C. Grease a baking sheet or line with baking parchment.

Sift flour and rub in the butter until the mixture is like fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar and mixed fruit. Add the beaten egg. Do not make the mixture wet. It should be firm but if dry add a little milk. Divide the mixture into small balls - roughen on the top.

Cook for 12-15 minutes until the buns are well risen. Sprinkle with caster sugar and grated nutmeg. Serve warm.

Children love making these.

Mary Perryman

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Praying for Suriname – A Service for Everyone

All God's Creation is Very Good!

At Lindors Country House Hotel Friday 2 March, 10.30am – 12noon

This year, the service has been put together by the women from Suriname

After the service there will be tea and coffee and time to talk

ALL WELCOME – NOT JUST WOMEN

www.wwdp.org.uk

SOFT (Sharing our Faiths Together) MEETINGS

Our regular SOFT meetings will be held on Wednesdays 7 & 21 March and 4 & 15 April in The Loft above the Brockweir Village Shop. SOFT is a small group of people from a variety of, or no, faith backgrounds. We welcome people of all views to join us as we widen our understanding and appreciation of each other in our communities.

Usually our meetings take the form of a discussion around a topic chosen by one of our members. We have some very interesting conversations as the topics cover a wide and diverse range of subjects! 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

CHEPSTOW WALKING FESTIVAL 4TH - 8TH APRIL 2018

We are a volunteer group encouraging people to get outdoors through a love of walking. Each year, we hold a walking festival to encourage both the local community and visitors to take part. Walks are taking place all over the Lower Wye Valley, including one led by Sarah Sawyer from the AONB. We collaborate with local organisations to give the very best walking experience.

Grab your walking boots and join us for 5 days of walking fun! 34 walks, varying in length between 2 – 15 miles, in and around the Lower Wye Valley, discovering its beauty and heritage. All walks are led by experienced, friendly walk leaders who either live or work in the area.

Full programme at www.walksinchepstow.co.uk or visit Chepstow Tourist Information Centre or Chepstow Museum. Tickets are £5 per walk or a £15 Supersaver ticket buys as many walks as you wish to join. Children under 16 free. Ticket price includes transport and free parking in Chepstow, if applicable.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Film Night	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Bring your own wine, drinks & snacks.	Friday 9th March Dominhall Gleeson • Margot Robbie Kelly MacDonald	Information: Andrew Reid andrew.reid@huntermillerreid.co.uk or phone 07774 726860
Teas, coffees & ice cream on sale.	Goodbye Christopher Robin The story of AA Milne's creation of Pooh and the books which brought hope.	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Tintern Village Hall 7.45pm	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	Tickets £4.00 15s & under £2.50	

THE MOAT SOCIETY

Our first working party in 2018 will be on Saturday 10th March from 10am until 12 noon. New volunteers are always welcome. There is no membership fee and you don't need to be an experienced gardener. This year, our main project will be to continue clearing the area nearest the Tump, making it more attractive and allowing access right around the castle. Come and join us on the second Saturday of the month throughout the growing season for some exercise, a cuppa and a chat, while helping to protect a special part of St.Briavels.

Sue Davis, Secretary

BANK HOLIDAY COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning on Bank Holiday Monday, April 2nd, is in aid of Great Oaks Hospice and Heart of the Forest School. The Hospice was a great support during Dad's last weeks and afterwards. Also, Dad and I visited the School, and we could not believe the opportunities for local children and young people with learning disabilities. So we would love to see you all on April 2nd at The Pavilion St Briavels, 10am to 12 noon.

But we do need your help. Perhaps you could donate a bottle or make a cake or spare an hour, either during or before, or when we need extra help afterwards to clear up. So please come and join us for a chat and a cup of tea.

If you have anything to donate, please leave it in my porch, 11 Castle Crescent, or contact me or Tessa. Thanks.

Adele James 01594 530571

ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?

People using the church for funerals, concerts, weddings etc. find the pews cold and hard to sit on. Therefore, we are trying to raise funds to have pew cushions made for the church. We have nearly half the amount required thanks to a grant from your Village News Committee and our fundraising to date. However, it is necessary to find the remainder within the next six months to comply with the grant conditions.

Because of the large and varied size of the pews the cost of cushions ranges from £90 to £140 each. Any contributions towards this are welcome - but perhaps you would like to donate a cushion to celebrate an anniversary or birthday or the memory of a loved one, in order to ensure the comfort of everyone using the church. This could be noted on the cushion.

If you are willing to contribute to the pew cushion fund, please send a cheque, made out to St Briavels Church PCC, Pew Cushion Fund, to our treasurer, Roger Clewett, The Lilacs, Bailey Lane, Hewelsfield, or contact him on 01291 680436 to arrange a bank transfer.

Any help whatsoever towards our project to improve your comfort when you visit the church, would be most appreciated.

Jean Sheraton

NOSH AND NATTER

Alison hit the ground running after returning from her holiday in New Zealand by hosting the first meeting of Nosh and Natter for 2018. It was great to see everyone back in the Village Shop after Christmas enjoying the impressive array of wonderful cakes Alison had baked. Thank you Alison for starting the New Year for Nosh and Natter in such a lovely way.

Our second meeting in February was Judy Craven's (plus helpers!) curry lunch. This is always well attended and Judy gives us a variety of curries to choose from, catering for both vegetarians and meat eaters. We all had more than our fill and Judy can continue to claim to be the Curry Queen of the area! Thank you Judy - it was delicious!

Our next meeting, in March, is Morning Coffee from 10.30-12.00 on Tuesday 13th at Carol Stickland's home, Poolfield Court House, Hewelsfield, GL15 6UW. Any new members who would like to come will receive a big welcome. If you would like more information, please phone me on 01594 530524 or email siddonspauline@aol.com

Pauline Siddons

BADS PRESENTS: GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS - 23 & 24 MARCH

....a whirlwind of Bees, Bears, Honey and picnics coming to a forest near you !

What are the Bees doing in the woods? It might have something to do with the Wicked Queen Bee's evil plan. Does it have anything to do with honey? Come along to find out if Goldilocks and the gang get the better of the Queen Bee and save the Bears. Performances - at Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir:

Friday 23rd March at 8pm
Saturday 24th March at 2pm (matinee)
Saturday 24th March at 7.30pm

Evening performances: £10 per ticket (no concessions.) Includes a light snack.
Matinée Performances: £3.50 per ticket.
(Licensed Bar will be available during evening performances.)

This is an annual event and all profits go to Charity. Tickets can be purchased at Browns in Llandogo, Village Shop Brockweir, The Pantry, St Briavels and Brockweir Inn.

Kelly Painter

ST BRIAVELS LUNCH CLUB, THURSDAY 22ND MARCH 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 people and are always pleased to see a new face. If you are new to the village and would like to join us please contact me for more information. The three-course meal, sherry and coffee costs £5.50. There is also a raffle.

Mary Perryman 01594 530505

MACKENZIE HALL TRESTLE TABLES

Some of the old trestle tables in the Mackenzie Hall seem to have got heavier and more difficult to lug around and put up and down. (It can't possibly be because we are all getting older and weaker, can it?). We have bought some new, lightweight ones.

The old ones could be very useful to someone as craft tables, DIY tables, for garages or greenhouses etc. If you are interested please contact me 01291 689327 for a bargain offer!

Barbara French

Brockweir & Hewelsfield Local History Group

This month we've been invited to join with the Llandogo History Group for a talk in the Llandogo Village Hall by Robert Golder entitled:

“Whitebrook, Then and Now”

As many of you know, Whitebrook was a hive of industry in the paper making trade in the 1800s, so it is hoped that Robert will give us an insight into that and the more recent history of the village.

The meeting is on **Monday 12th March** at 7.30pm
in the **Llandogo Village Hall**, entry £2.

John Norman



**Dementia
Friends**
An Alzheimer's Society initiative

**A Training
Day
On Dementia**

Saturday 3rd March 10.30am-12.30pm

The Loft above the Brockweir Shop

All The Community Are Welcome To Come Along

No need to book.

PLASTIC CONSEQUENCES

Whether it's out of a sense of guilt at the death of a baby whale seen on Blue Planet 2 last year, or the pictures shown on social media or even our own experience travelling through our local landscape, plastic has become a popular material to reduce.

And that's precisely the answer. Reducing one's consumption of plastic, indeed one's consumption of all 'stuff', is a positive way to combat pollution, climate change, loss of biodiversity and even unhappiness. There's less to produce, less to transport, store, use, recycle, incinerate, landfill and throw away. The voluntary simplification of our lifestyles has spawned a number of movements which are sowing seeds in people's minds as the environmental crisis becomes more apparent. The decisive moment comes when you say NO to buying something – that extra second of thought which says "Do I really need this?" and "Could I do something else to satisfy this desire?"

By reducing my carbon footprint, thanks to the challenging Carbon Reduction Programme I'm on, I can see the benefits of having and needing less; in reduced household bills and less time and effort spent working to pay them. In return, I get more time to invest in social capital, relationships which bring me happiness and, as the health specialists predict, a longer, more enjoyable life.

Chris McFarling chrismcfarling@phonecoop.coop

Let the good times



be GIN

'The Little Gin Company'
presents

ARTISAN GIN TASTING

**Upstairs at the Brockweir Village Shop
Tuesday 27 March 2018 7.00 - 9.30 pm**

**Enjoy a fun evening tasting some of the very
best in small batch and award-winning gins.**

20 different artisan gins for you to try!

Tickets £15 available from the Village Shop.

Numbers strictly limited. Over 18s only.

**(Ticket price includes two Gins of your choice - plus mixers.
Extra Gin and Tonics available on the night for just £5 each.)**

STOWE HILL QUARRY PLANNING APPLICATION

As many of you will already be aware, Breedon Southern Ltd have submitted a planning application to Gloucestershire County Council to expand Stowe Hill quarry near Clearwell. If the application is granted, it will have a devastating effect, not only on Clearwell but to a lesser but still significant extent on the parishes of St Briavels, and Hewelsfield and Brockweir.

It is not proposed to increase the level of production (currently 600,000 tons/year) and thus the volumes of HGVs will remain the same as at present; however that is not a reason to accept the proposal. The current operations are permitted by a planning permission granted many years ago and simply because it was considered at that time that the traffic levels were acceptable it is not a given that they are today. That apart, there are many reasons why this application cannot be allowed. These include:

- The irreparable damage that will be caused to the Slad Brook sssi (indeed it is possible that damage has already been inflicted on this nationally important site)
- The destruction of hedges will lead to the removal of the flight paths of lesser horseshoe bats between their roosting and feeding areas
- Dust and noise pollution will continue at unacceptable levels
- The landscape will be unacceptably altered for all time
- Important local industries of tourism and agriculture will be severely affected
- The proposed buffer zones between the quarry boundary and residential properties at 150m are far less than the industry norm
- The proposal to lower the quarry floor by 6m will bring it far too close to the subterranean water table, which presents an increased risk of flooding and pollution of watercourses.

HGV traffic is already presenting real issues locally with the use of unsuitable roads, particularly the B4228 through St Briavels, as well as pollution issues in Coleford, Lydney and Chepstow - at these two latter locations, emissions are already close to or in excess of nationally agreed safe limits.

This article is but a summary of the issues this application raises and we would urge you to read our full objection document on our website at: goo.gl/yJd9XG and then submit your own letter of objection. There is a template letter for you to use if you wish on the same page of our website. Please submit your objections without delay; it is currently proposed that this application will be considered by the County Council in July. Thank you for your support."

Richard S Crighton CiLCA Clerk to Newland Parish Council
E: newlandpc@sky.com W: newlandparishcouncil.gov.uk
F: [facebook.com/newlandparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/newlandparishcouncil) T 01594 836454



NEWS FROM THE BROCKWEIR VILLAGE SHOP

Did you know that the shop is happy to help out with catering for both community and private events (discounts available) whether it is bulk purchasing of your favourite crisps, or a buffet for a birthday?

Give me a call and see what we can do for you. If you have the idea for an event you would like the shop to host, please have a word. You may want to run an event and just hire our facilities or have a great idea for an event you would like us to run for you. We are also happy to host tables for charities in the shop, whether for information or fundraising. Remember that tickets for lots of local events are sold in the shop without charge to the event organisers.

Spring should be heading our way, with daffodils springing up. As the sun streams through the shop, it highlights any dust or areas in need of maintenance. If you love the satisfaction of Spring Cleaning, feel free to pop down and offer your services. Jobs include painting

the café, fixing shelves, tidying wires, sanding and varnishing tables. If, however you have a horror of cleaning but do have a yearly blitz, there is a special offer



on Ecover refills in March, with a 10% discount, so at least you can be eco-friendly and know that you are saving money whilst you are cleaning the corners and crevices at home!

I hope to see you soon. Alison

Our Easter Opening Hours

Good Friday: 10-4; Easter Sunday: 10-4; Easter Monday: 10-4

ART IN THE CAFÉ

Heart of the Forest Special School Exhibition

Something different, special and unique will soon embellish the walls of the Brockweir Village Shop Café, from 26 February to 9 April.

The Heart of the Forest Community Special School, located in Coleford, is the only school in the Forest of Dean specifically meeting

the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs. These include those who have severe, profound, and multiple learning difficulties, and who may also present complex needs, including autistic spectrum disorders. Pupils range in age from 3 to 19 years, and are catered for from late infancy to early adulthood, when they are helped to acquire independent living skills, preparing them for adult life. Founded in 2005, the school aims, as part of its advertised Vision, to provide a learning environment that is both purposefully creative and enjoyable. Individual expression is encouraged and fostered through all methods and means of communication, and these include a focus on the visual arts.

The paintings and graphic works presented in this exhibition are colourful, exuberant and individual.

There is a great sense that the youngsters have had fun, and, with appropriate guidance, enjoyed their creative freedom. The theme of the exhibition will be "Lost Words", inspired by the book by Robert MacFarlane (The Lost Words) which seeks to reconnect children and the natural environment surrounding them.

Interacting with others and the external world through the senses is much encouraged at the school, and many pupils are benefiting from a recently installed multiple sensory experience room. As well as allowing its pupils a community forum in which to showcase their excellent work, it is hoped that this exhibition will raise awareness of what the school is able to provide to improve quality of life and support some of the most vulnerable youngsters, and their families, in the Forest of Dean.

Annie Charlton

ORGANIC FRUIT & VEG	* FRENCH BREAD & PATISSERIE	* ORGANIC LAMB *
* RARE BREED PEDIGREE BEEF & PORK	* FREE RANGE POULTRY & GAME	* CHEESE
CHUTNEY	ST BRIAVELS LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET	
* OLIVES *	Saturday 3rd March	
* NUTS *	The Pavilion 10-12.30 pm	
* CIDER *	* SAUSAGES	* BUTTER
* EGGS *	* PASTIES	UIT JUICE
* DELI *	* HONEY *	* CAKES *
* HERBS *	* BUTTER	RESERVES*
INNOVATIVE VEGETARIAN & VEGAN FOOD	* FUDGE	* PLANTS
SWEET & SAVOURY PIES	* AUTHENTIC FRESHLY MADE CURRIES	& INDIAN SNACKS

DIARY DATES - weekly/regular activities

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 GROUP meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, from 7.30 until 9.00pm at the Loft, Brockweir Village Shop.
ZUMBA WITH JO at 8:15-9:15pm, Fitness, St Briavels School Hall

Wednesdays

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. 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 Kiske 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: Rehearsals at 7.00-9:00pm-St Briavels Assembly Rooms, please ring 01594 531151 for more information.



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Access Platform available for hire.**

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www.treesandgrounds.co.uk**

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

Walking for Health every Tuesday – meet at the Assembly Rooms, 2pm			
1 Thurs	Charity Lunch	12noon	Moravian Sunday School Hall
1 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
2 Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer	10.30am	Lindors Country House Hotel
2 Fri	Mariana-Art Gallery Re-opens for 2018 season (closed Tues/Wed)	10.30 - 5.00	East Street, St. Briavels
3 Sat	Produce Market	10am-12.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
3 Sat	Dementia Awareness Training	10am – 12.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
4 Sun	Craft Afternoon	2.30pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
5 Mon	Tintern Wine Tasting	7.30pm	alan.hillard@gmail.com
6 Tues	Coffee Morning	10am	Congregational Church, St Briavels
6 Tues	Brockweir & Hewelsfield PC meeting	7pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
7 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
8 Thurs	St Briavels Walking Group	1pm	Meet at St Briavels Church
8 Thurs	Energy Saving Network	1-4pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
9 Fri	Brockweir Events: Carmina Trio	7.30 for 8pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
10 Sat	Moat Society Working Party - All welcome	10am to 12pm	Castle Moat.
10 Sat	St Briavels People's Choir: Spring Concert	7.30pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
12 Mon	St Briavels PC meeting (planning applications and councillors available from 6.30pm)	7pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels

12 Mon	History Group joins Llandogo History Group: 'Whitebrook, Then & Now'	7.30pm	Llandogo Village Hall
13 Tues	Nosh & Natter: Morning Coffee	10.30-12.00	Poolfield Court, Hewelsfield
15 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
15 Thurs	Parish Grasslands Project: AGM & Lost Wild Flowers project	7.30pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
16 Fri	Garden Society: Spring Flower & Bulb Competition & Talk	7.30pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
20 Tues	St Briavels Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm	Orepool, Sling
21 Weds	St Briavels WI meeting: 'Birds of the Forest'	7.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
21 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
22 Thurs	St Briavels Lunch Club	11.45am	St Briavels Pavilion
23 Fri	BADS: Goldilocks & the 3 Bears	8pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
24 Sat	BADS: Goldilocks & the 3 Bears	2pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
24 Sat	BADS: Goldilocks & the 3 Bears	7.30pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
24 Sat	Wye Valley Music Concert: RCMD Young Musicians	3pm	St Briavels Church
25 Sun	Palm Sunday Procession	10am	St Briavels Surgery
27 Tues	Artisan Gin Tasting	7.00-9.30 pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
29 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
30 Fri	Good Friday Procession to Brockweir with Cross	10am	Hewelsfield Church
30 Fri	Good Friday Procession from Surgery to Tump	1.15pm	St Briavels Surgery
30 Fri	Service with Band, refreshments and Easter Egg Hunt	2.00pm	The Tump, St Briavels

ADVANCE DATES

2 Apr	Easter Bank Holiday Coffee Morning	10am to 12 noon	St Briavels Pavilion info: 01594 530571.
4 - 8 Apr	Chepstow Walking Festival		www.walksinchestow.co.uk
5 Apr	Charity Lunch	12noon	Moravian Sunday School Hall
9 Apr	Tintern Wine Tasting	7.30pm	alan.hillard@gmail.com
13 Apr	Brockweir Events: Ninebarrow	7.30 for 8pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
14/15 Apr	'History in Action' Pop-up Weekend		St Briavels Castle

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY WELLBEING AGENT

As you may know, Village Agents have now been renamed 'Community Wellbeing Agents'. In The Forest we are working for The Forest District Council. My area includes the parishes of:

St Briavels, Hewelsfield & Brockweir, Tidenham (Incl Sedbury, Tutshill, Woodcroft and Beachley) Woolaston, Alvington, Aylburton and now, in addition, the town of Lydney.

Community Wellbeing Service - So many things affect our wellbeing and sometimes we all need a bit of extra support with our general health, especially at this time of year. If you are over 16, the Forest of Dean Community Wellbeing Team may be able to offer advice and guidance. If you would like to talk to someone in confidence, please contact the team at the District Council on 01594 812399.

Warm Homes Fund - Additional funding is now available through the Warm Homes Fund to help with the installation of affordable central heating systems in fuel poor households. The Warm & Well Partnership was established in 2001 to provide energy advice and support to households in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. The scheme is delivered by Severn Wye Energy Agency, a leading local energy and sustainability charity with 18 years' experience in helping to alleviate fuel poverty. For more information, contact the Warm & Well Team on 0800 5003076.

Many thanks for all your support and good wishes over the last few months.

Richard Skinner, Community Wellbeing Agent
01594 812447 or 812399 community.wellbeing@fdean.gcsx.gov.uk



WYE VALLEY MUSIC (ST BRIAVELS MUSIC SOCIETY)

The Best Young Musicians take Centre Stage

It is one of the society's objects to provide performance opportunities for younger musicians. In the last two years we have reserved a whole concert for students of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, in programmes co-ordinated by St Briavels resident, Michael Young, who teaches piano at the College. This year's concert will take place at St Briavels Church on Saturday 24th March at 3.00 pm.

Previous concerts have featured outstanding young pianists but, this year, the line-up includes a string quartet and a piano trio, in addition to two pianists. What is more, we will be breaking a record for youthfulness. Some 20 years ago, we welcomed a 13-year-old cellist from Bristol, who gave a very accomplished performance. This concert will feature 11-year-old **Charlotte Kwok**, who attends the Junior Academy in Cardiff on Saturday mornings. In January, she won second prize in the College Junior Piano Concerto competition, open to students up to the age of 18, and last month won joint first prize in the Senior Piano Recital class at the Swansea Festival of Young Musicians.

Charlotte will open the concert by playing the first movement of Mozart

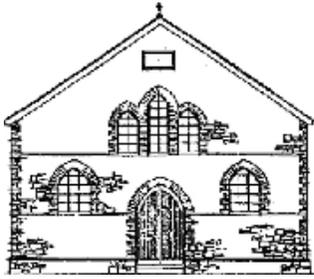
Piano Concerto No 12 in A major K414, accompanied by the **Lunar String Quartet**. The Lunar String Quartet, comprised of **Jordan Earnshaw and Charlotte Price (violins), Matt Jones (viola) and Cai Waverley Hudson (cello)**, will then play Beethoven's String Quartet Op 18 No 1 in F major, followed by a very special piano piece played by a graduate student, **Tonglin Lin**. Her choice is from Messiaen's, Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jesus, the 11th movement called Premiere Communion de la Vierge.

The second half of the programme sees a welcome return for a third visit of the Portuguese pianist **Nuno Lucas**, whose superb previous performances elicited very high praise from the audience. He is coming with his all-Portuguese piano trio, the other members of which are **Maria Luis Garcis dos Santos (violin) and Matilde Viegas (cello)**, to play Piazzolla's Trio Revolucionario and Brahms Piano Trio Op 8 in B major.

It is rare to be able to assemble such a range of youthful talent for a single concert. This promises to be a very special afternoon, which is highly recommended. The future of chamber music is bright indeed.

Keith Norman. 01594 530419

.....
Admission is £15 for the general public, £12 for Wye Valley Music members and £2 for students; booking on-line at wvm.org.uk is highly recommended. 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.

MARCH

THUR 1, 8, 15, 22 SILVER JEWELLERY Ann Skehel

10 x Thursday classes continued 1.00 - 4.00

FRI 2, 9, 16, 23 PAINTING AND DRAWING Ann Hulme

10 x Friday classes continued 9.30 - 12.30 and/or 1.00 - 4.00

APRIL

FRI 13, 20 PAINTING AND DRAWING Ann Hulme

10 x Friday classes continued 9.30 - 12.30 and/or 1.00 - 4.00

THUR 26 NEW SILVER JEWELLERY 1.00 - 4.00 Ann Skehel

10 x Thursday classes Special price of £230 for 10x 3hr sessions (Silver is not included.)

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

To all our contributors...

The deadline for the April 2018 edition of the Village News is midday, Tuesday 20th March

As always, the email address to send your contributions to is editors@villagemag.co.uk



PARISH GRASSLANDS PROJECT

www.parishgrasslandsproject.org.uk

Our annual general meeting takes place at the Mackenzie Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday March 15, when the subject under discussion will be the disturbing evidence that many species of wild flower are declining locally.

There will be talks by two local experts. George Peterken will provide a summary of the PGP's wild flower survey in our two parishes last year and describe plans to continue with a further survey this year. Elsa Woods, the botanical recorder for Monmouthshire, will talk about the situation of wild flowers more generally in the Wye Valley.

Although wild flowers are still colourful and diverse locally, the evidence does point to a significant decline in diversity. Our 2017 survey focused on eight species and, of those, five were holding their own, the remaining

three were declining and none was increasing. But beyond that, while 100 years ago a total of 500 wild species were recorded in our two parishes, fewer than 300 have been reported in recent decades. This year, we will take up the challenge to try to find some of the missing 200-plus species. Do come to the meeting to find out how you can help to track down the lost flowers of Brockweir, Hewelsfield and St Briavels. Like last year's flower survey, this will be another citizen science exercise, and the more help we receive the more comprehensive the results will be. As usual, all are welcome to come to the meeting. We ask for a small donation from non-members to help cover catering costs – tea, coffee and cake will be served during the interval – and it will also be possible to sign up for, or renew, membership, which still costs a modest £5 per household per annum.



Mike Topp

It may well be true that a rolling stone gathers no moss...

...but, during a lifetime of rolling round Britain in pursuit of gainful employment in the forestry industry, I have gathered a collection of words and sayings which, without any encouragement from those around me, I will happily

trot out whenever the fit takes me. I picked up a new one at the beginning of this month (Feb) concerning the Pagan/Christian festival of Candelmas. (2nd Feb) which, with

hindsight, appears to be bang on the nail. It predicts the coming, or non appearance of Spring:

*If Candelmas be dull and gray,
Winter will have gone away.*

*If Candelmas be dry and bright,
[It was!]*

Winter will take another bite. [I rest my case]

Months (years?) ago in this column I offered my favourite nugget of weather lore concerning February, namely that "*February steals one day from Summer*". Sadly, this one has failed me for the past ten years, and for this I blame the Jet Stream, that pantomime villain, responsible for most of the nation's ills, ranging from Eurovision meltdown to The Gender Pay Gap.

Rural weather forecasting has an honourable pedigree in this region. I used to scan our National daily every Saturday for a column written by our

own local weather Guru, Uncle Offa! I wish I'd met him. Rumour had it that he lurked somewhere South of Tintern. I pictured a woad encrusted Celtic hermit tapping away on a battered Remington typewriter in a wattle

and daub weather station somewhere West of Trellech Beacon. His column terminated suddenly one weekend without warning or explanation. The readership were left imagining a

mighty Oak tree, torn up by a totally unexpected gale, now marking the spot where once the course of the Nation's climate had been finely judged.

So now, each Autumn, as we ask ourselves, "Will it be hard or soft?" - It's the coming Winter I'm on about, not the "B" word - we can choose between two sources of guidance: either the newspaper paragraph quoting unknown boffin from hitherto unknown university, or the abundance of hedgerow berries. I'm suspicious of the first of these and binned the second about the same time as my belief in Father Christmas. From Uncle Offa, however, I received this:

*If ice in October will bear a duck,
Winter brings only slush and muck.*

Well, that's half an answer. So thanks Uncle O, and may the seaweed remain for ever crisp for you at that Great Weather Station in the sky!



On March 20th, the Spring (Vernal) Equinox will mark the start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

Specifically, at 4.15pm the Sun will cross the celestial equator from south to north and day and night will be almost the same length.

The celestial equator is an imaginary line we can draw in the sky extending outwards from the Earth's equator. There are two equinoxes each year; the other is called the Autumnal equinox and occurs in September. Rather than suggesting you go out and look at the night sky this month I'm going suggest you go outside in the day and look at the ground. Let's do a little science to test the astronomical predictions.

We live at a latitude of 51°N (the Equator is 0° and the North Pole is 90°). If we place a stick in the ground pointing south at an angle of 39°N (90° minus 51°), using a protractor, we should find that it casts no shadow at noon. Likewise, from an unknown location a person can determine their latitude by placing a stick of known length vertically in the ground and measuring the length of the shadow cast at noon on the equinox. The angle of the Sun can be calculated using the two measurements and some simple geometry. If you subtract that angle from 90° it will give your latitudinal position.

If you now find yourself asking "ok but what's my longitude?" then you would be in good company of other puzzled navigators until the middle of the eighteenth century. I recommend the excellent book titled "Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time" by Dava Sobel - enjoy!

Next month we'll go back to looking up at the night sky.

RESTORING THE WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN AT CROOME COURT

The Walled Garden at Croome Court, Upton on Severn, is one of the finest Georgian walled gardens in the UK and one of the largest in Europe, dating back to the 16th century. It had fallen into a dilapidated state in 2000, when Chris & Karen Cronin saw past the wild brambles and shells of agricultural buildings and began a fourteen year restoration project. On 16 March, 7.30pm at Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir, we welcome Chris to talk about the still ongoing project and how it has unveiled the historic natural beauty and growing potential of the garden.

The evening will also include our annual: **SPRING BULB AND FLOWER COMPETITION** - see box.

ANNE WAREHAM: IN CONVERSATION

We started this year with a change from the usual format of our meetings, when we welcomed Anne Wareham, 'in conversation' with garden society members. We talked about the creation of the garden at Veddw House, which stands above Tintern, where Anne and her husband, Charles, began work thirty years ago, with little gardening knowledge and a small budget. We discussed Anne's approach to garden making (as opposed to simply gardening) and her often intentionally provocative views on contemporary gardening, garden design and television gardening programmes! We ended with Anne sharing her view that much traditional gardening lore can be safely ignored and offering to share a remedy for box blight.

Anne has a particular interest in local history and the local landscape and has traced the former occupants of Veddw for over 200 years. The locality is made up of small homesteads dotted about, rather than defined villages, and on her website thinkinggardens.co.uk I found this from the Diocese of Llandaff in 1763, describing the cottages many of us now live in and their former occupants:

'... small farmers, quarrymen, woodcutters and labourers, many of whom have reared their cottages amidst the woods, or upon the commons; and by great toil and perseverance, have cleared the ground from stones, furze and heath ...'

Special thanks to Corinna Arnold, for her contribution to preparing and conducting the interview.

Sue Young

IN MY GARDEN

As our gardens come back into growth for another year, the apparently inescapable ritual of the weekly mow is in sight. So, as we dust off the mowers for another summer, I'd like to suggest that this is the year for a rethink. Gone

SPRING BULB AND FLOWER COMPETITION - FRIDAY 16 MARCH 2018

The Spring Bulb and Flower Competition will be held this year on Friday 16th March in the Mackenzie Hall. All are welcome to both talk and the show. Visitors £5

Everyone is welcome to take part in the competition, and it is great fun to do so, Just bring along your entries on the night, in time to set them up before the scheduled meeting starts at 7.30pm.

The classes will be, as last year:

1. 5 single daffodils
2. 5 double daffodils
3. 5 multihead daffodils
4. 5 miniature daffodils
5. A pot of Spring flowering bulbs
6. 1 stem of a flowering shrub
7. 5 different Spring blooms
8. 3 heads of hellebore, floating on water, 1 or more variety
9. A primula in a pot (any type)
10. A novelty or something of interest, e.g. a flower out of season or an unusual bloom.



Certificates are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in class, and a Cup is given to the Exhibitor whose entry the Judge chooses as his favourite.

Sally Secrett

are the days of the gently repetitive whirr of the push mower; now our machines of choice will more than likely be fossil fuel driven. Keeping our grass swards trim brings with it pollution, noise and the eradication of so much valuable food for pollinators. So many gardeners despise the weeds which dare to raise their heads between mowings, daisies and dandelions we once loved as children as we made necklaces from their flowers and told the time by their seed heads; clovers, birds foot trefoil and vetches which fix nitrogen into the soil and actively feed the grass fare no better, off with their heads the lot of them!

So here is my sustainable and pollinator friendly alternative. It costs nothing in time, effort or hard earned cash and works brilliantly for me. I just let the grass and all those wild flowers within its matrix grow, adding bulbs and plug plants of additional species as I fancy. Managed as a meadow with a cut at the end of the summer my lawn brings colour, birds, bees and butterflies to my garden and a summer of Sunday afternoons spent, not mowing, but free to enjoy my wildlife friendly garden. I can't wait!

Cheryl Cummings

Garden Society continued on next page...

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

Some real seasonal weather in February! Good news for gardeners (if not for everyone) after last year's mild, dry winter. Another mild autumn prolonged growth and the warm soil encouraged many early plants, as last year. Though slowed, they seem to have survived the frost and snow pretty well. Nearly time for some serious gardening activity - but don't be in too much of a rush. Keep an eye on the forecast and, if necessary, delay seed sowing until later in the month. When the moment for growth to really get going comes, you will know! And there is plenty to do!



- Prune later flowering shrubs and clematis, standard and bush roses; take out every third stem of Dogwood and Willow
- Plant onion sets and early potatoes
- Sow hardy annuals and sweet peas, if you haven't yet done so
- Divide and re-plant the perennials you ran out of time to deal with in the autumn.
- Plant deciduous shrubs, climbers and roses but wait until late March to plant evergreen shrubs and trees
- Follow weeding with a good layer of mulch, once the soil warms
- Steal a march on the slugs and protect emerging shoots but avoid slug pellets containing metaldehyde

See our website www.wyegarden.com for our full programme, meeting reports, detailed garden advice and more.

Christine Haines

THE LOST WILD FLOWERS



More than 200 wild flower species appear to have disappeared from Brockweir, Hewelsfield & St Briavels over the last 100 years.

Come to the Parish Grasslands Project AGM to find out how you can help to track down the missing species.

Mackenzie Hall 7.30 pm Thursday March 15

NEWS FROM THE CASTLE



Refurbishment: You may have noticed a few trade vans in our car park over the past few weeks. We are currently in the middle of an exciting investment programme that is updating facilities, including the washroom areas in our West Tower and the self-catering kitchen sink/cupboards. A fresh coat of paint is brightening up our bedroom walls and social spaces too, and we will be upgrading our bedroom furniture to include new YHA metal bunk beds throughout. Other external parts of the project are currently awaiting English Heritage approval, and these include smartening up our archery range and the installation of a bin screen in the car park. So, fingers crossed, they will be completed later in the Spring.

Free To A Good Home: as part of the investment programme, we will be disposing of a number of wooden bunk beds, 10 large lounge chairs, 6 dining tables and 35 pine dining chairs. If you are interested in helping us to rehome them rather than sending them to landfill, they will be available to pick up during the week starting Monday 5th March. Please call 01594 530272 if you are interested. First come, first served.

Easter Holidays: An early Easter will soon be upon us and we will be fully open from Friday 23rd March offering archery sessions, banquets and Castle tours over the Easter Holidays, available for non-residents to book. We are also currently planning a few additional family fun activities, so please pop in closer to the Easter Holidays to find out further details. Look out for information on our A-frame boards, visit (and like) our Facebook page YHA St Briavels Castle or follow us on twitter YHASTBriavels

Looking Ahead: The weekend of the 14th & 15th April sees the return of one of our annual "Pop Up History" events. This year, this focuses on "History in Action", as we look at the soldier through time, with our wonderful volunteers bringing to life the past of the Medieval Longbowman and Knight, Civil War, Redcoats, WW1 and WW2 and modern soldiers. We hope to welcome you through our gates soon on this and other events.

Linda Harrison, Manager



Review: Larks and Magic* - Saturday 17th February

Local actor Alison Neil's one woman show about Edith Nesbit, the childrens' author and poet, was very compulsive viewing. Her performance was quite mesmerising as she described the bohemian lifestyle of this Victorian woman and her many conquests both literary and political - not to mention the other sort!

Alison's research was meticulous, her writing compelling and her acting was superb. She was well-received by those that attended and hosted an intriguing Q& A session afterwards. We hope to be able to book another of her performances about interesting women in the future.

This month

CARMINA TRIO: Friday 9th March. 7.30 for 8.00. www.carmina.co.uk

A welcome return for Carmina, the well-established international Celtic folk/jazz fusion trio headed by Pippa Marland (vocals, pipes, clarinet and saxophone) and Rob King (vocals, guitar, mandolin, bodhran, mandola) who have created a unique blend of traditional and self-penned songs with a distinctively Celtic

flavour that morph into free-form jazz, before bringing the listener back to earth. They are joined on this gig by Paul Bradley, virtuoso guitarist and vocalist. This will be a showcase for Pippa's pure vocal style and the intricate musical support from Rob and Paul.

Adrian Birch

Advance tickets are £10 and will be available from the Brockweir and Hewelsfield Village shop about 4 weeks before each event or from Adrian Birch, brockweirevent@gmail.com or 01291 689812. £12 on the door. Refreshments available but BYO alcohol.

** Supported by Air in G - airing.co.uk*

Don't forget - we need your photos!

At the end of every year, we make a plea for our readers to send in their photos for the following year's Village News covers.

Although the end of the Year is a long way off, we need photos that reflect the area and events throughout the year

So NOW is the time to think about photographing that local scene or social event.

You don't have to wait to send them in, just send them in as soon as you take them and we will acknowledge we have received them and store them until the end of the year. Full submission details can be found on our web site villagemag.co.uk/covers.html or email covers@villagemag.co.uk



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The **April** issue deadline is: Midday on **Tuesday 20th March 2018**.

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Babs Bergdahl	01594 530623	David Rees	01594 530443
Carolyn Norman	01291 689418	Hilary Lee	01291 689326
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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Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir	www.brockweirvillagehall.co.uk
Parish Grasslands Project	www.parishgrasslandsproject.org.uk
St Briavels Assembly Rooms	www.st-briavels.com
St Briavels on Facebook	www.facebook.com/StBriavelsWatch
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St Briavels School	www.stbriavelsprimaryschool.co.uk
The Loft at Brockweir	www.theloftatbrockweir.co.uk
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