

Dear Friends

True Contentment

Most of us desire to be content, happy and fulfilled. Many of us will also have given thought to how this might happen. Perhaps if we could just win the £115m euro millions jackpot we'd then be content? "If only I had one more bedroom in the house I'd be content." We always want that little bit more... then we'll be happy and content. A bit more money, a bit more mobile data, a bit more time, a bit more sunshine, a bit more energy! However, when we get these things, we so often find we're not content and once again we want a little bit more of something.

St Paul, who had been in a variety of situations both good and bad, wrote from prison that he had "learned the secret of being content in any and every situation" (Philippians 4:11). How can I/we be content? Whatever situation we find ourselves in during this 2019, wouldn't it be good to find the secret of contentment rather than always feeling we're lacking something?

There's a lovely tale about a little puppy that noticed that whenever he was happy, his tail wagged, so he thought he had discovered the secret to happiness. One day he shared the secret of happiness with an older dog. He said, "I have learned that the best thing for a dog is to be happy, and that happiness is in my tail. So I am going to chase my tail; and when I catch it, I shall have happiness." The old dog replied, "I too believe that happiness is a marvellous thing for a dog, and that happiness is in my tail. But I have noticed that whenever I chase my tail, it keeps running away from me; but when I follow my master it follows me wherever I go."

Many of us are like the little puppy chasing his tail – going round in circles and looking in the wrong places trying to find true happiness and contentment that are always just out of our reach. What we need to do is learn that if we will just follow the master - trust in the Lord - then whatever happens, true happiness and contentment will follow us wherever we go. Personally, I sometimes find myself going around in circles, sadly chasing the impossible. However, I have also found that following the Lord Jesus Christ is truly a way to contentment.

This 2019 may you find true contentment, joy and peace!

David

Rev David Treharne. Priest in Charge of St Briavels with Hewelsfield & Brockweir

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 01594560202, or our Reader, Mandy Vaughan - 01594 530844. I usually work Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and mornings on Wednesday, and am available anytime for urgent requests.

FEBRUARY SERVICES: PREACHERS AND THEMES:

**SUNDAY 3rd - FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Justice, Grace & Forgiveness (St Briavels)
Presentation: Sharing our Flesh & Blood. Mandy (Hewelsfield)**

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 8.30am | St Briavels | BCP Communion |
| 10.00am | St Briavels School Hall | Food For Thought |
| 11am | Hewelsfield & Brockweir | Family Worship |

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

| | | |
|-----------|--------|----------------|
| 5th Tues | 9.00am | Morning Prayer |
| 7th Thurs | 9.00am | Morning Prayer |

SUNDAY 10th - 4th before Lent: Chosen, Called & Cleansed. David Treharne

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

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|------------|---------|----------------|
| 12th Tues | 9.00am | Morning Prayer |
| 13th Weds | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| 14th Thurs | 9.00am | Morning Prayer |

SUNDAY 17th- 3rd before Lent: Healing - Happiness is Trusting the Lord. Robert

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

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|------------|--------|----------------|
| 19th Tues | 9.00am | Morning Prayer |
| 21st Thurs | 9.00am | Morning Prayer |

SUNDAY 24th - 2nd before Lent: Local Ministry Team Service

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

| | | |
|------------|---------|----------------|
| 26th Tues | 9.00am | Morning Prayer |
| 27th Weds | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| 28th Thurs | 9.00am | Morning Prayer |

SUNDAY 3rd MARCH - Sunday before Lent: Prayer, Presence, Power. Robert

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

| | | |
|-----------|--------|----------------|
| 5th Tues | 9.00am | Morning Prayer |
| 7th Thurs | 9.00am | Morning Prayer |

ST BRIAVELS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

In a world so full of uncertainty and sorrow, we meet to share good news of hope and joy: We'd love for you to join us. We're conscious that many people in our community face all kinds of struggles; if you would like us to help you or pray for you, please get in touch.

Every Sunday we hold our 10am Morning Service and 6pm Evening Service. Our morning service is a family service when we have a "Sunday Club" for young children. You would be very welcome to join us. On Sunday 3rd February, we hold Food for Thought, our joint service held with the parish church in the school. We are considering a question that arose at a previous meeting: "How we reconcile forgiveness and justice?"

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

There will be no Coffee Morning in February. Normal service will be resumed on March 5th, 10am.

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

BROCKWEIR MORAVIAN CHURCH

Church Services for February 2019

| | | | |
|-----|--------|---------|--|
| Sun | 3 Feb | 6.00 pm | Rev Patsy Holdsworth (<i>Holy Communion</i>) |
| Sun | 10 Feb | 6:00 pm | Rev Stuart Jackson |
| Sun | 17 Feb | 6.00 pm | Chris Hewitt |
| Sun | 24 Feb | 6.00 pm | Malcolm Otton |

Please note that our minister Rev Patsy Holdsworth will be away from 17 to 28 February. Please contact a member of committee for assistance during her absence.

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 pm - Tuesdays & Thursdays in the School Room. Players of all abilities always welcome - for more information contact Jean Green on 01594 530955.

Charity Lunch - at 12noon in the Sunday School Room on 1st Thurs of the month. Thurs 7th February – In aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship.

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 pm in the Sunday School. No meeting in February.

Food Bank Collection - Donations for the food bank 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 CHURCH FLOWER GUILD

Who are the flower guild? The St Briavels Church Flower Guild is a group of people who enjoy flower arranging. They provide flowers for the church of St Mary. St Briavels all through the year. They are a separate group from the church.

What qualification do you need? All you need is a passion. New styles are always welcome

How much time do I need to give? This will depend on you. Members do two stints a year on average, plus helping as a group with Easter and Christmas. Posies for Mother's Day are usually done by myself, in remembrance of my own mum. Twice a year, you would arrange or put greenery and flowers in vases around the church. You can vary what you do. It is usual to fill two small vases in the Lady Chapel and put two larger arrangements in the main body of the church. Sometimes members make up arrangements at home and then drop them into the church, especially if it is cold.

How much will it cost me? There is no cost. As all flowers are provided at no cost to the church the only expectation is that you help with flowers any way you can. It costs at basic level £200 a year to provide flowers for the year, if we are frugal. Members provide as much as they can from their own and friends' gardens. Easter and Christmas are the more costly times, as there are few flowers in gardens. Oasis is costly. We try to not use it if we can, as it is not an environmentally sound material. To produce large arrangements there is little choice.

How do we cover costs? There are odd occasions when we are given small gifts of money or members give flowers in remembrance of a loved one. In the past, members have opened their gardens in the village, charging an entrance fee. This has proven a very pleasant way to raise funds as sharing others gardens is interesting. Julian of 'Gardening Juls' was very generous giving a donation from scrap metal recycling before Christmas. Julian has offered to do a further collection of metal this Spring. Please look out for the date.

We are looking for new members and would welcome any ideas to raise the funds.

Thank you to everyone for all the hard work with the flowers in 2018 .

Glenys Walker

01594530198 Glenysw354@gmail.com

Citizens Advice at St. Briavels Assembly Rooms

For free, impartial and confidential advice.
Drop-in sessions first Thursday each month
1.30 - 4 pm

For a fixed appointment please call 0300 330 9006



HEWELSFIELD AND BROCKWEIR PARISH COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir.

Present: Cllr Bowen, Cllr Fox, Cllr Sinfield, Cllr Haythornthwaite, and the Parish Clerk

Cllr Bowen declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item A8 on the agenda – Planning Application P1934/18/FUL – Land Adjoining Orchard Cottage, Underhill, Brockweir. Erection of a wooden storage shed.

Payments were agreed, and cheques signed as follows:

| Payee | Service | Amount |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Lynda Skuse | Clerk salary & expenses | £288.40 |
| AEB Price | Strimming/Litter Picking | £80.00 |
| Alex Brundle | Reimbursement for Traffic Mirror | £59.99 |
| Forest Equipment Services | Emptying Bins | £75.60 |
| Mackenzie Hall Committee | Room Hire | £35.00 |

It was agreed that the precept be increased by 8% to cover increased costs including expenses incurred by the elections in May 2019.

Planning Applications

P0307/18/FUL – Potential Tourism Site, Off Mill Hill, Brockweir NP16 7NW. The Clerk was asked to contact the planning officer to enquire whether this would be going to committee or a delegated decision.

P1885/18/FUL – Churchcroft, Church Road, Hewelsfield, Lydney. Erection of a single storey rear garden room with balcony over and single storey extension to existing kitchen with associated works. Demolition of rear conservatory. Councillors had no comment to make on this application.

P1934/18/FUL – Land Adjoining Orchard Cottage, Underhill, Brockweir. Erection of a wooden storage shed. Councillors had no comment to make on this application.

P1974/18/FUL – The Rock, Mill Hill, Brockweir. Erection of a first-floor extension, veranda and carport with associated works. Demolition of existing porch. Councillors would like planning officers to confirm that this is within permitted development and that the land is not being overdeveloped.

The Environment Agency confirmed that an Invitation to Tender for the contract to survey properties at risk of flooding and then implement agreed measures would be issued early January. Consultants would be engaged during February.

The application to register the former HAPPA/Oil Yard site had not been granted. It is believed that a revised planning application is to be submitted. Further discussion will take place when details of this application are received.

Cllr Haythornthwaite is in discussion with the Village Shop Committee about attending their meetings to enable closer working with the council.

The Clerk was asked to contact Lise Sinfield regarding the Village Archive project and to report progress at the next meeting.

The results of the traffic survey revealed that the mean speed of the site falls within the appropriate range for the current speed limit. Mean speed was 33.1mph with 85% falling below 39mph. Average volume was 1000 vehicles per day. The full report will be published on the website at the end of February.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 5th February 2019. 7pm at The Loft, Village Shop

ST BRIAVELS PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Meeting held on Monday, 14th January, 2019 in the Assembly Rooms, St. Briavels

Finance – the draft budget for 2019/2020, which was considered and approved will be published on the Parish Council website. It was confirmed that there would be no increase on the 2018/19 figure in the precept (funding) request to the District Council. There is a strong commitment to ensure that vital projects, such as road safety, will be funded and implemented in 2019/2020, as well as providing support to community projects.

A grant request from the University of Gloucestershire for £500 to contribute to the costs of a project called 'Reading the Forest' was approved. The project is a follow up to the 'A Fortunate Man' exhibition and film about renowned St. Briavels doctor, Dr. Eskill, which was a real success. It is expected that this project will be of interest to parishioners and may attract visitors to the village, as the exhibition will be located at the Assembly Rooms.

Many positive comments have been received regarding the Christmas Lights on the tree outside The George, which looked beautiful and were a joy to see. A committee will be put together to organise Christmas lights for future years.

Grass Cutting Contract – the Parish Council will consider tenders at the February meeting for providing this service for a three-year period, with the option to extend for an additional year.

Repair of Playing Field Boundary Wall – disappointingly, only one quotation was returned for this work. Due to the potential costs of this repair, the Council needs three quotations. An advert is to be placed in The Review in the hope of receiving the required number of quotations. If you are a local contractor



or know of someone who may be interested in quoting for this work, please contact the Clerk for a specification of works.

Additional Street Lighting – in response to requests by parishioners for additional street lighting at various locations around the village, the Council will be investigating this to see whether any improvements can be made.

Highways – the meeting received a lengthy report regarding the numerous works/projects that are underway to improve the roads throughout the Parish.

Cemetery – the Council have agreed to keep the burial fees at the current level; unchanged since the increase in 2017. The children's area is to receive a much-needed tidy up.

Child Safety – progress is being made towards running a course for parents regarding internet safety and it is hoped to be able to advertise this in the very near future.

Next meeting – Monday, 11th February, 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Assembly Rooms, with planning applications available to view from 6.30 pm and Councillors available for you to raise any issues you feel the PC may be able to resolve. Full minutes are available on the Parish Council website.

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

THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF THE COBALT UNIT, CHELTENHAM.

Thank you to everyone that has taken the time to drop off their used Christmas cards at drop off points around the village. By the time you read this, I will have taken them to Cheltenham.

As a village, we collected two wheelie bins full. That is two saved from the landfill, and it is good to know that we have helped a very important health care charity make money to carry on the excellent provision it gives. This money will help to provide a new scanner that is not only used in cancer diagnosis but also in the diagnosis of dementia.

Thank you again to everyone

Glenys Walker

BANK HOLIDAY COFFEE MORNING

Just a reminder about the Coffee Morning on Easter Monday (22nd April). I know that Christmas is only just over but Easter will be here before we know it.

If you have any items for the bric-a-brac stall, or a bottle suitable for the bottle stall, anything would be appreciated. You can drop any items in my porch, which is always open.

Please also if you are able to give us an hour or two on the morning that would be great.

We can only do these Coffee Mornings with help. We have been raising money for local charities since Mum died 28 years ago. So any help or donation for the draw would be very grateful. Thanks

Adele, Tessa and family

ON THE VERGE OF SUCCESS

Wild flowers need soil which is poor in nutrients. When verges are cut the cuttings are left to decompose back into the soil, making it more nutrient rich. We have thousands of miles of roadside verges that need cutting many times a year, because the weeds and grass grow so prolifically in the nutrient rich substrate. However, by cutting and collecting the cuttings when they are full of nutrients, and then removing them, the soil can be returned to its nutrient poor state again. Over time, the wild flowers come back and a thinner, naturally colourful sward is restored.

And here's the thing. The wild flower verges need only be cut twice a year to maintain their presence. Dorset Council have adopted a policy of reducing soil fertility in all their 5000+ miles of verges. Reducing the number of cuts from 7 to 2 per year has meant huge savings in their budgets. At a time when resources are thin on the ground (pun intended) operating a cut and collect verge-cutting service is good for the environment and good for the taxpayer. Here's to Gloucestershire County Council adopting the same philosophy.

Chris McFarling, chrismcfarling@phoncoop.coop 01594 531225



EXTRA HELP NEEDED

Some of the loyal and committed cleaners of St Briavels church have had to give up for health reasons. The reduced number means a greater commitment by those who remain on the roster. The more people, the less often your turn comes round.

Would anyone be prepared to give an hour or so every 2-3 months to vacuum and do light cleaning in your church? A vacuum cleaner and cleaning materials are provided.

The current helpers work in pairs, so maybe two friends or a married couple would like to offer help - or we can pair you up with another volunteer. We really need at least four helpers (two pairs) but more would be very welcome, as it makes it easier and less time-consuming for everyone.

Please help to keep your church looking cared for to all the visitors we get in St Briavels. I may be contacted on 01594 531096 but will be away until 8th February. Many thanks.

Jean Sheraton

GARDEN SOCIETY SPRING BULB COMPETITION

Friday 22 March, 7.30pm, Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir

In March, as well as a speaker, we have a Spring bulb and flower competition. Everyone is welcome to take part, whether you are a member of the Garden Society or not, but if you are not a member then there is a small entry fee to attend the meeting. Just bring along your entries on the night in time to set them up before the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

There will be 10 classes, which are:

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 pot of Spring flowers, eg primula, snowdrop, pansy
10. a novelty or something of interest, eg a flower out of season or an unusual bloom.

Only one entry per person per class is allowed. Certificates are awarded for 1st 2nd and 3rd in class, and a Cup is given for the Judge's favourite exhibit.

Sally Secrett

NOSH AND NATTER

It was a great start to the year when we met for the first time in 2019 at the Brockweir Village Shop. This is our traditional opening meeting and we are always treated to Alison's wonderful cooking. She 'did not make much', she said, which meant an array of mouth-watering cakes! It was a good turnout of members and lovely to greet a new member who we hope will become a regular at our meetings. Thank you Alison.

Our next meeting in February is another not-to-be-missed tradition – Judy Craven's Curry lunch from 12.30 - 2pm at Harthill Cottage, Sandy Lane, on Wednesday 13th.

Nosh and Natter is a purely social get together for ladies and all are welcome. We meet at each other's houses but there is absolutely no pressure to host a meeting. It is an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. So if you are interested and would like more information please ring me on 01594 530524 or email siddonspauline@aol.com, or just turn up at the meeting!

Pauline Siddons

SOFT (Sharing our Faiths Together) Meeting

SOFT meetings will be held in the Loft above the Village Shop on Wednesdays 6th & 20th February. We are a friendly, mixed faith group of people seeking to explore and understand the world around us. Our discussion topics range across a wide variety of subjects chosen by members in turn.

Anyone is welcome to just come along and join in, or if you would like more information please contact: Carol Stickland 01594 530882 or Sue Groves 01291 689804

There is no admission fee to meetings though we do request a contribution towards room rental and refreshment costs.

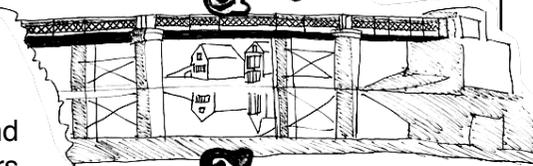
HANDMADE TALES

with DARREN HOSKINS

At the **Mackenzie Hall**, 8pm
Fridays **22nd Feb**, **15th March** and **26th April**

Three evenings of comical stories, satire, sonnets and songs from some of Britain's brightest bards and balladeers, tale-tellers and troubadours, raconteurs and rhymers.

FB: handmade tales. Tickets £8.00, phone 07866 697512 or on the door



CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

It may still be winter but the bulbs are bursting forth, so Spring must be on its way, closely followed by Summer.

We are planning to have another Open Gardens this year. Two years ago the Open Gardens was a great success and much enjoyed by people from far and wide as well as from the village. It is dependent, of course, on having people who are prepared to open their gardens for the day. A variety of gardens from all corners of the village and the common would be ideal, so please give some thought to participating.

Gardeners work so hard to maintain such beautiful, innovative and varied gardens that it is a shame not to share the results of all that hard work with others who are so appreciative. A probable date will be Sunday 23rd June. There are always so many things on around the midsummer period but it is a good time for gardens to look their best, and hopefully we haven't clashed with too many other events.

In the meantime we will pray for another good summer - but not as dry as last year when gardens really struggled.

Anyone interested in opening their garden could contact me on 01594 531096 or email jeanmsheraton@icloud.com. Many thanks.

Jean Sheraton

LITTLE LARDERS

The Christmas season was obviously a hard time for some. The Little Larders in St Briavels church porch were emptied and topped up frequently. It is good to know they are there for those in need.

To spread the load of keeping them filled, could anyone who is able to add an extra couple of non-perishable items to their shopping list please help us to help those who find it difficult to feed the family, as well as pay all the bills. If some were able add an odd item throughout the year others would be most grateful. Many thanks.

Jean Sheraton

BADS presents PETER PAN

This year's Pantomime choice is Peter Pan. Performances will take place on the 29th and 30th March, as usual in the Mackenzie Hall in Brockweir. Rehearsals have started with the biggest cast we have had for quite a few years!

Over the years, BADS has raised in excess of £20,000 for local, national and international charities. Sold out performances add to that figure, so

please put the dates in your diary. The more tickets we sell the more we can donate.

Tickets will go on sale from mid February and will be available from the usual sources.

Immy Lee

ST. BRIAVELS PEOPLES CHOIR

Do you enjoy singing? Maybe you have never considered singing before, or perhaps you heard the St. Briavels Peoples Choir singing at their Winter Concert and can't wait to join them! After a busy 3 weeks leading up to Christmas, the choir have been taking a well-earned rest. However, they start back again with their regular Sunday rehearsals on Sunday 3rd March at 7pm in The Assembly Rooms.

They are a very friendly group of people, some of whom read music, many who don't, but they are always pleased to welcome new members. If this is for you, or you are just curious to see what goes on at a rehearsal, then either come along on the night or phone 01594 530421 for more details.

Louise Greening

TABLE TENNIS – ST BRIAVELS ASSEMBLY ROOMS

We started our Table Tennis Club in October 2009, prompted by a gifted table tennis table. We meet every Monday from 7.30 – 9.00pm. (Except the second Monday of each month and Bank Holidays).

Our number of players has remained steady at between 8 -10, but unfortunately recently, due to people moving away from the area, and also for health reasons, we are now low on numbers. We would welcome more players. We are friendly, have fun and enjoy being nicely competitive.

Do come and join us, or give me a call (01594 530003) to chat. We have spare bats, so no excuses!

Janet Broughton

ST BRIAVELS LUNCH CLUB: THURSDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2019

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 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

PEOPLE POWER PLEDGES

The Hows, Whys, Lows, and Highs of Small Steps

I was intrigued by my waste. After observing my rubbish for a month or so, I realised that despite considering myself quite conscientious, I bought coffees in throw away, single use cups. I was probably in denial about it and wanted to find out why. I decided I would try to not use any disposable cups for 1 month; and admitted it was likely I would. I persuaded a friend to do the same. It was important for me to have a partner, someone holding me to the flame. We wrote down our pledge, which was useful. It made it real, and it meant I had a deadline, so I had to get started. It also meant I wasn't setting myself up for failure - I pledged to give it a go, a really good go for one month and see what happened. I already had a keep cup, so I put that in my car.

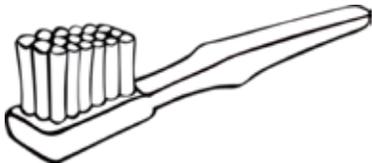
The first day I was fine, and the second, and then I forgot to put my keep cup in the car. I bought another keep cup. It felt better than buying a take away cup, but not wholly in keeping with our agreed aims; it could not happen again. Then one day my cup was dirty; I was too embarrassed to take it in. I knew it was stupid, but I still got a disposable one. I sat in the car clutching the cup and thinking about it. I decided my next challenge was to take in a dirty cup.

I felt so silly and pretty nervous next time I went to buy a coffee, dirty cup in hand. I didn't want to make a fuss, I didn't want to stand out, I didn't want to be a problem, or for anyone to feel I was judging their use of disposables by my insistence to use a keep cup, a dirty one! But you know what? No one cared it was dirty! Now I've got three keep cups - one in my bag, one in my car, and one on my desk; which makes it easy for me to always use a keep cup.

The process of making the pledge helped me make all those thoughts conscious so that I could challenge myself to overcome my nerves and fears and take in my cup. It was important to have a partner too, it helped to spur me on. And I know I've burnt through it, I'm doing it, I use a keep cup like it's the most normal thing in the world.

For more information on People Power Pledges, to get involved, or share your story, contact Rachel Slee: rachelslee@hotmail.com

Try swapping...!



Plastic Toothbrush
about £2, supermarkets
Wooden Toothbrush
£3/£4, Waitrose Monmouth, Upcycle
Chepstow, and online. Adult and kids sizes.

ST. BRIAVELS & BROCKWEIR



NATURE NOTES: THE GREAT OUTDOORS by Moucher - John Josephi

I Walk the Lane

Some years ago my much missed brother-in-law, Nigel, retired from a long and honourable career in the army and, as was often customary, the M.O.D. sent him on a Course of his choice to prepare for life in Civvy Street. Typically, he chose a Stick Dressing Course, and he spent a brief spell apprenticed to an aged Hampshire wizard who taught him to fashion Hazel and Blackthorn stems into those treasured items that draw the crowds at country shows. He sold his products to discerning customers and passed the proceeds on to his favoured charities.

Here in Moucher country, we marked his demob with a raid on St Briavels hedgerows and woodlands to supply him with "blanks" for raw materials, and one day we were surprised by a "thank you" in the form of a splendid shepherd's crook of slender hazelwood, crowned by a carved head of ramshorn, carelessly discarded by a Scottish Blackface ram on Otterburn Ranges and thoughtfully retrieved by one of Nigel's sergeants.

I mention this because it seems relevant to the current state of play on the Hudnalls Orbital where the pace of life is hotting up and the Near Death Experience seems to be a daily fact of life. Among many of those "new" arrivals in our parish whom I now count as old friends, few have not undergone what we call "The Initiation Prang". The really new ones I recognise

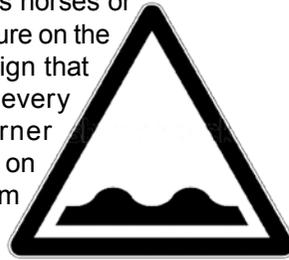


by the speed of their passing (no time to find my horn or shake a fist). Freshers? Blow-ins? The mantle of the Kingston by-pass is still upon them, but that first prang works wonders! As a Dog-&-Stick man I am now threatened by a new weapon of mass destruction, the Plug-in Hybrid (Manufacturer's description) or Transgender Transport (mine). Silently, it stalks the lanes, like some Japanese pestilence, scaring the ... out of me. Clearly someone must find a way to bell that cat! I'm not alone in my concern. The brilliant yellow splash in the lane that I took to be an early hatch of Brimstones has turned out to be a neighbour attached to the regulation large black dog towing him up the hill. At last! The latest Paris fashion has reached W. Glos! Le Gilet Jaune est arrivé!

One last hazard remains. Signage! I can't wait to find out if it is horses or cyclists that will feature on the next picture book sign that has appeared at every junction and corner recently, so I press on eagerly. Perhaps I'm meant to slow down and read the sign? Hadn't thought of that. The ones that have me beat so far, though, are the strapless bras, poised for take-off. Now what am I supposed to make of them?

To signwriters / dumpers everywhere I have one message. Cool it baby! They'll find out soon enough! And to you, gentle reader, my message is... Have stick (fist), Will shake!

Happy 2019! Grumpy Old Moucher.



Calling all LOCAL PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN in the village who use and value the BROCKWEIR COMMUNITY PLAY AREA

Your Brockweir Community Play Area Needs New Energy in Order to Survive!!!!

- The play area was fundraised for and built by the community, young and old, about 9 years ago now.
- Since then it has been run and managed by a core team of 5 parents who have been involved from the very beginning, with many more lighter touch volunteers along the way.
- The Village Shop has been supportive in many ways, not least by responding to the day-to-day demands of first aid and visitor needs, for which we are very grateful.
- Many of our children have grown out of the core provision of equipment provided by the play area.
- Our loyal treasurer of 9 years has now moved out of the village but continues to do his voluntary treasurer duties.
- Our commitments within the community have moved on with our children's changing needs; for example I am now Vice Chair of Governors at Wyedean Secondary School and Chair of the local Zero Waste Village Initiative.
- We all also work and juggle the demands of busy family life.

So to cut to the quick, the play area will not survive without new blood! It is time to pass the baton on to those with younger children, for whom the play area is still a really valuable, day-to-day asset to your family life.

Reality: As a core group we have given ourselves until the 4th of July 2019 to find and train up a team of local parents to take over. If people don't come forward, we are clear that this phase of the play area has come to an end and have faith that a new phase will start when there is the heart and energy for it in the community.

In Practice:

Plan A: We recruit, train up and support a new team to start from July 19, with the current core group gradually stepping back into more minor roles, over a 6 month period.

Plan B: If for whatever reason, there are no parents who want to or are able to take over, then we feel we have a responsibility to gently remove the play area and return the field to its pre-play area state of 9 years ago and officially fold the 'Voluntary Organisation' that is the legal entity responsible. In effect, we will cost and fundraise for removal of the equipment. It is not responsible to leave the equipment in situ without a team with the heart and capacity to manage it. We anticipate that we would have completed this last task by July 2020.

We wholeheartedly encourage you to come forward and support this invaluable asset within our community. It has brought much joy and special memories to local families and we would love it to continue doing so.

If you would like to help, please contact us:

hillssophie@yahoo.co.uk or sarahmclellan20@gmail.com

Brockweir Play Area Committee

WYEDEAN SCHOOL ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING COURSES

SPRING TERM 2019 - PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, EAST STREET

Painting and Drawing

Suitable for beginners to advanced. Starting with some basic drawing, you will move on to develop your Watercolour and Acrylic painting techniques. *Bring your own materials (advice at first session).* **Start:** 14 Jan. **Length:** 10 wks **Mon:** 2 - 4 **Cost:** £80

Brush Up Your Basic French

This course is suitable for those who wish to learn French and consider themselves as 'rusty' beginners. The main aim is to increase confidence in conversation situations and to extend length of conversation. **Start:** 14 Jan. **Length:** 9 wks **Mon:** 10-11.30 **Cost:** £75

Painting and Drawing Day Workshop

Suitable for all levels. You know what it's like - just as you get going, it's almost time to stop! This is a chance to get to grips with the subject. Flowers are recommended; or if the weather permits we may work outdoors. Bring lunch and your own materials. Drinks are available. **Start:** 19 Feb. **Length:** 4 hrs **Tues:** 10-2 **Cost:** £25

AT ST BRIAVELS PAVILION, COLEFORD ROAD

Italian for Beginners (term 2)

This course is suitable for students who have never studied the language before or for those who studied Italian years ago and need to refresh their knowledge of the language. It will cover topics such as restaurants, directions and verbs, using fun/games/role play in a relaxed atmosphere, together with an insight into the Italian culture and - why not? - also a bit of slang. **Start:** 14 Jan. **Length:** 8 wks **Mon:** 10.30-12.30 **Cost:** £80

Italian – Intermediate

This course is suitable for students who have studied Italian for 2/3 years or who have a qualification at AS level. The course will consolidate grammar structures whilst introducing new grammar rules. Conversation will be at the centre of the course, together with other activities. Italian magazines and newspapers, real life listening, movies and recipes will be used during the course. **Start:** 14 Jan **Length:** 8 wks **Mon:** 12.45-2.45 **Cost:** £80

For further information ring: 01291 625340 (Term Time) or visit the website: www.wyedean.gloucs.sch.uk (Go to 'Community', 'Adult Learning', 'Courses available' and download the Spring Term 2019 brochure)

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
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.
PILATES: 2-3pm. Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. For info call: 01291 627243 / 07787 193302.
BROCKWEIR BOWLS CLUB: 2-4pm Wednesday afternoons. For more information call Bob Broughton 01594 530003.
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

COURTYARD CAFE: 1:30-4:30. Assembly Rooms - hairdresser, seamstress services, "Pop- up" shop: French bread/patisserie.
COMPUTER & INTERNET SKILLS: 2pm - 3.45pm Assembly Rooms
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 - 9.30-11am at Mackenzie Hall. www.wildwoodyoga.co.uk or call/message Kische Redwood 07805 729893
UNDER 5s PLAY CLUB - 11am – 1pm at the Pavilion.

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 meets at 7 pm at the Assembly Rooms every week.

| |
|--|
| ORGANIC FRUIT & VEG * FRENCH BREAD & PATISSERIE * ORGANIC LAMB * |
| * RARE BREED PEDIGREE BEEF & PORK * FREE RANGE POULTRY & GAME * CHEESE |
| CHUTNEY * OLIVES * NUTS * CIDER * *EGGS * *DELI* *HERBS * |
| SAUSAGES * PASTIES HONEY * * BUTTER |
| UIT JUICE *CAKES * RESERVES* |
| INNOVATIVE VEGETARIAN & VEGAN FOOD * FUDGE * PLANTS * REFRESHMENTS* |
| SWEET & SAVOURY PIES * AUTHENTIC FRESHLY MADE CURRIES & INDIAN SNACKS |

ST BRIAVELS LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET

Saturday 2nd February

The Pavilion 10-12.30 pm

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Walking for Health every Tuesday – meet at the Assembly Rooms, 2pm | | | |
| 2 Sat | Produce Market | 10am-12.30pm | St Briavels Pavilion |
| 3 Sun | Tintern Folk Session | 7.15-8.45pm | Rose & Crown, Tintern |
| 5 Tues | Hewelsfield & Brockweir PC: | 7pm | The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir |
| 6 Weds | SOFT meeting | 7.30pm | The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir |
| 6 Weds | Mindfulness Meditation Group starts | 7-9pm | Assembly Rooms, St Briavels |
| 7 Thurs | Charity Soup Lunch | 12noon | Moravian Church Schoolroom |
| 7 Thurs | St Briavels Walking Group | 1pm | Meet at St Briavels Church |
| 11 Mon | St Briavels PC meeting (planning applications and councillors available from 6.30pm) | 7pm | Assembly Rooms, St Briavels |
| 13 Weds | Nosh & Natter: Curry Lunch | 12.30-2pm | Harthill Cottage, Sandy Lane |
| 14 Thurs | Walk & Talk Group | 2pm | Meet at Hewelsfield Ch. |
| 15 Fri | Garden Society: Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening | 7.30pm | Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir |
| 16 Sat | Brockweir Events: Thomas Ford | 7.30 for 8pm | Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir |
| 16 Sat | Wye Valley Chamber Music Concert | 3pm | St Briavels Church |
| 17 Sun – 24 Sun | Wye Valley Chamber Music Winter Festival | | various venues |
| 19 Tues | St Briavels Senior Citizens meeting | 12.30 | Orepool, Sling |
| 20 Weds | SOFT meeting | 7.30pm | The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir |
| 20 Weds | WI meeting: Board Game Night | 7.30pm | St Briavels Pavilion |
| 22 Fri | Board Games Café | 7 – 10pm | Assembly Rooms, St Briavels |
| 28 Thurs | St Briavels Lunch Club | 11.45am | St Briavels Pavilion |
| 28 Thurs | Walk & Talk Group | 2pm | Meet at Hewelsfield Church |

ADVANCE DATES

| | | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| March | Mariana-Art Gallery re-opens | | |
| 3 Mar | St Briavels People's Choir rehearsals start | 7pm | Assembly Rooms, St Briavels |
| 5 Mar | Coffee Morning | 10am | St Briavels Congregational Church |
| 8 Mar | Brockweir Events: Witches of Pendle | 7.30 for 8pm | Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir |
| 14 Mar | PGP Annual General Meeting | | Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir |
| 22 Mar | Garden Society: Spring Bulb Show | 7.30pm | Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir |
| 24 Mar | WVM Concert: Students from WCMD | 3pm | St Briavels Church |
| 29/30 Mar | BADS presents 'Peter Pan' | | Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir |
| 20/21 Apr | St. Briavels Art Group: Art with Craft Weekend | 11.00am - 4.00pm | Assembly Rooms, St Briavels |
| 22 Apr | Bank Holiday Coffee Morning | | St Briavels Pavilion |



Sign up today for local news and alerts in your community.



By registering today you will receive news and appeals, local crime information and crime prevention advice - directly to you.

Registering with us is completely free.



It will also help your local policing teams better police your neighbourhood.



www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk



NEWS FROM THE BROCKWEIR VILLAGE SHOP

Dear All - Since the shop opened in 2004 many new people have moved into the area, and so I thought it might be worth reminding people of how the shop came into existence and the importance of community shops across the country.

What is a Community Shop

Community shops are sustainable, democratic forms of businesses that often succeed where commercial ventures have failed. In a climate that sees around 400 commercial village shops close each

year, community-owned shops not only represent an alternative form of business, they directly respond to some of the key challenges facing rural communities today, like lack of services and isolation.

Why are Community Shops important?

Community shops are an effective mechanism for safeguarding essential retail outlets in rural areas, but they also have wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

With an estimated 300-500 village shops closing every year, community ownership is helping to preserve vital outlets and services for rural communities.

Community shops particularly benefit those who are disadvantaged by lack of personal transport or limited physical mobility.

They have a positive impact on the local economy; they have average turnovers

of £155,000, support local producers and suppliers and create employment.

Community shops become the hub of their community, they have long opening hours, and they host other services: 64% host post offices, 56% have cafés, and 19% are co-located with other community buildings such as the pub or village hall.

In addition to sourcing local food with lower food miles, community shops save rural residents car journeys to alternative food stores, saving on average an 8 mile round trip. Community shops collectively are estimated to save 4 million miles of car journeys a year.

How the Brockweir and Hewelsfield Village Shop came into being.

For many years Brockweir and Hewelsfield each had a general store. By the millennium, both had closed, and arising out of community debate about the needs of the village came the idea of a community shop. The hard-working committee visited existing community shops, drew up initial plans and set about raising funds.

The original aims of the new shop were:

- To be not-for-profit and put back any

surplus into the community

- To create an outlet for local foods
- To provide through the café a social meeting place
- To offer IT facilities and training
- To be as environmentally neutral as possible

The shop has now been trading for almost 15 years and, although our aims have changed slightly as the years have gone by, we still try to fulfil our core ethos,

and a vital part of our success has been our loyal volunteers. If you are up to a challenge we are always looking for new volunteers in a wide variety of capacities, including on the till, in the café, in the storeroom, helping with maintenance,

or organising events and publicity. If you would like to get involved - even just 3 hours a month is hugely helpful - please contact me.

Alison

ART IN THE CAFÉ Susan Peterken: 21st January - 4 March

The 2019 programme of café exhibitions opened on the 21st January with a fresh show of paintings from a well established local artist, Susan Peterken. Susan has been painting for about 45 years – now almost exclusively in soft pastel. Pastel is almost pure pigment bound together with just enough resinous substance to make a solid stick that can be held and manipulated, used to draw, shade, blend and layer on a specially prepared slightly rough surface which is usually underpainted with acrylic or gouache paint.

Facilitated by the wide and subtle range of colours available in pastel, Susan searches for colour and pattern within the landscape. A keen walker, her feeling for the land around her comes from direct experiencing of the paths and hills, as well as the visual aspects. In the past couple of years she has become obsessed with drawing trees and woodland. With her interest in pattern, she often pushes her work towards abstraction, the shapes and colours becoming of equal importance to

the subject. When working in the studio on a still life or flower painting, abstraction and pattern can take over and be all consuming.

In addition to being a painter, Susan is the author of 'Landscapes of the Wye Tour', a study of the 'Picturesque' movement of the 18th & early 19th centuries, when poets, artists and travellers flocked to the River Wye in search of the particular style of beauty. Her book covers the early years which led to this fashionable movement, initially the preserve of aristocrats. The Wye then became an essential 'go-to' destination for people of culture, followed later by a decline in popularity, but subsequently one of the first destinations of mass tourism. The publication of the book (by Logaston Press) coincided with an exhibition in 2006, drawing together the work of current artists still finding reward and interest in the Wye Valley locations painted and written about by their predecessors.

Jacqui Tregfarne

Mindfulness Meditation Group

at St Briavels Assembly Rooms

Starting on Wednesday 6th February from 7-9pm
& then on the 1st Wednesday of every month

Cost: Donations welcome

<https://mindfulnessforestandweye.co.uk>

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING

- 3 Slices of bread and butter – crusts cut off.
- 1-2 ozs dried fruit
- ½ oz sugar
- ½ pt milk
- 1 large egg (or two small ones)
- Nutmeg



Cut the buttered bread in neat strips. Grease a pie dish, place the buttered bread strips in the dish, butter side up, along with the sugar and dried fruit in layers. Warm the milk (not too hot) and pour on to the beaten egg.

Add the milk/egg mixture to the bread, grate the nutmeg on top and leave for 30 minutes. Set the oven to 375° and place a large dish of water in the oven. After 30 minutes place the pudding dish in the oven and bake for about 30 minutes. I sometimes place a butter paper on the top of the pudding.

Mary Perryman



YOUR VILLAGE NEWS ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2019 IS NOW DUE

Please pay your distributor

AS I SEE A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Parish Councils provide the opportunity for parishioners to become focussed and involved in decisions affecting their very particular community. An ability to inject local knowledge and history into local decisions is very important. Every Parish Council meeting has an agenda item for matters raised by and for public comment. This allows decisions to have community ownership and are more likely to be supported.

The Parish Council works at the heart of the community and is often best placed to deal with local issues. Councillors elected onto the Parish Council are also parishioners and have to live with decisions made. Sometimes they do not believe in or agree with a decision, but after hearing all points for and against, they may have to support a decision when they see it is for the good of the majority. They have a passion for the area and an excellent knowledge of the needs and concerns of local residents. That is not to say they will not make mistakes. Parish Councillors can only work with what they are given, and the stronger the input is from parishioners, the more they have to work with. At all times they are working in the best interests of the Parish and the local area; supporting all the local groups and encouraging new organisations that make the area such a thriving and vibrant place to live and visit. The Parish Council does not have the powers to rectify every issue that the Parish faces. However, it gives the residents a strong and democratic voice when it comes to any proposals that will affect the future of the Parish.

In all areas of life there is a need for diversity, 'thinking outside the box', compromise and adaptability. These traits are needed in a Parish Councillor. You will not always agree with everyone but when you combine diverse knowledge and thinking, it does benefit the Parish. On 2nd May, 2019 local council elections will be held and this will be your opportunity to become a Parish Councillor.

Glenys Walker

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| ★★★★★ Feel free to bring your own wine, drinks & snacks. Teas, coffees & ice cream on sale. ★★★★★ | Film Night Friday 8th February A Star is Born "Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper are dazzling..." <small>Mark Kermode, Observer</small> Tintern Village Hall 7.45pm Tickets £4.00 15s & under £2.50 | ★★★★★ Information: tinternvillage.co.uk or phone 07774 726860 ★★★★★ |
|--|---|--|

In February, the music society takes a back seat while our friends in Wye Valley Chamber Music present their annual Winter Festival with concerts in St Briavels, Monmouth, Treowen and Hereford.

The Festival, co-directed by Daniel Tong and fellow pianist Simon Crawford-Phillips, attracts leading chamber musicians from the UK and Europe. The Festival was established in 2000 to bring world-class chamber music to beautiful, intimate venues up and down the Wye Valley. Starting as a chamber music retreat for young musicians at St Briavels Castle, the organisation has established itself as an important year-round cultural presence in the Wye Valley. Programmes for the concerts are listed below. The opening concert is traditionally held in St Briavels and will take place on:

Saturday 16th February: St Briavels Church, 3pm.

- Huw Watkins** 'Spring'
- Beethoven** Violin Sonata in F, op. 24 ('Spring')
- Frank Bridge** String Quartet No. 2 (1915)
- Ireland** Phantasie for Piano Trio in A minor
- Ravel** Sonata No.2 in G for Violin and Piano

Sunday 17th February: Bishop's Palace, Hereford, 3pm

- Frank Bridge** Phantasie for Piano Quartet
- Joe Cutler** 'Slippery Music' for Piano Quartet
- Howells** 'In Gloucestershire' for String Quartet
- Fauré** Piano Quartet in C minor, op. 15

The two Treowen events have been built around the newly refurbished 1885 Broadwood Piano, with some of the works performed with gut strings. All performances with piano will take place in the Long Drawing Room upstairs.

Thursday 21st February: Treowen Manor, 7.30pm

- Saint-Saëns** Piano Quintet in A minor, op. 14
- Brahms** Piano Quartet in A, op. 26
- Wagner** Prelude to 'Tristan and Isolde' arr. string sextet.

Saturday 23rd February: Discovery Day at Treowen Manor, 11.30am – 6pm

- Liszt arr. Saint-Saëns** 'Orpheus' for Piano Trio
- Saint-Saëns** Violin Sonata in D minor, op. 75
- Dvorak** Piano Quintet in A, op. 87
- Brahms** String Quintet in G, op. 111
- Debussy** String Quartet

Sunday 24th February, Bridges Centre, Monmouth, 3pm

Finale Concert: 'Last Quartets'

- Fauré** String Quartet in E minor, op 121
- Beethoven** String Quartet in F, op. 135
- Schubert** String Quartet in G, D887

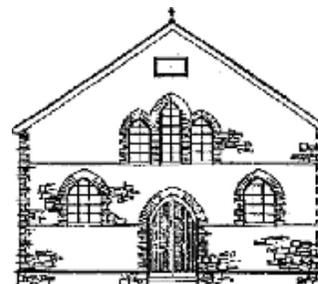
For booking enquiries contact info@wyevalleyfestival.com or call 07891 697418. Tickets can be purchased online. Full details, ticket prices and directions to all the 2019 venues can be found on the website.

The next Wye Valley Music Society concert will be on: Sunday 24th March at 3.00pm in St Briavels Church.

This will be a performance by top-ranking students of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. In the past, this popular annual event has introduced us to young artists on the threshold of successful careers as soloists, chamber and orchestral musicians. We have never failed to be impressed by the talent, virtuosity and commitment of these young performers. Details of the programme will be available on our website shortly and included in next month's Village News.

Booking on-line at www.wvm.org.uk is recommended but admission will also be available at the door. Tickets are £12; £10 for WVM members; and £2.00 for students.

Mike Haines



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.

WINTER/SPRING 2019

| | | |
|-------------------|--|------------------------|
| THURSDAYS | SILVER JEWELLERY (10 classes) | |
| Feb 7, 14, 21, 28 | 1.00 - 4.00pm | Ann Skehel |
| Mar 14, 21, 28 | £230 for 10 x 3hr sessions (Silver not included) | |
| FRIDAYS | PAINTING & DRAWING (10 classes) | |
| Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 | 9.30 – 12.30pm and/or 1 - 4pm | Ann Hulme |
| Mar 1, 8, 15, 22 | £220 for 10 x 3hr sessions, am or pm | |
| SATURDAY | PLAY WITH CLAY FOR A DAY | |
| April 27 | 9.30 – 4pm | Val Welham |
| | £50 for one-day workshop | |
| SATURDAY | FOUR SEASONS PHOTOGRAPHY | |
| Spring - April 13 | 9.30 - 12.30pm | David Broadbent |
| | £25 per session | |

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

ELEVATED VEGETABLES!

On 15 February, 7.30pm at Mackenzie Hall, we welcome Marion Stainton to talk about growing vegetables in raised beds. She will discuss why and how to build and use raised beds, as well as soil management, crop rotations and pest and disease management. She includes some design ideas and alternative versions of the concept.

Marion is a knowledgeable and experienced gardener, involved in a broad range of horticultural projects for domestic, commercial and community gardens and spaces. Her particular interest is in sustainable, environmentally friendly gardening. She has published in *The Horticulturalist* and *The Plantsman*, on integrated pest management and other topics. She opens her garden, The Brooks, for the NGS

All welcome. Visitors £5

IN MY GARDEN

This is the time of year when the 'bare bones' of the garden are most apparent, when its structure is visible and before all the lovely leafy growth of spring begins to disguise the multitude of sins from which most gardens suffer. Beautiful structure can be found in shapely shrubs and hedges and in my garden I find them very effective but, unfortunately, the 'structure' most noticeable from the windows along one side of our house is a brand new fence!

I admit to an immediate and prejudiced dislike of it on principle when half the old mixed hedge was grubbed out to make way for it. It had been a home for a family of sparrows and provided a banquet for bees and blackbirds. So no replacement would have been good enough for me. Its hard horizontal and vertical lines cut off the view of the hills now hidden behind it and I wonder why, for so many garden owners, a chemically treated dead wood structure is preferable to the real thing. A living breathing mixed species hedge is the very best of wildlife habitats, providing a dense twiggy refuge and food for insects, mammals and birds. It's inexpensive to buy as bare root whips, fast growing and amenable enough to be cut to a height and width of our choosing. I just don't understand why so many of our gardens' boundaries are now fenced.

For me there is a remedy of course, which I took immediately. I planted a new hedge on my side of the fence!



Cheryl Cummings

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

I made the most of the long, mild autumn, getting on with planting and transplanting but, as usual, time ran out for tidying. So the (so far) mild January has been a bonus! Lots of leaves lurking in nooks and crannies have been gathered up and perennial stems, now looking sad, rather than structural, been cut down. I won't be in too much of a hurry to get started on seed sowing in February, though, tempting as it is on mild, bright days. It's easy to germinate seeds but they do need good light to grow strongly. Those sown late this month - or even early next - will do as well, or better. Meanwhile, when it's not too cold and the soil is not frozen or waterlogged, there are jobs to be getting on with:

- Get vegetable beds ready: weed and mulch with well-rotted manure and/or compost
- Start chitting seed potatoes in cool, frost-free conditions – check them regularly
- Divide and replant early bulbs after they've flowered ('in the green')
- Wisterias need a hard prune. Cut the wispy shoots back to the buds
- Evergreen hedges and early flowering shrubs (after flowering) can be pruned
- Cut deciduous grasses down to ground level (but leave evergreen ones until they are in growth)

DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL SPRING BULB COMPETITION NEXT MONTH – OPEN TO ALL

See page 10 for details

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

Christine Haines

TRIP TO HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW

Proposed Date: Thursday July 4th

Leaving St Briavels at 8:15am

Coach ticket: approximately £13.00.

Day ticket: non-RHS members, £33.50; RHS members, £28.00
(There is a reduction if 20 or more non-RHS members attend to £28.00 per person).

If interested, please contact:

Mary Perryman (01594 530505)

or Pat Cronke (01594 530059)



The spring programme is below, starting with Thomas Ford on February 16th.

8pm Saturday 16th February: Thomas Ford. www.thomasfordblues.com

Tickets available from 1st February

Howling one-man blues band, Thomas Ford, is from Plymouth. He has been playing sold out shows at some of Europe's biggest and best known blues, jazz and roots music festivals for the last 5 years or so, having established a large following in the UK. His self-penned blues songs are observant, cynical, loaded with humour, innuendo and rooted in delta blues tradition. His virtuoso bottleneck guitar playing and raucous, rack-mounted harmonica are complemented by foot stomped percussion and vocals which are shouted, spat and snarled from an otherwise reserved mouth. *"Exceptional" Paul Jones, BBC Radio 2.*

8pm Friday 8th March: Witches of Pendle.* www.dawnstate.co.uk

A spellbinding new play inspired by the true story of the Pendle Witches. It's 1615 and Magistrates, Potts and Nowell, are on a mission to arm their countrymen against a plague of devilish outsiders. Until now their chief weapon has been Jennet Device, youngest of the Pendle Coven whose testimony condemned her entire family to the noose. But now Jennet

has grown up; her eyes are starting to open and, tonight, heads will roll. Dawn State Theatre Co combine haunting music and bold theatricality to bring the heart-breaking story of Britain's most notorious witch hunt to life in a new play by Gareth Jandrell. For audiences aged 12+. *"Chilling and heart-breaking, this is the best kind of history lesson" Scotsman.*

8pm Friday 5th April: Harbottle & Jonas.* www.harbottleandjonas.com

Harbottle and Jonas combine the rich traditions of folk music with original and contemporary interpretations, using a blend of closely intertwined vocal harmonies. Each song has been carefully written and researched, and is accompanied with a great story and a good deal of humour, however macabre the content may be! Their songs cover a range of social, political

and historical issues. They also sing about the family, the Devil, Malcolm and Grimsby. Their music is original and unique and performed with integrity. Each performance establishes a warm rapport, engagement and interaction with the audience *"Stunning song-writing and heart-rending arrangements" Americana UK. "Damn fine" Mike Harding. BBC Radio 2.*

Advance tickets are £10 and will be available from the Brockweir & Hewelsfield Village Shop about 4 weeks before each event or from Adrian Birch brockweirevent@gmail.com Or 01291 689812. £12 on the door. Doors Open 7.30 Performance 8.00. Refreshments available. BYO alcohol. * Event supported by Air in G

FOR SALE - Scarpa leather walking boots size 5. Worn twice only and found to be too small for me. Cost £130 sell £60. Phone 01594 531096.

HELP AT HOME/HOLIDAY LETS - Experienced and Qualified Support. Over ten years experience with many references. Domestic help, Meal preparation, Shopping, Admin, Computer help. Contact Julia 07503219105

BABYSITTING - Experienced Level 5 Childcare & Management trained. 5 years' experience of varied ages. Contact Emma on 07392 846510. Please leave a message with what you need and I'll get back to you.

CRADLE TO GRAVE CEREMONIES - Family Ceremonies, Weddings, Funerals. Helen Roberts, Civil Celebrant (ex-Village Agent) FOIC Trained. NOCN Accredited. Insured and DBS checked. Tel: 07765 342708, Email: helen@cradle-to-grave-ceremonies.co.uk www.cradle-to-grave-ceremonies.co.uk

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ADULT TAP DANCING FOR FUN in the Moravian Church School Hall. Mondays 6.45pm Improvers + / Intermediates, 7.45pm Beginners. New beginners welcome. For more information call Deborah on 07801 479269 or email deborahstock@aol.com

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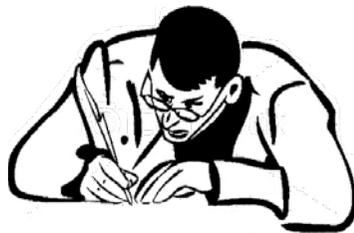
MARCH DEADLINE

To all our contributors:

The deadline for the **March 2019** edition of the Village News will be:

Midday Tuesday 19th of February for plain text submissions.

Midday Friday 15th February for boxed announcements and adverts.



The **March** issue deadline is midday on **Tuesday 19th February**

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

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 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.

Advertising: all requests should be sent to: advertising@villagemag.co.uk
 Classified: 3-line adverts £3 per month - Display: 1/4 page adverts (A7) £5 monthly, minimum of 3 months. Advertising subject to availability and adverts must be paid for before printing. All cheques payable to: Village News.
 Magazine subscriptions: take out an annual subscription for £3.60 by calling Sally Secrett on 01594 530539, email: subscriptions@villagemag.co.uk

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| Priest in Charge: | David Treharne | 01291 760034 |
| Licensed Lay Reader: | Mandy Vaughan | 01594 530844 |
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| | Martin Pagnamenta | 01594 531151 |
| Churchwardens: Hewelsfield | Gary Lewis | 01594 833020 |
| | Pauline Siddons | 01594 530524 |
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| Hon. Secretary: Hewelsfield | Pearl Bradney | 01594 531075 |
| Hon. Treasurer: St Briavels | Roger Clewett | 01291 680436 |
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| | Louise Greening | 01594 530421 |
| | Jane Benson | 01291 689703 |
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| Electoral Roll Officer: Hewelsfield | Marion Harrison | 01594 530264 |
| St Briavels Congregational Church | Pastor: Matt Rees, | 01594 530098 |
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TO BOOK OUR VILLAGE ROOMS

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
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| Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir | Laura Beddis | 01291 689604 |
| Pavilion/Playing Field, St Briavels | Jill Skidmore | 01594 530035 |
| School Hall, St Briavels | School Office | 01594 530428 |
| The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir | Alison Macklin | 01291 689995 |

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| Brockweir, Hewelsfield & St Briavels Garden Society | www.wyegarden.com |
| Brockweir Village Shop | www.bandhvillageshop.co.uk |
| Brockweir Youth Club | www.brockweiryouthclub.co.uk |
| 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 |
| St Briavels Parish Council | www.stbriavels-pc.gov.uk |
| St Briavels School | www.stbriavelsprimaryschool.co.uk |
| The Loft at Brockweir | www.theloftatbrockweir.co.uk |
| Wye Valley Music | www.wyevalleymusic.org.uk |

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| Police Community Support Officer | Mike Shuttleworth | 01452 753804 |
| Email: mike.shuttleworth@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk | | |
| NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Field Officer (Chrissie Parkes) | | 01452 753784 |
| ELECTRICITY | (Power cuts) | 08006 783 105 |
| GCC HIGHWAYS | (for potholes etc.) | 08000 514 514 |
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| MP (Forest of Dean): | Mark Harper | 01594 823482 |
| COUNTY COUNCILLORS: | | |
| Patrick Molyneux - <i>Hewelsfield, Brockweir & St Briavels</i> | | 01594 529174 |

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Hewelsfield and Brockweir
St Briavels and Newland
Chris.McFarling@fdean.gov.uk
PARISH COUNCILS: *St Briavels* (Chair)
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