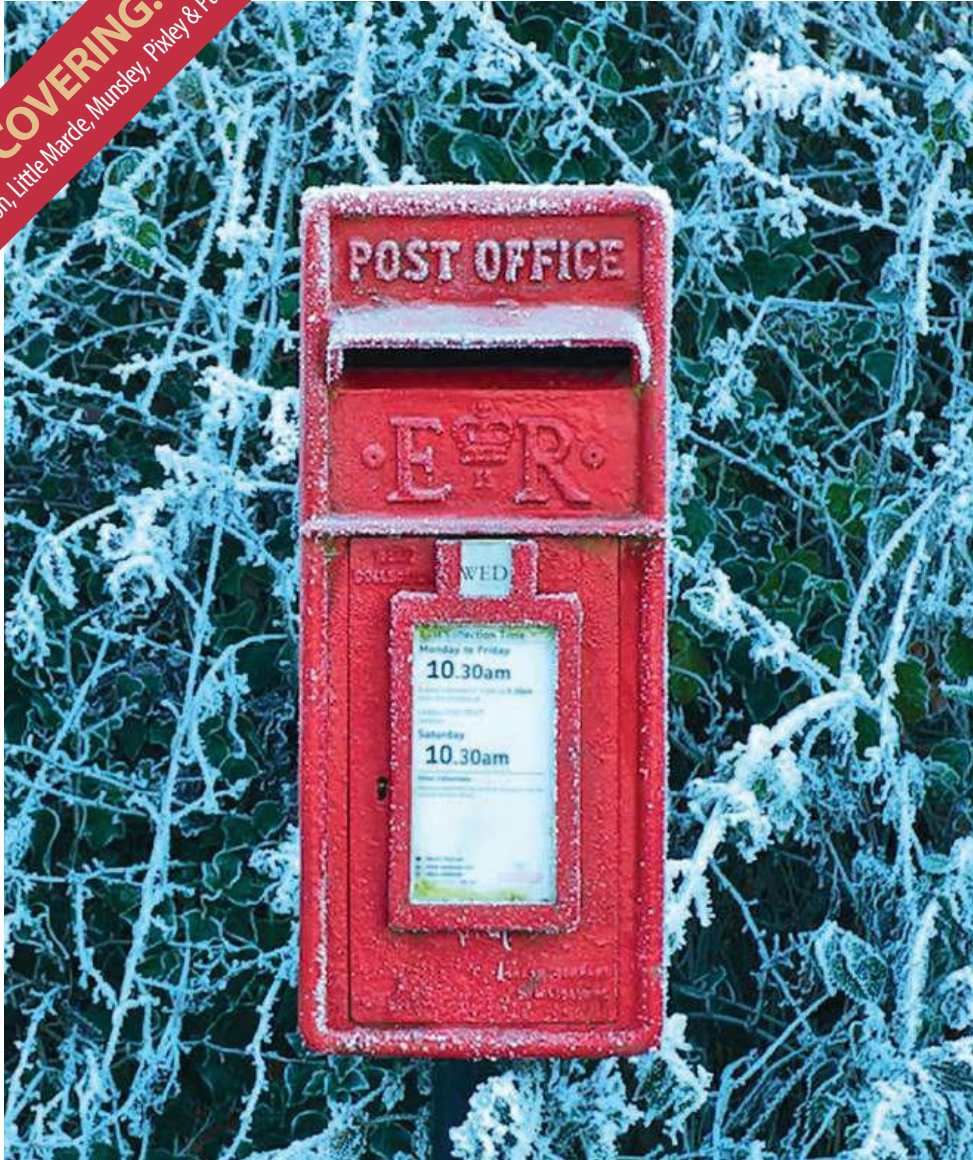


**COVERING:**  
Ayton, Little Marcle, Munsley, Pixley & Puttley



# the **cider** press

**Winter**  
Dec - Feb 2024/25  
Issue No.105



# Festive CAROLS

## & Festive Entertainments!

Carol Singing in The Shire has always been a wonderful tradition even before the mental and physical benefits were even thought about. Being outdoors in what now seems to be called "Nature" but round here is simply called "Outside," taking gentle physical exercise, sucking fresh air into lungs and Carol sounds coming out, plus fellowship with friends and neighbours are just some of the many advantages.

Our local tradition has gently evolved over the eighty years since the Evacuees

at Putley Court were ushered out on Christmas Eve with the young Church Organist, Joan Greenhill to get out from under the feet of the Cook.

Pre Covid house visits were curtailed during the Pandemic itself, post Covid evolved yet again and this is the 2024 Iteration.

All are warmly welcome to join in with as many events as possible, especially those new to such an amazing experience. You don't even need to be able to sing!!!!

### December 18th - Aylton Church, at 6.30pm

Meet outside the Church to open the celebration for the week leading up to Christmas Day. Visits by arrangement to local residents on request via Sally and Charlie Smart.

### December 19th - Putley Church at 6.30pm

Carols just outside the Church Yard next to the wonderful Pond under the Shining Light, for the first part. Then a short walk for those that feel so moved, up to Putley Court itself to enjoy the particular blend of hospitality laid on by the eclectic mix of Residents.

**December 20th** This will be at The Prancing Pony at Putley Parish Hall which is thriving under the auspices of its dynamic new committee. Carols, Readings and local victuals in a great celebration of Community.

**December 22nd** at Nine Lessons and Carols at Putley Church at 4.00pm

**December 24th** Christmas Eve at Crib Service at 3.30pm

Any enquiries or further information just contact [normanstanier@icloud.com](mailto:normanstanier@icloud.com)



## A word from *the Editor* by Julie Crompton

Welcome to the winter edition of The Cider Press, where we celebrate the beauty, warmth, and traditions of our slice of the shire as it settles into the colder months.

With the orchards about to rest under soft frosts and our woodlands turning crisp and quiet, winter transforms the county into a landscape of stillness and wonder, inviting us to slow down and savour the unique joys of the season.

The changing of the season has been highlighted by a sad loss from our Cider Press community, Peter Tyrrell. One of the original editors of the magazine, when it was the Putley Press, sadly passed away last month after a short illness. Peter and his wife Sue were the custodians of the magazine for many years and passed on the baton to me in 2016. We have a tribute to him and his life on the following pages.

A common theme from our contributors in this edition is the uncommon climatic conditions we are all having to cope with now. Our seasons seem to be very

unseasonal. From our gardens p7, to our wildlife p8, life moves on and we have to cope with those changes and challenges in the best way we can. That may be as simple as getting more exercise p15 or engaging in something a bit more mindful p20.

There's some good news regarding the Prancing Pony. It looks like it is set to stay! Under new 'management'... p12.

For those of us who require a bit more adventure in our lives, There's a short article with a web link to an inspirational local adventure on p19. Well worth following the link!

To follow on from the last edition's piece on defibrillator training, The residents of Brook Farm Court have fund-raised to provide a defibrillator for Little Marcle at Brook Farm Court.

As you turn these pages, we hope you feel connected to the richness of our local community and inspired to embrace the simple pleasures of a Herefordshire winter. So, make yourself a Toad in the Hole p11, pour yourself a drink, settle in, and enjoy our seasonal celebration of everything winter brings to our beloved countryside.

Have a cosy winter everyone!

Julie

*If you have any events, stories, photographs or news, please let me know. If you don't tell me I can't pop it in our very own little mag!*

**Copy deadline for the next issue:  
Saturday 1st February**  
[julie@monster-creative.com](mailto:julie@monster-creative.com)



## Peter Tyrrell 7.01.36 - 10.10.24

With immense sadness I write of the passing of Peter Tyrrell.

Peter shone love, kindness and humour on all who had the pleasure to know him. I first really got to know him and his wife Sue during the inception of the Putley Voices choir. His wonderful tenor voice would help to lead the less accomplished singers in his section (my husband) down the path of tunefulness.

Peter was at that time, the Editor of the Putley Press. Both he and Sue convinced me to take on the challenge in 2016, and I have been endeavouring to do them proud ever since.

Peter was an eloquent word-smith, and had penned most of his extraordinary life story, which was beautifully read out by his daughter-in-law Dawn at the thanks giving service held at Putley Church on November 8th.

What follows is an edited version of his extraordinary life...

Peter was born on January 7, 1936, in Coulsdon, Surrey, an area known as "Bomb Alley" during WWII due to its exposure to the Battle of Britain and the later flying bombs.

His childhood was steeped in the excitement and resilience required of wartime England. He enjoyed the spectacle of contrails in the sky, the sight of London burning during the blitz, and the collection of shrapnel in his garden. Though the war brought danger—such as the blast of a parachute mine that once blew him from his bed—it also fostered a sense of adventure. He remembers climbing over bombed-out buildings and learning aircraft recognition from his father. His father, a WWI veteran, built a three-room air-raid shelter of reinforced concrete by their house, a place shared with neighbours during the blitz.

Peter's early schooling began at Mrs. Wilse's infant school, where war-time rationing influenced even the food served—he vividly recalls sausages made without any meat. Food was scarce, but he had a regular supply of one egg a week from a neighbour's chickens and fish from the local fish shop. The family managed through a strict rationing system, and his father's gardening efforts helped supplement their meals. Later, Peter attended Reigate Grammar School's prep school, entering the main school at age nine after passing his 11-plus exam. Academically, he struggled later, excelling only in art and English language at O-Level.

Peter was passionate about scouting and achieved the 'Bushman's Thong,' though he never reached the rank of King's Scout. In school, he also joined the Air Cadet Force, where his enthusiasm for flying took off. He spent weekends in uniform at Redhill Aerodrome, hoping to catch flights with pilots, and eventually managed some time

in double-winged Tiger moth planes. After WWII, his family visited Guernsey, where he was thrilled to see remnants of the German occupation, including occupation stamps. Despite low academic scores, he aimed to join the RAF and passed the tests for a commission as a Navigator, though he did not qualify as a pilot.

Leaving school at sixteen, Peter started working in advertising at S. H. Benson, a major London advertising agency. He encountered notable personalities in the office and worked on Lloyds Bank advertising. Around this time, he bought a motorbike, then later a car, reflecting the self-reliant spirit he maintained throughout his life. When he finally reached the age for National Service, he joined the RAF as an Officer Cadet, training at Kirton-Lindsey in Lincolnshire and later Canada.

In Canada, Peter trained as a navigator at NATO-run facilities and flew in various planes such as Expeditors, Dakotas, and Mitchels, patrolling the Arctic. Returning to England, Peter found that cutbacks in the RAF limited his options, and although he had hoped for a posting on Canberras, he ended up on routine Atlantic patrols. With career options narrowing, he opted to leave the RAF but continued with the RAF Volunteer Reserve, achieving the rank of Flight Lieutenant. This work took him to various high-security locations around the globe, including Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin during the Cold War, but the unit was later stood down.

Outside his career, Peter was deeply involved in scouting as a scoutmaster and played rugby with the Reigate Grammar Old Boys. While recovering in the hospital after a rugby injury, he met Sue, a nurse who would later become his wife. The couple married at Warblington Church and settled in Essex, where their son Andrew was born. Seeking career

advancement, Peter became a media director at advertising firms, eventually moving the family to Stratford-upon-Avon. In Stratford, Peter and Sue welcomed a German family, the Winkholds, as lifelong friends, further broadening the family's cultural connections.

Later, they moved to Conway Cottage near Bidford-on-Avon, where Peter undertook extensive renovations. His career led him to various advertising firms, culminating in a role at Saatchi and Saatchi before he eventually transitioned to self-employment. His love for gardening flourished as the family moved to The Twynings in Herefordshire, where Peter crafted an elaborate garden that the new owners continued to maintain. Their son, Andrew, had a varied career and later became a barrister; he brought much pride and joy to Peter, despite the sorrow of Andrew's passing three years ago.

In retirement, Peter and Sue moved to Putley Court, a historic estate, where Peter dedicated himself to full-time gardening, creating a "Secret Garden" inspired by his vision of laughter and exploration. During this time, he also wrote a historical novel. Music was another love, and he celebrated life's moments with songs and by singing with the Ledbury Community Choir for over 25 years. Eventually, Peter and Sue relocated to Ledbury as they aged, where he built his final garden.

Peter was a cherished family member—quick-witted, loving, and attentive, inspiring admiration and love in his family and friends. He was a humble man, not one to boast, who lived with a quiet determination and resilience shaped by a unique life journey that spanned war, adventure, a dedicated career, and rich family life. In his final hospital stay, his devotion to Sue was evident through his musical tribute left in his washbag, 'When I'm 64', by The Beatles, marking the end of a life well-lived, remembered lovingly by those he left behind.

**SKITTERY**  
HEREFORDSHIRE  
*Apple Juice*

Delicious single variety juices capturing all the flavour and sweetness of the fruit




Delicious and refreshing, **any time of day**, as a **gift** for a loved one, or add a bottle to a **welcome basket**

**jusapples.co.uk**

 email: [enquiries@jusapples.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@jusapples.co.uk) 

## HOUSE FULL?



If you have a houseful of visitors on the way, why not put them up just around the corner in one of our five charming cottages? Perfect for family gatherings and special occasions.

*White House Cottages*

Aylton - 01531 579192  
hello@whitehousecottages.co.uk  
www.whitehousecottages.co.uk

# COMPUTER

## Problems Solved

Help with your computer at home or at work, contact  
**William Dereham 01432 860367**

 [www.dereham.org](http://www.dereham.org)

- Setting up new computers • Installing hardware and software
- E-mail & Internet problems • Broadband installation
- Computer troubleshooting • Spyware problems • Virus infections
- Database design • Website design • Wireless networks

Available Across Herefordshire | No Mileage Charge

# Horticultural blindness

by Rosa Mundi

## These months are a period of pottering in the garden.

Can't dig, plant or sow, but still a little pruning, tidying up and trying to decide which branches of the lemon tree, tucked up in the greenhouse, will have to come off in February. Exercise is a daily walk over the lawn (could do with a cut soon), past the borders (must divide those coreopsis), through the wild patch (glad the hogweed was dug out) and into the orchard (do hope the greengage fruits better next summer), looking out for anything that has fallen, or emerged under the shrubs with the promise of spring. Clumps of snowdrops were moved all over the garden last year, so hoping they will spread to form a white necklace round the whole boundary.

We decided not to fill tubs of bulbs again, too much fiddling about in the spring when we need them for summer planting. So all last winter's daffodils gone to fill gaps in the grass and tulips are planted in spare piece of ground in the vegetable garden, for cutting, though not hopeful many will flower again. No wonder fortunes were made and lost over these gorgeous flowers in the past.

The raised beds have long been cleared of the tomatoes and beans and D.B. was helpfully weeding the final one. He called out "do you want everything out of here?" "Yes" I said, not looking where he was pointing. When I did glance up he was sighing and muttering and struggling to dig up a beautiful row of mature Rainbow Swiss Chard, planted next to the spinach, for a final bit of green stuff for the winter.

His one item bucket list is to live in a flat without even a house-plant.

Horticultural blindness runs in the blood it seems. While I was away, a son asked for some runner bean plants. An exact description of plant and place to find them in the greenhouse was given. A month later I was sent a photo from his London garden, showing supporting canes erected as instructed, with beautiful nasturtiums half way up .....

Apart from the Popeye the Sailor Man greens, we will be knocking back bottles of our apple juice made from nine trays of eaters and three of cookers. Despite the very necessary severe professional pruning in March the trees produced as much fruit as ever. But either a very hungry squirrel or a very quiet thief had all the walnuts overnight.

A last garden of the year to see was the Picton Garden at Colwall.. Unusual woodland garden as well as the collection of Michaelmas daisies, properly called asters nowadays. A fernery and greenhouse full of lovely large succulents were unexpected delights. But we could have done without the water feature on the way home, flash flooding created lakes of which Capability Brown would have been proud.

Wishing all gardeners a crisp but not too freezing winter, just enough to kill the bugs and put the plants back into the seasonal rhythm which many of them seem to have forgotten. Roll on Spring!

Photo: Richard Crompton



# Wildlife in Winter

by Kate Wollen

## Winter is a tough time for most wildlife.

There is little food available and the cold, wet, snow, and frosts all make it hard for them to survive.

Many species have adapted to surviving winter through a variety of methods. Some hibernate – for example, dormice, hedgehogs, bats, newts, and butterflies and moths. These are all species that live among us in our parishes.

Most insects overwinter through a variety of methods. Some also hibernate or stay as pupae or eggs hidden away or attached to

the food-plant that the larvae need. Others may stay as a pupae or larvae.

There is a risk in hibernating or “hunkering” down as a larvae or pupae. Risk from natural causes such as excessive weather conditions such as heavy snow or flooding, or fungi impacting on insects or simply running out energy stored for winter survival. There are also risks from human activity- disturbance or destruction of habitat which can lead to death of species.

Birds and most mammals though must struggle on through winter trying to find sufficient food and shelter to keep them safe until spring.

There is much that we can do to help. The most obvious thing that many people do is to feed the birds. This gives a vital source of food to our local birds but it is very important to ensure that you keep feeders and feeding areas clean. Disease can be spread rapidly through dirty feeders or if a diseased bird comes into feed, the germs spread easily. Clean feeders at least every 2 weeks, ideally clean and rotate feeders so you can ensure they dry thoroughly before reusing. Ensure the quality of food is good and provide clean water daily.

You can help hibernating animals- hedgehog shelters can be bought or made, hibernation boxes for bats can be bought or dense piles of deadwood or rocks can be a snug place for amphibians to overwinter.

Dormice have been found hibernating in our parish in the base of hedges and even under the stones at the base of a garden wall, so be careful if you are undertaking hedgerow or wall management this winter.

Less obvious things include providing areas for over wintering insects. Again piles of deadwood or rocks can be used by insects, other insects overwinter in the dead stems of plants or among the cracks and crevices at the base of plants.

Key to helping a variety of wildlife to survive winter is to be less tidy.

Delay your hedge cutting until as late as possible into winter. This will enable birds and small mammals to feed on berries and fruits in the hedges. These days with autumn coming later, leaves stay on trees for longer and so do insects, therefore delaying cutting hedges will help some insects too.



Delay your garden tidying too where you can to ensure that overwintering insects are not accidentally added to the compost heap!

Check your leaf or garden waste piles before moving them- there could be a hedgehog or frog in there.

The simplest of changes to your activities can really help wildlife to survive the winter. If we all do just one thing, collectively we can make a difference.



## Funding for energy-saving home improvements in Herefordshire

### Funding

Grants are available for a variety of energy-saving upgrades, including:

- Air source heat pumps
- Solar electricity
- Insulation
- Draughtproofing
- Airtight windows and doors

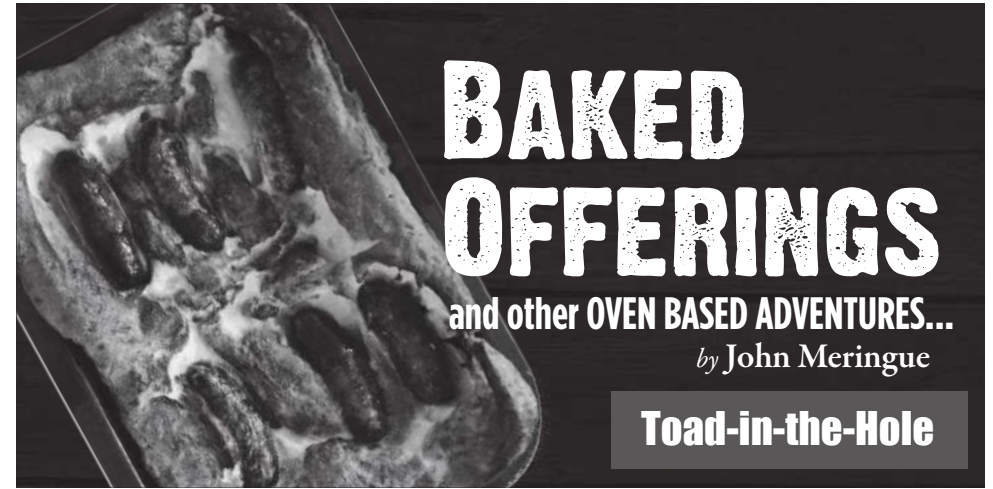
### You may be eligible if:

- You own or privately rent the home you live in
- The property is inefficient
- You have a household income of under £30,000 or a member of the household receives means-tested benefits

Call to see if you are eligible and apply today

# 0800 677 1432

[keepherefordshirewarm.co.uk/home-improvements](http://keepherefordshirewarm.co.uk/home-improvements)



Pretty much anything with Yorkshire Pudding is a winner.

This delicious traditional recipe is one of the best ways to enjoy this comforting delight.

There's a traditional way to bake a 'Toad', but I've also included a method I tried a couple of weeks ago when the season for hearty food arrived...

### Batter Ingredients:

- 300g Plain Flour
- 500ml Whole Milk
- 5 Large Eggs
- Pinch of Salt

### 'Toads':

- Your Sausages of choice
- At least 1 Tbsp. of Veg fat

### Method

To do this well, you need to start a little ahead of when you plan to eat the 'Toad', as the batter is much improved by a spell of quiet time in the fridge.

Firstly, you need to combine all the batter ingredients together, either whisk them all until smooth, or if you have a blender, blitz them all in that. Then cover the batter and

keep it safely in the fridge for 2 hours or so. I usually make the batter the day before to make the process of cooking the finished dish feel even more effortless.

### *Pre-heat your oven to 220 °C.*

Traditionally, you cook the sausages in a roasting tin with the fat in a hot oven before adding the batter. You would do this until the sausages are getting nice and brown (around 20 mins), but not fully cooked. With the advent of the Air Fryer, I now pre-cook my sausage in one for about 8 minutes while the roasting tin with the Veg Fat is coming up to heat in the oven. You could even do the whole thing in an Air Fryer, but the roasting tin allows for more space around the sausages. This recipe makes a huge volume of fluffy batter, and the full amount would totally overwhelm our small air-fryer.

When the oven is up to temperature, add the sausages to the roasting tin, swiftly followed by the batter and pop back in the oven. Depending on how many the dish is for, I sometimes use only half of the mix and save the remainder for another day.

Bake for 20 minutes at 220 °C, then drop the temperature to 200 °C for a further 15 mins.

Serve with your Veg of choice. Anything from Carrots and Broccoli to Baked Beans will work with this filling winter treat.

# Prancing Pony at Putley Parish Hall by Andy Booth

# IS SAVED!

As you should all know by now the current Prancing Pony Committee is standing down and a brand new Pony Committee is taking over starting February 2025!

It is as well to think of this as a continuation. This will be the third iteration of the Pony, and an opportunity for the old nag to gallop forth into the world with new ideas and an invigorated sense of purpose.

We are mindful that we were only continuing in the footsteps of those that have gone before us, the Pony's original founders Phil, John and Tim who instigated the whole concept to bring a focus to our community in a village that lacked a pub or any other real communal focus. The baton subsequently passed to many others, including the two Marys, and then finally David, Adam and Jayne steered us through some turbulent times when government restricted our movement and free association was frowned upon.

Who knows what 2025 will bring, but we shall endeavour to ensure that our community, at least, has the structure in place to encourage neighbourliness, support and friendship to all who live in and around the beautiful countryside of Putley.

To that end, we would like to give an honourable mention to Jayne who is staying on to provide continuity, support and guidance to the new committee, I know the new committee will join us in expressing our thanks to her for her enthusiastic support.

Please support the Pony over the coming months – we're looking forward to our special Christmas event on Friday 20th December – and we're sure there'll be some exciting changes come February onwards.

[putleyprancingpony@gmail.com](mailto:putleyprancingpony@gmail.com)  
or speak to Adam, Jayne, Andy or David.

The Pony

## *Pixley and District Parish Council*

In the last edition we said farewell to Diane Baldwin who had been our parish clerk for several years.

In this edition we welcome Ella Wayman as our new clerk. Ella has in the past been a clerk to a town council, and her previous knowledge and experience will be invaluable in supporting the work of the parish and all our parishioners. We hope Ella has a long and happy relationship with the council.

Some good news on the safety issues associated with Ashperton railway bridge. Herefordshire Council have recognised that measures are required as a means of traffic calming when approaching the bridge to reduce these safety issues. During the recent road resurfacing work on the A417 from the Trumpet lights to the approaches of Ashperton, the following work has also been implemented:

- Provision of specialist anti-skid surfacing on the approaches to and over the bridge
- Provision of concrete haunch and kerbing to rebuild the section of damaged verge

In addition, the parish council is pressing for the following work to be completed:

- Replacement of existing road signing

and replacement and upgrade of existing chevron warning arrows

We hope this further work will be completed in the near future. However, the parish council believes these measures do not go far enough, and will be urging Herefordshire council for a reduction in the speed limit from 60MPH to 40MPH, and for Network Rail to erect some form of barrier at the four corners of the bridge.

With a lengthsman now registered with the council, the plan over the next few months is to replace a stile with a gate on the footpath LM3 giving access via Lower House Farm (160m NE) on Little Marcle Road, and also to replace the grit bin on Little Marcle Road close to Brooke Farm.

The council have chosen a new web designer in order to update the parish council website to make it more user friendly and informative. We hope this work will be completed within the next 2 to 3 months.

Finally, the council are still in need of more councillors. If you are interested in your parish surroundings and want to have a say on parish matters then please come and join us and get in touch with Ella at [clerk@pixleyanddistrictpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pixleyanddistrictpc.org.uk)

Parish Council website at:  
[pixleyanddistrictpc.org.uk](http://pixleyanddistrictpc.org.uk)




Over 20 years of  
decorating excellence

Interior & Exterior  
Furniture spraying  
Free Quotations

A friendly, reliable service  
Call Matt now on:

07814 675662

[bensteaddecorating@hotmail.com](mailto:bensteaddecorating@hotmail.com)

 Benstead Painting & Decorating Services

# News from Putley WI

It seems a long time ago now but back in August we visited Kelsmoor Dairy in Garway.

They showed us how they make their delicious ice cream from the milk of their Guernsey cows and we had a tour of the new rotary milking parlour that they had imported from Denmark. They were generous with samples which were so good that we bought many packs to take home.

Back in the hall in September a speaker had cancelled at short notice but we managed to book a fascinating talk on the history of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal and its ongoing restoration. That gave us an explanation for the unusual earthworks by the

Gloucester road out of Newent – it's a new stretch of canal.

In October we welcomed back Wendy Hill. She had previously given us a talk on Sir Edward Elgar, and we enjoyed it so much we had her back to tell us all about Sir Edward's wife Alice and her influence on his life and music. We particularly enjoyed the excerpts of music she played.

Next month is our Christmas meeting. Annie Blandford will be helping us make wreaths for our doors while we listen to Christmas music and nibble on home made seasonal snacks.

In January we have treat for the new year. Retired police officer Julie Mackay will be telling us about her life and career in Gloucestershire Police working on unsolved crimes, including murder. It sounds a bit dark but it is heartening to hear of her successes in keeping us all protected. We will be helping her in her current charity work with children in Africa and Cambodia.

We sometimes invite husbands and partners to an open meeting, but that won't be the case in February. Sorry to disappoint the chaps but you can't come to our talk on bra fitting! Ladies are welcome to come and try out any of our meetings on the second Wednesday each month at 7.30pm in Putley Parish Hall. Or join us for coffee at the Nest on any Friday from 10.30. The garden group have a trip out each month, recently they were at the Picton Garden in Colwall and next month they're off to Burford Garden Centre for some garden related retail therapy. There's also an art and craft group which meets each Monday, so something for everyone.

We will have surplus funds at the end of the year and members have nominated good causes to which we could make a donation. Check the next issue to learn to whom we have decided to make donations.



## Are any of us walking enough? by Sally Smart

### Where did the idea of walking 10,000 steps a day come from?

It was actually part of a marketing campaign for an early pedometer leading up to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. The Japanese character for 10,000 looks a bit like a person walking, so the devise was called the Manpo-kei or 10,000 steps meter!

Interestingly, later research showed that 10,000 steps is a good figure to aim for to gain the health benefits. But remember the number of steps you do will depend on your stride length, cadence and height.

If you did 10,000 steps all in one go it may take you up to 2 hours! It equates to roughly 5 miles and I think that would be very challenging for most of us. However, people who have these devices on all day do find they can do 10,000 steps. More importantly the pedometer can actually motivate you to do that extra bit. A friend of mine recently was very keen to walk towards me rather than wait for me to get to her – as we met she said 'Great that's 10,000 steps done!'

On a recent visit to our granddaughter who is 8yrs old she was very excited to show us her 'fitbit' which showed she had done 11,355 steps that day. She hadn't been on a long walk but she had been to

school and never stands still. So maybe we should take note and keep moving!

Firstly wear a good pair of trainers, or shoes that are comfortable and give you a bit of support and cushioning. Then give it a go. Maybe go out for 10 mins then turn around so you know it's going to be about 10 mins back. As you get fitter try to walk back quicker or put a hill into your walk or go a little bit further. Being slightly out of breath is good. You should be able to talk but not sing a song!

December is not the easiest time to start a new fitness routine. However, I find if I get cold sitting on the computer going for a brisk walk warms me up. Also, January and new year's resolutions are just around the corner. Don't leave it too late. Making walking a part of your daily life is a good way to keep motivated. Maybe always walk the children to school, get off the bus one stop earlier so you walk a bit further home, walk to the shops if you can, find a friend to do a regular walk with, use the stairs instead of the lift.

### Putley Fitness walks:

(Monday Dec 2nd, Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, Mar 3rd ) Meet at the Parish Hall to set off at 10am followed by refreshments. We have a shorter, slower walk (20 to 30 minutes) as well as our current 2.5m Walk. All for £1! We also do 4 walks in the year which are a bit longer (6 to 8m) For further information ring Sally on 07468 793405

**Woodlands Country Cat Hotel**  
*"Where cats are at home"*

Woodlands Country Cat Hotel is a modern boarding cattery close to the market town of Ledbury and within easy reach of Hereford, Malvern and surrounding villages.



Family owned and run

Modern indoor pens with outdoor views

Heated sleeping areas

Heated beds



Tel: 01531 670677  
 Email: [wcchotel@gmail.com](mailto:wcchotel@gmail.com)  
 Web: [wcchotel.co.uk](http://wcchotel.co.uk)

Licence No: ANB40  
 Woodlands,  
 Falcon Lane,  
 Ledbury,  
 HR8 2JW

# PUTLEY CHURCH

by Sue Ashe



## Happy New Year!

No, I'm not really a month early unless your Cider Press delivery is delayed, but using the Church Calendar where the New Year starts with Advent, the season of preparing for, and looking forward to, Christmas. Advent lasts for four Sundays and each has a theme: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. Each candle on an Advent wreath represents one of these and is lit on successive Sundays until the central candle (white) is lit on Christmas Day. Putley Church has a positive cornucopia of festive services during Advent and Christmas including 'Nine Lessons and Carols' which tells the story of Christmas, a 'Crib Service', Christmas Day Communion and 'Sunday at 6', which starts the season with a mixture of music

and poetry to warm you on darker nights. All details are in this issue. We hope to see you there, or at 'Carols Around the Pond' (next to the Church) on 19th at 6.30. Wrap warmly and come and sing to the stars!

Sue Ashe, supported by John Sandfield, has been leading the 'Sunday at 6' services for a couple of years now and, on 29th September at the Benefice Service at Little Marcle Church, she was formally commissioned to lead worship. The photo shows Sue and Derek Barnes from Wellington Heath with Rev. Elizabeth Wild (Diocesan Lead for Mission and Ministry) when they were both commissioned as Local Leaders of Worship.

We have completed the first year of our Lottery Commission-funded project,

InfoPoint. It is a digital way of touring the Church and Churchyard and has proved popular with visitors and locals alike. As we move into the second year, we plan to upload new content and provide a highlights tour for those who can't stay long. Recently two visits to Hereford Archives by the PCC InfoPoint team and other interested local folk, have given further information and ideas for Phase 2. Thanks to all those who have supported us in this innovative project.

Harvest was celebrated in September and £200 was sent to Ledbury Food-bank. During the service a presentation was made to Tim Beaumont, as he retired from the PCC after many years of dedicated service. Thank you, Tim.

Happy Christmas everyone.

## Leadon Valley Accountancy Ltd

Providing a tailored approach to all your accounting and taxation requirements:

- **Bookkeeping**
- **Payroll**
- **VAT**
- **Management Accounts**
- **Budgeting and Forecasting**
- **Financial Accounts**
- **Personal and Business Tax**

Ledbury Business Centre  
136 Bridge Street, Ledbury, HR8 2AS  
01531 631095

Louise@lvaccountancy.co.uk  
www.lvaccountancy.co.uk



## Dragon Orchard

PRODUCE STAND - PUTLEY

*Delicious Fruit,  
Juice and Preserves,  
direct from the Orchard*

Open during daylight hours  
Pay by Cash, Cheque or Online

**01531 670263**  
info@dragonorchard.co.uk

*Connecting People, Place and  
Produce for over 100 years*

All your technology problems

# SOLVED

**NO FIX - NO FEE**

## Setup, Repair, Renew, Upgrade and Update

Laptops - Email  
Viruses & Malware - Broadband & Wifi  
Backup & Recovery - Office or Home

**OptimisedComputing.co.uk**

Tel: **01432 483061**

email: **OptimisedComputing.co.uk@gmail.com**

# **bandb SERVICES LTD** **DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL**

The only call you need to make for...

- Household Maintenance
- Electrical & Rewires
- Disabled Access
- Bathrooms & Wetrooms
- New Builds & Extensions
- Kitchens
- Carpentry & Tiling
- Central Heating Systems



**Call for a free estimate**  
Gary: 07971271777  
Ian: 07966755784  
Tel: 01531 821868  
or visit: [bandbservicesltd.org](http://bandbservicesltd.org)

# Adventure on your doorstep

by Norman Stanier



Some of you will know that Annie and I often walk with a visually impaired friend Marika who works as a Braille translator at the Royal College in Hereford. We have walked the Herefordshire Trail, The Wyche Way and are currently half way through the Three Choirs Way. Marika recently turned sixty and was somewhat troubled to reach this milestone as

many folk of that age that she knows are not very active or adventurous.

So, on her birthday we arranged a sort of Triathlon as a positive celebration and it was blogged about by a mutual friend Kate Ashbrook who is the General Secretary of the Open Space Society. Both Sally Smart and Annie Stanier did the whole trip too and gave invaluable help and support as well as other locals including Gill Swaithes and David Murdoch who joined the walk back from Dragon House to Hereford on the second day and Wayne Gardner for his invaluable support on the river.

Kate's Blog is here and illustrates just how much fun can be had on our doorstep.

[campaignerkate.wordpress.com/2024/10/03/marikas-triathlon/](http://campaignerkate.wordpress.com/2024/10/03/marikas-triathlon/)

made in the traditional way  
for the modern taste

## **WOODREDDING**

award winning cider and perry



available directly from the makers  
Brian and Fran Robbins

### **WOODREDDING FARM**

Yatton, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7RG

**01531 660257**

[brian.e.robbins@outlook.com](mailto:brian.e.robbins@outlook.com)

## Meadowsweet & Mallowmarsh Garden Services



If you need  
a little help  
with your garden,  
please call Andy on:

**07535 713 365**

"The kiss of the sun for pardon"

# Health & Wellbeing

by Summer Knight



Winter brings shorter days, colder temperatures, and a natural invitation to slow down and turn inward.

This season offers an ideal time to practice holistic self-care, nurturing the mind, body, and spirit through gentle, nourishing practices that help balance the demands and stresses of the colder months. Holistic self-care doesn't just focus on physical health; it also includes emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being, creating a sense of wholeness and resilience during winter.

## *Nourish your Body*

Winter is a time when the body naturally craves warmth, making it important to prioritise warm, nutrient-dense foods that support immunity and digestion. Incorporate

hearty stews, soups, and seasonal vegetables such as root vegetables, squash, and leafy greens. These foods are packed with vitamins and minerals that help fend off winter illnesses. Spices like ginger, turmeric, cinnamon, and cloves add warmth and also possess anti-inflammatory and immune-boosting properties. Stay hydrated by sipping on warm teas, particularly herbal teas like chamomile, peppermint, or ginger, which are soothing and help digestion.

Exercise remains essential, but winter calls for a gentler approach. If high-intensity workouts feel too rigorous, consider gentle activities like yoga, tai chi, or indoor walking. These exercises help improve circulation, keep the muscles active, and reduce tension, which can be particularly helpful during colder weather.

## *Boost Mental Well-being*

Winter often brings about changes in mood,

including feelings of lethargy or even mild seasonal depression. To support mental well-being, incorporate practices that uplift your spirits. Light exposure is crucial; aim to spend time outside in the natural daylight each day, even if it's cloudy. If outdoor time is limited, light therapy lamps can help mimic sunlight and may reduce symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

Mindfulness and meditation are powerful tools for staying present and grounded. Set aside a few minutes each day to practice deep breathing exercises or a short meditation session. These practices reduce stress, enhance emotional resilience, and promote a positive mindset. Journaling is another winter-friendly self-care habit that can help you process emotions, set intentions, and reflect on your experiences. Taking time each evening to write down a few thoughts or a list of things you're grateful for can significantly enhance your emotional well-being.

## *Create a Cosy, Restorative Environment*

Winter encourages us to spend more time indoors, so creating a comforting, cosy environment can contribute to emotional and physical relaxation. De-clutter your spaces, add warm blankets, and perhaps even bring in soft lighting like candles or fairy lights to create an inviting atmosphere. Essential oils like lavender, eucalyptus, and cedarwood can enhance the mood in your home, helping to relax the mind and body.

Winter is also a wonderful time to prioritise rest. Try to create a regular sleep routine, as quality sleep is essential for immune function, mental clarity, and mood regulation. Consider winding down each evening with a calming activity, such as reading, stretching, or sipping herbal tea.

## *Stay Connected Spiritually and Socially*

Finally, winter self-care includes staying connected with loved ones and fostering a sense of community, even in colder weather. Reach out to friends and family, either virtually or in person, to maintain meaningful connections. Embrace any spiritual practices you find grounding, such as reading inspiring books, meditating, or simply spending time in reflection. Many people find winter to be a contemplative season, a time to reconnect with themselves and set intentions for the year ahead.

Embracing holistic self-care in winter means honouring your body's needs, supporting mental and emotional well-being, and cultivating a peaceful environment. By nurturing yourself in these simple, intentional ways, you can stay balanced, energised, and resilient throughout the colder months.



**Irene Mawby**

ALTERATIONS - REMODELLING - REPAIR

01531 670185

[irene@irenemawby.co.uk](mailto:irene@irenemawby.co.uk)  
[www.irenemawby.co.uk](http://www.irenemawby.co.uk)

# AED Defibrillator for Little Marcle at Brook Farm Court

Residents of Brook Farm Court in Little Marcle, have taken the initiative and have provided and installed an AED defibrillator, for anyone in urgent cardiac need, in the community.

The number of people surviving a cardiac arrest outside of a hospital is 10.8% which is the highest level it's ever been and is twice the rate that it was a decade ago. The use of, and availability of defibrillators around the UK, is to further help increase these statistics.

If you see someone suffering a cardiac arrest, ring 999 and ask for an ambulance. The ambulance service will guide you through

how to perform CPR, and they will also tell you where your nearest defibrillator is and registered. That is here in Brook Farm court, Little Marcle. They will give you the access code to the box.

Follow the guidelines and clear instructions will talk you through what you need to do.

A defibrillator will not harm the person suffering a cardiac arrest and will only give them a shock if and when it is needed.

Hopefully it will not be needed, but this vital equipment is available knowing that by using it, could help save someone's life.

Brook Farm Court Residents.



Sign up to receive alerts from your local policing teams [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)



## Equipment and tool security

Equipment and tool security can be a particular issue for rural businesses and farms. To keep your belongings safe:

- Lock equipment away in a secure building or part of a building when not in use
- Invest in a secure storage toolbox
- Install a burglar alarm on buildings where equipment is kept
- Lock vehicles when left outside and keep the keys in your possession
- Keep expensive items and vehicles out of sight when not in use
- Consider using hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors
- Mark your tools and equipment and register them
- Keep a record of all valuable items
- Consider fitting outside security lights

## Estate and building security

Farmhouses and other rural properties are the same as any other home, so general home security advice still applies. However, because of the remote location, additional security measures may be beneficial

To protect your rural home or business:

- Keep the boundaries of your land and property well-maintained and secure
- Keep all doors and windows shut and locked when not in use
- Install a visible burglar alarm
- Make sure windows and door frames are secure and in good repair
- Fit strong locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings
- Fit good quality window locks

- Consider security bars and grilles for vulnerable windows and openings
- Make sure gates cannot be lifted off or have their fixing bolts removed
- Check security equipment regularly to ensure it works properly
- Use locking posts or temporary obstructions to control wide access points to yards

For additional security you could also:

- Install automatic security lights that come on at dusk and turn off at dawn
- Install CCTV cameras to watch over the most vulnerable areas of the property
- Install a monitored intruder alarm system
- Install an entry control system infrared, intercom or keypad
- Establish a single gated entrance and exit, removing all private access points that are not in use

## Boundaries

Take a good look around your property boundary for any potential places where it could be made more secure.

Consider:

- Planting thorny hedging to act as a natural barrier
- Digging deep ditches to control and deter unwanted vehicle access
- If possible, having a single-gated access point to the property
- Using locking posts or temporary obstructions to control large openings
- Invert and cap gate hinges
- Making sure fixing bolts are secure and use covered padlocks
- Installing warning signs

---

# Blossoming Bursaries

The Big Apple Association is looking to distribute surplus funds raised over the course of 2024, both from October's Harvestime weekend in and around Much Marcle, and from the Blossomtime weekend held in May around Putley and Aylton.

This is additional to funds already raised by local organisations through their participation in these events. As a Community Benefit Society, we can support social or community activity within the seven parishes of Aylton, Little Marcle, Much Marcle, Munsley, Pixley, Putley and Woolhope.

Organisations active in or with those parishes may apply for a grant of up to £250 for a community project, for example funding equipment for a parish hall; an educational or youth project; a project enabling the community to stay connected with their rural heritage, or to protect the local environment.

The application form can be found on-line at: [bigapple.org.uk/big-apple-grant-fund/](http://bigapple.org.uk/big-apple-grant-fund/), and need to be completed and returned by Tuesday 17th December 2024. Funds will be limited and it may not be possible to support every application. Successful applicants will receive their award by 31st December.

Jackie Denman,  
Secretary, Big Apple Association Ltd.



## Putley WI - A warm welcome awaits

If you are looking for fun, friendship and inspiration, join Putley WI! We meet at Putley Parish Hall at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month. If you need more information just contact Ginny.

Text **07854 160073** or email [ginnymccoy@682@btinternet.com](mailto:ginnymccoy@682@btinternet.com)



# HOME START

For parents when they need us the most

## Herefordshire

### Thinking of volunteering?

Make a difference to the lives of parents and children by helping to support a family with practical, emotional and confidential support for 2/3 hours per week.

Free training will be provided along with ongoing mentoring support.

Telephone: **01432 371212**

Email: [homestartherefordshire@gmail.com](mailto:homestartherefordshire@gmail.com)

[www.home-starttherefordshire.co.uk](http://www.home-starttherefordshire.co.uk)

Reg. Charity No: 1113432

## CHARLES MAIDEN

EST 1988  
Waste Disposal Ltd



Routine & Emergency emptying of  
Domestic & Commercial:-

- SEPTIC TANKS
- TREATMENT PLANTS
- ALL SEWAGE SYSTEMS
- BLOCKAGE CLEARANCE
- GREASE TRAPS

Throughout Herefordshire, Shropshire & Worcestershire.

Call us now for your free quote.

# 01885 482305

[info@charlesmaidenbromyard.co.uk](mailto:info@charlesmaidenbromyard.co.uk)

[www.charlesmaidenbromyard.co.uk](http://www.charlesmaidenbromyard.co.uk)

**ANDREW JELLEY OPTICIANS**  
[www.andrewjelleyopticians.co.uk](http://www.andrewjelleyopticians.co.uk)

# YOUR LOCAL OPTICIAN

34-36 High Street, Bromyard, Herefordshire

# 01885 488259



Caring for and supporting people in the comfort of their own home. Since 1993.

Kemble at Home is a multiple award-winning, local, family company.

We have been providing **OUTSTANDING** care for people in Herefordshire for 29 years. If you would like more information about how we can support you, please contact the team

[www.kembleathome.co.uk](http://www.kembleathome.co.uk)

01432 352 443 | [enquiries@kembleathome.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kembleathome.co.uk)

Sigeric Business Park | Holme Lacy Road | Hereford HR2 6BQ

# TOLLEYHOME SERVICES

based in Priors Frome, Herefordshire



**CHIMNEY SWEEPING & MAINTENANCE**



**WOOD BURNERS INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE**



**WINDOW FITTING & MAINTENANCE**



**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

**NEW Service - Patio, Decking & Driveway Jet Cleaning**

Call Stu on **07867 675939**

Email [info@tolleyhomeservices.co.uk](mailto:info@tolleyhomeservices.co.uk)

Website [tolleyhomeservices.co.uk](http://tolleyhomeservices.co.uk)



### New GP

We are delighted to share the news that we have new GP who starting working here on the 1st October. His name is Dr Tolu Kazeem and he works on Tuesdays and Fridays.

### Diabetes Group Clinics

Group Clinics for Diabetic patients: We have started to offer an exciting and innovative way of managing some of our diabetic patients. Group clinics provide the opportunity for patients to spend more time with the surgery team for their review and obtain answers to their questions alongside others living with similar health issues. People find having more time for questions and the chance to learn from other people's experiences and share their own mean they learn more, feel supported, cope better and gain confidence to better manage their health.

We plan to start offering group clinics for other patient groups too; watch this space!

### Vaccination Campaigns

We are offering RSV, Shingles and Pneumococcal vaccines to all eligible patients. If in doubt, please ask our Reception team but please note that they may need to consult with a member of the clinical team before being able to book you an appointment.

### Flu jabs

- You still have not had your Flu jab, please contact us to book one. The following groups are eligible for a flu vaccine:
- Patients aged 65+
- Those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- Pregnant women
- All children aged 2 or 3 years on 31/8/24
- Children aged 6 months to 17 years with certain underlying health conditions

- Carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- Front-line workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme

### Covid jabs

We have a final clinic planned for the 4th December. If you are eligible for the jabs and have not yet had it, please contact us to book an appointment. NB eligibility is not as wide as that for flu jab.

### Ledbury Health Partnership Patient Participation Group (LHPPPG)

We have an excellent nucleus of people with whom to move forwards, but further volunteers are very welcome. If interested please contact : Ledburyhealthpartnership.ppg@nhs.net.

The PPG intends to explore patient feedback, and work with LHP for the benefit of patients, sharing, discussing and implementing suggestions. It will also seek to improve patient awareness of the various routes of access to primary healthcare, including the means of delivery.

It is intended that the PPG will gain a better understanding of the new Integrated Care System, which spans Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and share this information, for the benefit of patients.

The PPG regular meetings, including those with LHP, will be minuted, and the outcomes shared in the form of patient newsletters (electronic and hard copies), and posted on the LHP website.

Notice of meetings will be advertised well in advance, so that all LHP patients who are interested have the opportunity to attend.

### Patient Portal Goes Live at Wye Valley Trust

The new patient portal, 'My Health and Wellbeing', is now live at Wye Valley Trust.

This means that any patients registered with a GP practice in Herefordshire and who has a forthcoming appointment at Wye Valley Trust, will be able to see details of their outpatient appointments and clinical letters in the portal, once they create a portal account using their NHS Login credentials.

As the new patient portal is integrated with the NHS App, patients will also be able to see their Wye Valley Trust outpatient appointments in the NHS App too.

Patients with a forthcoming appointment at Wye Valley Trust are being sent a patient leaflet in their appointment letter, inviting them to join the 'My Health and Wellbeing' portal to view their outpatient appointments and clinic letters digitally, instead of receiving them in the post. The leaflet contains the link for patients to access the patient portal, as well as a QR code.

Once patients have created a 'My Health and Wellbeing' portal account, besides viewing appointment details and outpatient clinic letters from Wye Valley Trust, they can also use several health trackers and find resources to support their care, including access to a health video library with over 1,000 patient information videos.

### Planning for the Christmas period

To avoid running out of medication we would like to remind all of our patients to remember to order their prescriptions by the 16th December if your medication is due in the week beginning 20th December, and by the 23rd December for medication due at the beginning of January.

Our opening hours remain the same over the Christmas period; we are open Monday to Friday from 08.00 – 18.30. We are not open on Bank Holidays.

### If you require medical help outside of these hours, please call 111.

For Minor Injuries, please call the Minor Injuries Unit in Market Street. Their telephone number is 01531 632488 Option 4. Please call before attending; their opening hours are 07.45 – 18.30. Please note that they do not have an x-ray machine so if you suspect that you might have a fracture, please attend A&E.

We would like to wish all of our patients a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

# Pharmacy First!

The Government and the NHS have backed pharmacists to provide a new NHS 'Pharmacy First' service to give people more choice about their healthcare.

Open when other health care professionals are unavailable, pharmacies are helpful for all people living in the towns and more rural parts of Herefordshire.

The NHS Pharmacy First service allows pharmacists to provide advice and where appropriate, supply NHS medicines for the following conditions:

- Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)

- Shingles (aged 18 years and over)
- Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)

If you have symptoms that suggest you may have one of these conditions, you can walk into a pharmacy and be offered a consultation with a pharmacist in a private consultation room.

If you have symptoms that suggest you have one of the above conditions, why not give the Pharmacy First service a try?

[www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/prescriptions-and-pharmacies/](http://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/prescriptions-and-pharmacies/)



DECEMBER 2024

Little Verzons Farm  
**THE NEST**



The Artisan Food and Lifestyle Destination  
Beautiful Walks, Cozy Cafe, Farmshop, Gifts and Much More!



Little Verzons Farm, Hereford Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2PZ

01531 670816  
email:hello@littleverzonsfarm.co.uk  
web:littleverzonsfarm.co.uk

# TRUMPET GARAGE

• ESTD 1955 •

Your 'FULL SERVICE' friendly local Garage

- MOT Testing
- Servicing
- Mechanical Repairs
- A/C Re-Gas and Repairs
- Auto Gearbox Flushing
- 4 x Wheel Laser Tracking
- Tyres, Batteries & Exhausts
- Hybrid/Ev Vehicle Servicing
- Engine Diagnostics
- Trailer Servicing

**Call us now on: 01531 670278**

TRUMPET • LEDBURY • HEREFORDSHIRE • HR8 2RA



HEREFORDSHIRE  
**HOME AND GARDEN**  
CARE AND REPAIR

For a reliable and honest approach to all your property, landscaping and maintenance needs.

Small building works • Fences erected • Patios designed and laid  
Local references available • For a complete list of services please visit

[www.herefordshirehomeandgarden.co.uk](http://www.herefordshirehomeandgarden.co.uk)

Greg Mowbray  
07808 257247 • 01531 670581

# PUTLEY PARISH HALL

by Josephine Felton



## A.G.M. 12 Sept 2024 Chairman's Report 2024

Another busy year for the Parish Hall. Thanks to donations from amongst others, the Prancing Pony and the Putley Open Gardens we have managed to replace the bar floor making the bar area look a lot fresher and also making the floor surface smooth.

We have embraced the digital age by having our own website with an online booking form and also events calendar that has made the availability of the hall more visible and easier to manage the bookings. Thanks to David Hewitt for his assistance in getting this up and running.

The many regular events, for example the twice monthly coffee mornings and the Prancing Pony are well attended. All making good use of the facilities. Bookings are on the increase and I hope this continues.

My thanks to those who assisted on the maintenance day on the 15th April. We got most of the jobs done on the list and the hall looks a lot better as a result.

As always my thanks to all members of the committee, without their hard work in the background we would not have such a

fantastic asset in the village. Their work goes largely unnoticed but keeping the hall in such good condition takes a lot of time and effort.

Please book the hall for events and functions, it is a community asset for all to enjoy. The more we use it, the more the committee is able to do to continue to improve it.

**Post Office** – there is now a once weekly mobile outreach service on Wednesdays, 9.00. to 10.15. a.m. This also sells stationery, cards, calendars, computer paper etc.

**Stay and Play** - This is held every Thursday morning 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. for young children accompanied by a parent.

**Bookings** These are easily made using the hall website: [putleyparishhall.co.uk](http://putleyparishhall.co.uk)

Just click on this site and then go to "Events". Here you will see the hall calendar, whereby you can check if the date you would like is free. Then click on "Hire Request" and fill in the form. The Secretary will acknowledge this and you will receive an invoice from the Treasurer, which should be paid in advance please.

Queries to [jakeherbst@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jakeherbst@yahoo.co.uk) or [secretary@putleyparishhall.co.uk](mailto:secretary@putleyparishhall.co.uk)  
01531 670425

*The Trustees wish you all a Happy Christmas  
and look forward to seeing you in Putley Parish Hall in 2025.*



### September Results:

First prize no 58 Second prize no 2

### October Results:

First prize no 11 Second prize no 30

### November Results:

First prize no 6 Second prize no 11

# AYLTON NEWS



Sally & Charlie would like to thank all those who made their recent wedding anniversary celebration such a joyous community event.

## Charity Roadside Stall

Thank you for all those who have donated & purchased fruit and vegetables. So far over £500 has been raised for the Herefordshire Samaritans. Another interesting year for fruit & veg. Selina's plums were few and far between and some of the pear trees had no fruit whilst others did really well. The bramleys have been amazing and look as if they will continue a bit longer than last year. Again we hope to be able to offer mistletoe & holly for the coming festive season. If you have more than enough and would like to donate to the stall please drop it off or give us a ring.

## Herefordshire Gift Fair

By the time this is printed the annual Fair will be over. All monies raised will be split between Aylton Church and the Herefordshire Samaritans.

## Coffee Morning Dec 9th

Aylton & Putley Common are joining forces for our Christmas coffee morning. Join us for Mince pies and other Christmas treats, 10am til 12 at the Parish Hall. Usual prices £1 for coffee/tea & £1 for cake. All welcome!

Please note there will NOT be a coffee morning on Dec 23rd. Be back to normal in 2025. 2nd & 4th Mondays.

## Christmas

Our Annual Carol Service takes place at Aylton Church at 5pm on December 15th. After the service we are invited to Court Farm Barn (next to the church) for refreshments.

We are looking forward to Community Carol Singing in Aylton on Wednesday 18th December at 6pm. For more information see Normans guide to Carol Singing this Christmas in this issue!

There will be an 11am Family Communion service at Aylton on Christmas day.

Please join us on these festive occasions..... All are welcome!

# PUTLEY

PARISH COUNCIL

## WANTED!

### LOOKING FOR Parish Councillors

Would you like to become a parish councillor?

Are you interested in parish matters and would like to find out more?

Would you like to be part of decision making, commenting on local planning applications, highways, footpaths, country issues and community projects and generally making Putley a better place to live?

Why don't you make a difference?

Become a Parish Councillor and have a say in where you live

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the clerk for more information

Janet Chester email: [putleyclerk@gmail.com](mailto:putleyclerk@gmail.com)

Tel: 01531 670036

[putleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://putleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## 'All is Calm, All Is Bright'...

So, speaks  
the second line  
of a familiar

Christmas Carol written in Austria over 200 years ago entitled 'Stille Nacht', and since translated into hundreds of languages.

'Silent Night' is regularly voted in polls as being one of our Nation's most popular Christmas carols – and is the world's most recorded Christmas song. The humble beginnings of its lyrics, created by a young Priest Joseph Mohr, looking out over the peaceful scene of his parish in 1816, were set to music by Franz Xavier Gruber, for their Church's Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve in 1818. Legend has it, that mice had eaten vital parts of their church organ, and that a Carol with a tune simple enough to be played on a guitar, was needed at short notice for the service.

Perhaps it is the vision it conveys through both its words and music, of a stillness, an ethereal 'other worldliness,' of a peace beyond our knowing, that has ensured its enduring popularity for two centuries around the world. Written in the period after the Napoleonic Wars, its sense of awe and yearning is as relevant today when the tragedy of war continues to be waged across the world's continents in Europe, the Middle East and far beyond. The Carol recalls with such simplicity and reverence the ordinary people and events of an extraordinary night 2000 years ago when Jesus, was born into the world

as Emmanuel – 'God is with us.' It celebrates the moment when heaven and earth were brought into harmony through the birth of a child, and the promise of his future. Serenity and radiance emanate from that vision in the words of the Carol, which calls us all to pause, to reflect, and to be filled anew with that sense of awe and wonder at the miracle of a holy birth. It is not only the inspiration for the Christmas celebrations and the Carols we sing, but for Christians too the daily aspiration for love and hope to be enacted in our everyday lives.

The Church's meditations for the 12 days from Christmas to Epiphany in 2024 encourage us to reflect for just a few minutes each day on the place of stillness, to rediscover the source of 'Joy' and 'Rest' in the rhythms of our daily lives, and to seek out those moments of the restorative vision of 'Calm' and 'Bright.' To receive the Christmas meditations in your inbox daily, sign up now via 'Follow the Star Calm and Bright' OR download the 'Church of England Everyday Faith' app, where both Advent and Christmas reflections will be available from December 1st.

This year as ever, ALL are welcome to gather in the Cider Churches communities to sing seasonal Carols (see back page for dates/times of all the Carol Services), and hear again from the accounts of the circumstances and events of Jesus' birth. I pray that we may ALL take time to pause, to hear it afresh, and be re-filled with a sense of wonder, that 'Light' and 'Love' call each of us to that place of stillness in the heart of God.

Best wishes *Val*

Rev. Val Tait - email: [valtait@live.co.uk](mailto:valtait@live.co.uk) Tel: 01531 634035

## AYLTON

Church Selina Marcon - marconselina@gmail.com 01531 670900  
 Parish Council Allen Mawby - allenandirene@hotmail.com 01531 670185

## LITTLE MARCLE

Church Jim Glanville - jimglanville@btinternet.com 07800 714011  
 Parish Council clerk@pixleyanddistrictpc.org.uk 01684 311309

## MUNSLEY

Church Rev 'd Linde Melhuish - l.i.melhuish@gmail.com 07967 690412  
 Parish Council clerk@pixleyanddistrictpc.org.uk 01684 311309

## PIXLEY

Church Beata Davison - beata.davison@googlemail.com 07989 108237  
 Parish Council Steve Swaithe - steveswaithe@hotmail.com 01531 670433

## PUTLEY

Church Eric Porter - ejpejpej@aol.com 07527 444949  
 Parish Council Janet Chester - clerk@putleyparishcouncil.gov.uk 01531 670036

## Vicar

Val Tait - valtait@live.co.uk 01531 634035

## WI

Ginny McCoy - ginnymccoy682@btinternet.com 07854 160073

## Prancing Pony

Andy Booth - putleyprancingpony@gmail.com 07535 713365

## Parish Hall

Josephine Felton - secretary@putleyparishhall.co.uk 01531 670425

## Wildlife Group

Kate Wollen - ayltonwollen@gmail.com 01531 670834

## Tree Warden

Sally Webster - sally@sallywebster.net 07836 389369

## Hedgehog Rescue and Advice

01531 670837

## Cider Press

Editorial Julie Crompton - julie@monster-creative.com 07767 471097

Aylton Sally Smart - sallysmart1000@gmail.com 07468 793405

Little Marcle Jim Glanville - jimglanville@btinternet.com 07800 714011

Munsley David Murdoch - david@dunmurdie.plus.com 07518 921300

Pixley Lesley Clothier - lesley.clothier@yahoo.co.uk 07957 435276

# CONTACTS

# Parting shot

The WI Garden Group enjoying a visit to The Picton Garden, Colwall



*If you have a great photo that could grace the front cover or be our 'parting shot', send it to our Editor, at [julie@monster-creative.com](mailto:julie@monster-creative.com)*

POST OFFICE

**NEW - Mobile P.O.**

*at Putley Parish Hall*

Wednesdays from 9.30 - 11.30am



# CHURCH SERVICES

	Aylton	Little Marcle	Much Marcle	Munsley	Putley	Wellington Heath	Yatton
1st Dec	11.00am				6.30pm	9.30am	9.30am
8th Dec		11.00am	9.30am	3.00pm Advent Carols	11.00am	9.30am	
14th Dec	PIXLEY - 4.00pm Carol Service						
15th Dec	5.00pm Carol Service	3.30pm 7 Lessons & Carols	4.30pm Christingle		11.00am Putley Parish Hall	9.30am Carol Service	
22nd Dec			4.30pm Carols, Candles & Cider	9.30am	4.00pm Carol Service	9.30am	
24th Dec					3.30pm Crib Service	9.00pm Midnight in Bethlehem Mass	6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
25th Dec	11.00am Christmas Communion	11.00am Christmas Communion	9.30am Christmas Communion	9.30am Christmas Communion	10.00am Christmas Communion	9.30am Christmas Communion	
29th Dec				10.30am		10.30am Desert Island Carols	
5th Jan	11.00am					9.30am	9.30am
12th Jan		11.00am	9.30am	9.30am	11.00am	9.30am	
19th Jan	11.00am		9.30am		11.00am Putley Parish Hall	9.30am	
26th Jan	PIXLEY - 4.00pm Christingle Service		9.30am	9.30am	11.00am	9.30am	
2nd Feb	11.00am				6.00pm	9.30am	9.30am
9th Feb		11.00am	9.30am	9.30am	11.00am	9.30am	
16th Feb	11.00am		9.30am		11.00am Putley Parish Hall	9.30am	
23rd Feb			9.30am	9.30am	11.00am	9.30am	

## CHURCHWARDEN CONTACT DETAILS

**Aylton** - Anne Blandford: 01531 670274  
Selina Marcon: 01531 670900

**Little Marcle** - Jim Glanville: 01531 670125

**Much Marcle** - Richard Brooks: 01531 660241  
John Chapman: 01531 660664

**Munsley** - Mike Robinson: 01531 670356  
Linda Warner: 01531 632344

**Pixley** - Anna Ralph: 07980 680809

**Putley** - Elaine Spalding: 01531 670554

**Wellington Heath** - Derek Barnes: 01531 248472  
Amanda Wright: 01531 633325

**Yatton** - John Reed: 01989 780439  
Chris Oulton: 07582 807361

Thinking of A wedding? A Christening?  
Celebration of a loved one's life? A chat?

Please get in touch Rev'd Val Tait Rector 01531 634035 / Email [valtait@live.co.uk](mailto:valtait@live.co.uk)

Designed by [Monster-Creative.com](http://Monster-Creative.com) Edited by Julie Crompton