

# **The Black Mountains Group Benefice**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**July 2020**

**Late addition: There will be a service on Sunday July 5th at 11.00am in Craswall Churchyard. Please bring your own chair and a picnic, if you like!**



**Extending a huge thank you to all the public service workers who keep the utilities running and the bins emptied, as well as all the carers and NHS staff.**

**And a continued local thank you to Hopes of Longtown.**

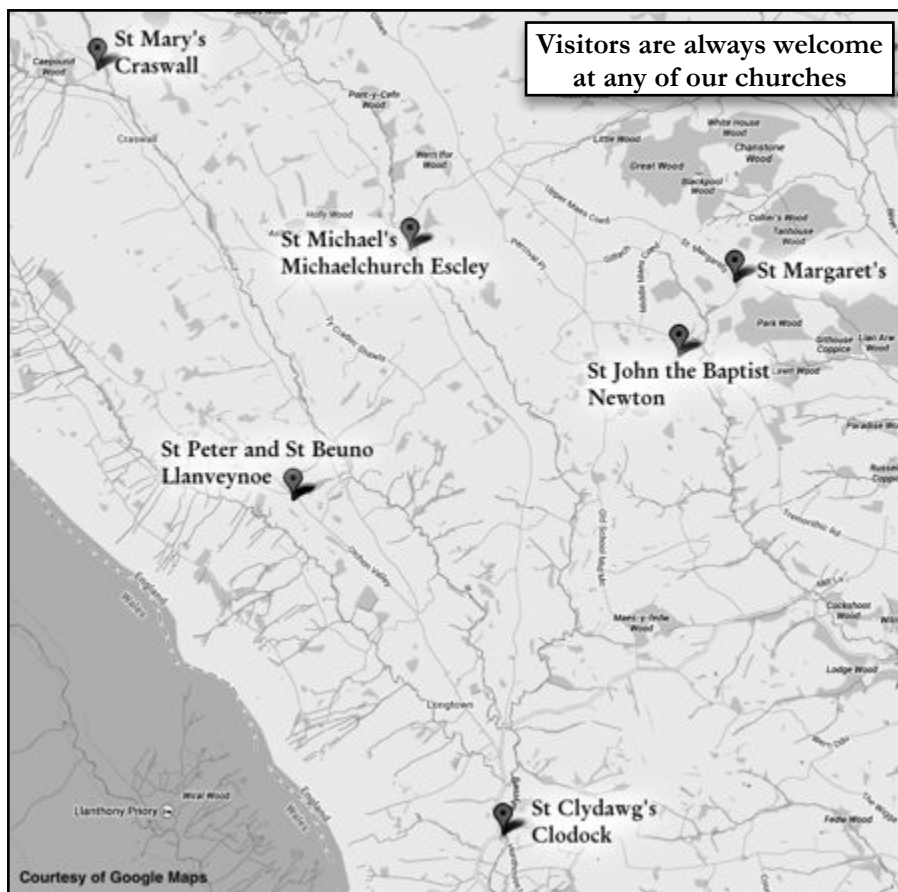
The Parishes of Clodock & Longtown with Craswall, Llanveyhoe,  
St Margaret's, Michaelchurch Escley & Newton

Vicar and Rural Dean:

The Revd. Prebendary Nicholas Lowton  
Forest Mill, Craswall, Herefordshire HR2 0PW  
01981 510675      lowton.nicholas@virgin.net

Min  
**50p**  
donation

**[www.bmgparishes.org.uk](http://www.bmgparishes.org.uk)**



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Mr Ken Watkins 01981 510213

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Mr Donald Phillips 01873 860298

Commodore Peter Tribe 01873 860260

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(Vacant)

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## From the Vicar

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### TO WHOM WOULD YOU PUT UP A STATUE?

Statues have been very much in the news of late, and a great deal of stuff – some helpful, some balderdash – has been written and spoken on the subject.

One remark I found especially disturbing came from the Prime Minister who said that taking down statues was ‘an attempt to rewrite history’, as if ‘the History’ is now to join ‘the Science’ as some great transcendental deity to be followed without question.

The truth is that both History and Science change, and they change as people’s views – the way in which they see the world – change. When the understanding of scientific observation changes, then science changes with it, and when our understanding of the past changes, then history changes with it. To quote a comparatively trivial example, Edward VII was regarded as a somewhat wayward king, unfit for office – as his mother thought – but recent biographies (can I recommend the one by Jane Ridley?) have shown him to be an inspirational king who revolutionised the monarchy and enhanced the standing of his country worldwide.

Our understanding of the past changes not just by how much more we can know about it, or even just by the way our distance from past events gives them a sharper perspective, but also by the way our values change, and what was regarded as pre-eminently admirable in the past might possibly be regarded as just a tad embarrassing now.

What function do statues perform? They allow people of a particular generation – or rather rulers in a particular generation – to honour those who they feel deserve respect. And that is fine. And some of the people so honoured will doubtless pass the test of time. But not all of them will, and there will inevitably be statues around of people – usually men – who represent values which are now rejected or people of whom frankly most of us have not heard.

I find two related things worrying in the current debate: first the idea that anyone honoured in the past has got to be honoured now, no matter what that person represents, and secondly the apparent paucity of people of our own time whom we want to honour now. Both those factors are related, in that they both are indicators of a country with an alarming lack of self-confidence, a country clinging to any reminders they might have of a past of which our collective knowledge is at best hazy while unwilling to recognise the gifts, talents and achievements of people of our own time.

In Ancient Rome, one of the first acts of a new emperor would be to melt down any statues of his predecessors in order to make coins out of them. I suppose the closest we get to that is when someone falls out of favour or the limelight, and his or her model in Madame Tussauds is melted down in favour of someone more ephemerally popular.

Of course, our churches used to be full of statues. There would be memorials, images of saints, all sorts of things, but every church would have three specific images. On top of the screen in front of the choir there would be the crucified Christ with Mary his mother and John the Evangelist on either side. All these statues were destroyed during the Reformation, with any lingering ones dealt with by that iconoclast Oliver

Cromwell, whose own statue stands with devastating irony in Parliament Square, a visible reminder to any passing Irishman or woman of the man personally responsible for the deaths of so many of their forebears.

The sad fact is that, were anyone to suggest the introductions of statues of saints, or even of Christ, into our churches now, that could well provoke the cry of ‘Popery’. There is an extraordinary strand of anti-Roman Catholicism in this country: the monarch may be an affiliate of any denomination within Christianity apart from the largest one world-wide. And this leaves us with the bizarre situation that people might object to there being a statue of Christ in a church but also object to the removal of a public statue of someone who may well have helped the economy in Victorian times, but who did so thanks to his use of slaves.

It would be good if, during this period of enforced time for pondering we were to ponder on such questions as:

Who from history or from now best represents what I value most?

Who from history or from now represents the message I try to hear?

Who from history or from now do I recognise as the one I try to follow?

If I need statues of anyone else, would I rather they were of those who try or tried to follow the same person? If not, why not?

*Nicholas*

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### KEEPING IN TOUCH

There are many ways in which we are trying to keep everyone in touch at the moment, but, as with everything I am sure we could be doing more.

On a deanery level, Anne Lloyd, our Deanery Mission Coordinator, is sending out regular emails about things in the deanery: if you are not on her receiving list, do drop her an email at [abbeydoredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredmc@gmail.com). As not everyone is on email, she is also posting hard copies out: if you would like to be on that receiving list, do give her a ring on 07432 873422.

The Abbeydore Deanery Facebook page is a veritable treasure chest of resources. At the time of writing, there are 220 members of the group, some of whom have joined Facebook simply to be members. It is the easiest thing in the world to join them!

I am emailing out weekly letters to people in the benefice with news and views for them. If you are not on the receiving end and would like to be, drop me a line at [lowton.nicholas@virgin.net](mailto:lowton.nicholas@virgin.net). If you are not on email and would like copies, do please phone Anne Lloyd – number above – and she will make sure that happens.

I am trying to phone as many people as possible each week, but finding slots has been problematic. If you would like to be added to my list, give me a ring on 01981 510675. We have within the benefice trained Pastoral Visitors: if you would like regular contact with one of them, please let me know.

A group of us is meeting on line every Wednesday evening for the wonderful and peaceful service of Compline. If you would like to join us, do please drop me an email.

And we keep together quietly. I have suggested that we set aside 8.00pm on a Tuesday for quiet prayer, and it is immensely powerful, believe me, to know that people are praying together, even when you can't see them. If there is ever anyone or anything that you would like prayed for at that time, do please let me know

*Nicholas*

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#### ANOTHER PERSONAL NOTE

Thank you to all of you who have been in touch to congratulate me on my bizarre appointment as a Prebendary. I was collated by the bishop in his garden in the shadow of the Cathedral on Wednesday June 9th. There is a video of the occasion on the Abbeydore Deanery YouTube channel kindly put together by Geoff Holder, but it comes with two warnings:

1. My new cassock had not arrived, so I was loaned one by someone with an exalted idea of my stature.
2. You will hear two different pronunciations of my surname, one from me and one from the bishop: I am the one who got it right.

In the fullness of time, I will be installed in the Cathedral as Prebend de Putson Minore (no point being bizarre unless you are going to be completely bizarre). That will be at a public service which the desperate would be more than welcome to attend: I hope that my cassock will have arrived by then!

*Nicholas*

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### Deanery Events

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#### UPDATE

Many people are finding the variety of different services streamed on the Abbeydore Deanery YouTube Channel to be of value during this time. There is a service every Sunday at 10am.

After each service there is an opportunity to meet together via Zoom for a chat about the service. This starts at about 10.40am and lasts no longer than hour but, just like coffee time after church, you can stay for as long as you wish. There's also an opportunity to have "tea with the Vicar" although you'll have to bring your own, each Friday at 4pm. Do get in touch if you'd like to join either of these events. The YouTube channel is also hosting a selection of other opportunities for prayer and contemplation. This varies on a weekly basis and to get regular information on these and the other things that the deanery is doing during this time do either join our Facebook Group Abbeydore Deanery or join the mailing list for our weekly update by emailing [abbeydoredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredmc@gmail.com).

We continue to send a bi-weekly mailing to those without internet access; if you're not already receiving this do ring 07432 873422.

One of the themes explored in our services this month has been generosity, and we continue to witness this across the Deanery. The response to the request for food bank donations has been overwhelming and the generosity of time and spirit by individuals is remarkable. Almost £1800 was donated to Hereford Food Bank following a two week bring and buy sale in aid of the food bank initiated by Heather Gorrington at Wiggly Wiggles & Great British Florist with contributions from Chilli Man, Ian Prior and a number of others who generously donated plants and a host of other items.

We are also grateful to those who continue to donate towards the work of our churches via the Parish Giving Scheme. This is allowing overheads to be met whilst churches are closed. If you'd like to make a contribution in this way you can contact Parish Giving directly on 0333 002 1271 or speak to the treasurer of your local church.

In June, we were joined by Maggie Tate-Druiff who is an ordinand (trainee vicar) currently studying at Trinity College, Bristol. She was able to tell us about her work as part of a team establishing a new city farm to serve the local community and start a brand-new church community based around gardening, sustainability and stewardship of God's creation. It's always good to hear about new initiatives and think about how they might work in our area. Do get in touch if this period of lockdown has brought you inspiration about ideas we might pursue to encourage more people to realise their God-given gifts and skills.

The government guidance changes rapidly regarding what can be permitted and so inevitably between writing and printing things will have moved on! We'll communicate changes via our updates on facebook and by email. As ever, if there's something you want to know, do please just ring up and ask!

*Anne Lloyd, [abbeydoredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredmc@gmail.com)*

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### Thanks

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We in Longtown and surrounding areas would like to thank **Caroline Gwillim** for bringing bunches of flowers to Longtown Shop – no charge made. A lovely gift to cheer and put a smile on our faces in this difficult time.

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### Forthcoming Events

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#### THE GARDEN OF THE WIND AT MIDDLE HUNT HOUSE, WALTERSTONE

We are allowed to open for the National Garden Scheme on **Saturday 27 June and Sunday 28 June**.

To maintain social distancing this has to be by timed slots of one hour, with a gap between slots to allow for cars to arrive and leave between **11am and 5.30pm** on both days. There will also be a longer slot over lunch time from **12.15 to 1.45** to allow visitors to picnic in the grounds. There will be no refreshments served but you can bring your own.

Bookings have to be made on line at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) and bookings are open one week in advance. There will be plants for sale with proceeds to the Llanthony and District Garden Club.

I do hope you can see the fruits of our lockdown labours.

*Rupert and Antoinette Otten*

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### Local Newsround

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#### CRASWALL YOUNG FARMERS

Craswall Young Farmers Club is situated on the Welsh-Herefordshire Border. Being a club that heavily revolves around hedge laying it was only right for us to apply for the Black Mountains Land Use Partnership's (BMLUP) stipend funding when it opened in June 2019. The funding is designed to bolster the resilience of rural skills and crafts in the Black Mountains. I, as one of the club's keen members and hedge layers, took the lead in applying, detailing how the stipend would benefit the young farmers in the club, through training

and support to purchase kit, and, in turn, the wider Black Mountains' grazing community and the future of this rural craft. Not only were we successful, we were awarded a total of £16,000 -£6,000 more than we hoped for – in recognition of the wider benefits a hedge laying training programme like ours would have in future-proofing traditional rural crafts.

With the funding, the club purchased new chainsaws, safety kit and essential hedge laying tools for its eleven members. We are keen hedge layers of the Breconshire stake and pleach (Welsh border) style. Members who did not already have their chainsaw certificates were now able to complete, and did so in October last year – all passing with flying colours under the training from Ceri at MWMAC. The Club is also lucky to have three keen past members, Mark Pritchard, Neville Powell (Chair of the Black Mountains Graziers' Association) and Brian Price, who are well skilled in the art of hedge laying and champion hedgers in their style. They very kindly gave up every Sunday throughout January to help train our members and support our stipend training giving us more practical knowledge. In the Welsh-Herefordshire border, traditionally, hedge rows are made up of hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn and holly. These hedges are well suited to the Breconshire Style of Hedge-laying. This style sees that the stake is sloped with the pleachers and bows laid in a slope forming a 90-degree angle in the centre where they cross. It is then tied down with hetherings which are often hazel. Being able to create natural habitats for birds and other wildlife is just one of the many benefits of hedge laying, a skill that has been passed down through generations. It is of vital importance that hedge laying and other traditional rural skills are promoted to the younger generations who will be able to carry them on and go on to teach the hedge layers of the future!

Competing in many YFC competitions throughout the year, the County YFC Hedge laying match is always the one that Craswall excels in! The last Sunday in January saw the Herefordshire YFC annual hedging match, which for the 10th consecutive year, Craswall came out as overall winners of the day. We took first place in each of the four classes and we had the largest number of competitors with all eleven members participating. The training and experience gained will not allow us to compete in more hedging matches across the Black Mountains, but it has created more confident young hedge layers who can now safely and competently lay hedges and have become part of the movement to keep this traditional rural craft alive. The hedge laying activities, and the YFC movement in general, has helped the mental health and wellbeing of our members as well. In what can often be an isolating and lonely environment for younger people, being able to get out from our farms and meet with friends helps to create a better mentality, grows confidence and allows people to talk about issues that are affecting them whilst also carrying on years-old traditions. Craswall YFC are incredibly grateful to the BMLUP for giving them the chance to extend their work with hedge laying and are proud to be a part of preserving this beautiful rural skill and craft in the Black Mountains and beyond and for many years to come!

The Black Mountains Land Use Partnership is currently delivering a £1m Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS) project. This project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development

Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

*Emily Pritchard*

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### **VITAL SPARK – SAD NEWS**

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of John Williams from Malvern, leader of Vital Spark. John was unable to be with us at last year's concert due to illness and sadly he did not recover.

He and his West Gallery Singers have for many years delighted audiences at Clodock Church each Christmas and occasionally in the summer with their old English carols and folk songs. Vital Spark look forward each year to their Clodock visit. It provides them with a genuine west gallery to sing in, enhanced by the realism of candlelight and with the added attraction of mulled wine and mince pies.

John sang and played with groups other than Vital Spark – 'Set 'Um Up Joe' and 'Hodges Dump' will miss him. He was a striking figure when playing the violin, singing and also conducting with the bow, whilst always wearing his signature cap. The Upton-upon-Severn folk festival will never be quite the same without him.

*Bob Burson*

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### **MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Gradually our little school is starting to feel a bit more like its old self. After welcoming back the initial groups of children, we've also offered spaces for some further children from other year groups across the school and preschool, as we felt that we had the capacity to accommodate them whilst still keeping everyone safe. It has been wonderful having some children back in school and seeing their bright smiles return. In addition, we are also pleased to welcome a few new faces in school too!

At Michaelchurch we are really fortunate to have a site which allows us to spread out and make use of our extensive outdoor space. Also, our children are a hardy bunch and not at all put off by heading outdoors in less pleasant weather as they are all equipped with suitable rain gear and wellies. We are also very grateful for the support of the Escleyside Hall Committee who have allowed us sole use of the hall during this crisis, which means we have plenty of indoors space too.

It is obviously an unsettling time for everyone, especially children, and the return to school has undoubtedly been a cause for anxiety amongst some of our community. It is important that these last few weeks of the academic year focus primarily on the mental wellbeing of the children and we are ensuring that those back in school will not only maintain their academic studies, undertaken outside whenever possible, but will also engage in a wide range of creative activities which again, will mostly take place in the outdoor environment.

So whilst school life is not back to pre-Covid 'normal', there is a new 'normal' up at Michaelchurch in that we will continue to provide a loving and nurturing learning environment for children to thrive in. Our aim for September is to be back up and running with the whole school and preschool able to attend again. If you are interested in joining us (either in school or preschool) in September, please do get in touch on [admin@michaelchurch-escley.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@michaelchurch-escley.hereford.sch.uk) and we can be in contact. We hope that everyone is staying safe and well and we keep our fingers crossed the good weather will continue!

*Louise Crocker Headteacher*

## Concerts for Craswall



Sadly, but somewhat inevitably in the current circumstances, the officers and trustees of Concerts for Craswall have decided to postpone the remaining concerts planned for 2020.

Whilst it has been hugely disappointing to have to cancel or postpone concerts, the current lockdown and substantial uncertainty surrounding the future has meant there is no realistic chance that these concerts could go ahead.

Please be assured we are actively seeking to rearrange the planned performances for a date when the current coronavirus crisis has abated, and continue with plans for our 2021 and 2022 seasons.

More information regarding those future plans will be available soon on <https://concertsforcraswall.org> and we will continue to use local parish magazines to inform you all too. If you have already purchased tickets for one or more of our 2020 concerts, you will hear from us in the coming weeks outlining the options available to you.

In the meantime, all Concerts for Craswall officers and trustees offer their very best wishes to you during this challenging and unprecedented time.

*Julie Holmes*  
Coordinator & Members Secretary  
01981 510112 / [info@concertsforcraswall.org](mailto:info@concertsforcraswall.org)

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### BLACK HILL SCRUBS

As the Covid19 pandemic was getting underway in this country, the media was full of reports of the lack of Personal Protective Equipment, PPE, for the NHS and, though not mentioned much at this stage, for care workers. The government it seems, was pretty well unprepared.

Our Scrubs project began after I heard on the Radio 4 Today programme, of a group of women in Hackney, London who, becoming aware of the need among NHS workers for protective garments, had started a project to sew scrubs and gowns. This had caught the imagination of others and groups began to spring up around the country, with the original Hackney group, now entitled 'ScrubHub' acting as enabler. I looked at their website where all the groups were listed and there was nothing in Herefordshire. So I sent out an email to everyone locally who I knew and who might possibly have an interest in this and received a very positive response.

Before long we had a nucleus of three technical experts, who had been involved commercially in sewing businesses; several volunteer amateur machinists; a fund raiser; an IT specialist; three volunteer drivers and myself as coordinator. We were ready to go! We obtained patterns from Hackney, we sourced fabric and other materials, we created a website and a fundraising page on 'Go Fund Me' and we called ourselves Black Hill Scrubs and orders came in.

Our technical experts constructed the patterns from print-outs, cut the fabric and overlocked the curved seams to make the job easier for the machinists. Our drivers fetched and carried fabric from person to person.

We raised a total of £1179.51, some through the internet,

some into a jar on the counter in Hopes of Longtown and some posted through my door, including one contribution accompanied touchingly by a bunch of garden herbs.

Then, thanks to our website, we started getting enquires from volunteer machinists in wider Herefordshire, not local to 'our' villages so I organised another group, this time to sew PPE for the Hospital alongside a larger group who were already involved in this venture. So we had two groups: a local one sewing scrubs and gowns and a 'remote' one sewing PPE, and our trusty drivers covered miles.

However, we did not have enough people to fulfil all of our orders and this was where the magnificent WI stepped in. Through Lydia Bradley, their coordinator in Longtown, the Longtown WI began to sew laundry bags then, because the need was so great, the WI throughout Herefordshire became involved and before long we had enough laundry bags to deliver to the hospital. Then the Longtown Ladies began on scrubs and thanks to them we were able to complete our outstanding orders.

Thanks to the efforts of all the people involved we have delivered:

- 3000 laundry bags to Hereford Hospital
- 30 Gowns to the care home at Dulas Court
- Several sets of scrubs to nurses in Birmingham and Hereford
- 16 scrubs items to our doctors' surgery in Ewyas Harold.
- 150 PPE gowns to Hereford Hospital.

It has been wonderful the way people have volunteered their time to help out in what has been a national emergency and I have been very touched by the spirit of pulling together, the like of which this country has not seen since WW2. It has shown that when the need arises, the women of this country, and the men too, will rise to meet it!

The residue of our funds is being donated to 'Body And Soul', a charity which offers psychological support to exhausted and traumatised NHS workers.

My thanks go to:

Technical Experts:

Stephany Curtis, Jo Rowland, Charchie Lucas-Scudamore

IT Expert: Mark Ewins

Fundraiser Treasurer and Buyer: Rhiannon Taylor

Volunteer Machinists:

Jane Hopcraft (also fabric procurement), Erika Streeter, Carol Anson, Genevieve Matthews, Linda Williams

Volunteer Drivers: Neville Fleet, Bruce Johns, Nina Sears

President of Longtown and District WI, Lydia Bradley and the ladies of Longtown WI; Herefordshire WI under their President Val Lewis

The ladies of the 'remote' sewing group: Beth Sgubor, Julie Bendall, Jenny Bowen, Jan and Bethany Cole, Esther Dobson, Brigitta Holywell, Janet Johns, Linda Harrison, Karen Ricketts, Dani Sangway, Lucy Zammit, Kathleen Carr.

One day we shall have a magnificent party to celebrate!

*Sue Robinson*

## Notices and Advertisements



You may recently have spotted temporary 'Do Not Cut Yet' signs, like this one pictured on some roadside verges in our area.

Our local natural environment is a mosaic of different habitats – fields, hedgerows, woodlands, hillsides, road verges, orchards, gardens, streams. Each one can be managed and maintained in their different ways to increase diversity of plants, flowers, insects, birds, animals and benefit our environment.

In line with a growing national and county-wide trend, the Longtown Group Parish Council has agreed that a couple of stretches of local botanically rich verges need not be cut in the early summer. This is to allow the environmentally beneficial plants to flourish and to enable their flowers to set seed for more future plants. Safety of motorists and pedestrians is a prime concern and so care is taken to ensure that any later-cut verges do not compromise visibility for road users.

When a verge is cut frequently and the mowings are left covering the verge, then the fertile conditions caused by all that 'compost' increase the growth of plants like nettles, brambles, cow-parsley, bracken and long grass. But if cutting is less frequent and done later in the season, and the mowings and clippings are removed, the lush grass and weeds will decrease on the verges and more varied wildflowers will reappear.

Approached in this way, some local verges could become the insect-friendly wildflower gems and 'mini nature reserves' that they used to be in our great-grandparents' day and once again verges could play their part in the landscape mosaic.

(The signs are seasonal – they will be removed when it is safe to cut the verges that they are protecting.) *Paul Russell*

## Round and About

### VOWCHURCH & TURNASTONE MEMORIAL HALL

Vowchurch Hall continues to be closed during current Covid-19 restrictions but may soon re-open in a limited way, depending on government advice. It is hoped that classes will also resume in due course. *Jane Wheatley*

### PETERCHURCH VILLAGE HALL WHAT'S ON?

The hall is closed at the moment due to the Coronavirus outbreak. We hope that once restrictions have been lifted, we will be able to re-open the hall as soon as possible.

We have had to cancel the summer show which was due to be held in July. But we are hoping that next year we can make it bigger and better.

We as a committee hope that everyone stays safe and well and that we can all be together once this is all over.

We are working with the Parish Council and the Hub with the Community helpline and Peterchurch Unlocked.

We would like to invite people in the community to answer the following questions by way of poetry, painting, writing and more.

What have you missed most during lockdown?

What will you remember most about lockdown?

Where/what would you like to go/do when it's all over?

If anyone needs any assistance during this time, please ring the helpline 01981 551143 – they will be happy to help with shopping and collecting prescriptions.

Don't forget that there is a book exchange in the hall which you can access when the hall is open.

Just ring Sarah Murrin on 07774457887 for details.

### GOLDEN VALLEY DAY CENTRE

As you will be aware there has been no club for the past 4 months. Many of our members have been contacted by the committee every couple of weeks and as far as I am aware they are all doing well. Prescriptions are being collected and shopping has been delivered either by the girls from the Community support team or by neighbours. It has shown what a great community this can be and how everyone can pull together when needed.

Maurice Herdman has had a fall and has broken his leg. He is in Ross Community Hospital as I write this but hopefully by the time you read it he should be home.

Please keep staying safe and hopefully soon we will all be able to start seeing family and friends once more.



01873 860 444

<b>Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri:</b>	<b>7.30 am - 5.30 pm</b>
<b>Late night Thurs:</b>	<b>7.30 am - 7.00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>7.30 am - 4.00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday (May - Oct):</b>	<b>10.00 am - 2.00 pm</b>
(Nov - April):	10.00 am - 12 noon
<b>Bank Holiday Mondays</b>	<b>10.00 am - 2.00 pm</b>

### Employment Opportunities

In the next few days we will be advertising for part time roles, for more information please check our details on our website or Shop noticeboard.

### Need something different?

Over the last few months we have had over 1000 new lines to the shop, so please ask us if we can provide something you can't track down elsewhere. Excitingly the Fresh herb Friday is being extended to Basil, Coriander, Fennel, Rosemary & Parsley.

Got your **Truffle card** ready for outdoor summer cooking from #ShopLocal30 supplier Birchwood Forestry treat of Sustainable Local 1kg Charcoal **FREE** when you spend £25 and show your card (Offer excludes tobacco & stamps)

Hopefully you have now caught up on the pile of books by your bed you wanted to read, we are ordering books every week so if you have a book you want to get hold of or want us to order you another copy, just ask.

Our **book of the month** in July is signed by the authors Mrs Noah's Garden *'The flood is over - but while Mr Noah builds a house out of the ark, Mrs Noah creates a garden. Luckily her famous pockets contain seeds and she has some help from the children - and the creatures. Midsummer morning brings some very special surprises!'*

### Normal Service

If you have had a letter or need to self-isolate, if only for two weeks as a friend or family join you in your home. Our same day Personal Shopper service 01873 860444 can be used as often as needed, it is here to stay forever as so many of you like it.

When visiting us,

- Please sanitise your hands on entry and exit to the shop
- Please only three shoppers at any one time
- Please one shopper per household, allowing three households to shop at once

### How to get supplies from us – The Details

When self-isolating, call us **01873 860444** for our same day personal shopper service

1. We will call you back on a different number to keep our telephone line clear
2. We collate your items when you are on the phone, offering alternatives where needed.
3. Scanning it through our mobile till at the same time, then we take payment over the phone by card.
4. If you can drive we will put it in the boot of your car or we will arrange to have it delivered.

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Our refill shed is still operating **Thursday between 3pm and 6.30pm** you can refill as little as 100ml at any one time. Appreciating habits need to change every day we have 5 litres of laundry fragrance free and lavender liquid, fabric fragrance free & lavender conditioner, toilet cleaner, original & pink grapefruit washing up liquid, multi surface sanitizer, all-purpose cleaner, home & garden sanitiser and Fragrance Free handwash. When we have empty branded bottles back or matching sizes we are also trying to prefill popular lines such as washing up liquid to make it all easier.

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- Using your bank card you can pay cash into most personal and business bank accounts
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*Continued...*

Looking at changing your mobile tariff? **Top up your mobile phone** at Longtown Post Office. Plus when the Post Office is not open, you can leave your card and cash with our unique out of hours PO service, we will complete the transaction as soon as possible. Next time you are in the shop you can collect your receipt and change.

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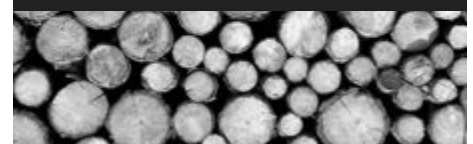
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as meadow/small field topping. Sloping and  
narrow access areas reached using compact  
(Alpine) tractor semi-offset topper and  
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Timber forwarding service also available.  
Felled timber moved using Alpine tractor and  
trailer with crane.

**Call Ben Hill**

**01981 510136 or 07990 638125**



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for all those inaccessible  
stumps



**DAVID TUGWELL Tech Cert. Arbor A**  
**Bridge End, Newton St Margarets. HR2 0QP**  
**Tel: 01981 510104 / 07968 093898**

**THERE WILL BE A SERVICE ON SUNDAY JULY 5TH AT 11.00AM IN CRASWALL CHURCHYARD. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR AND A PICNIC, IF YOU LIKE!**

St Michael's, Michaelchurch and St John's, Newton are now open for private individual prayer  
St Clydawg's, Clodock is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 4.00pm and 5.30 pm  
and on Sundays from 9.30am to 11.00am.

**LONGTOWN COMMUNITY NETWORK**

**LOCAL CORONAVIRUS HELP**

**If you require help of any sort, or know someone who does, please contact**

**[www.longtownvillagehall.org.uk/cv19](http://www.longtownvillagehall.org.uk/cv19)**

**[ewyas.lacey@gmail.com](mailto:ewyas.lacey@gmail.com)**

**01873 280028**

**Helpline open 6.00am to 10.00pm, answerphone at other times**

**Clodock, Craswall, Llanveynoe, Longtown,  
Walterstone & surrounding areas**

**Food Bank**

We are collecting dry food items & household essentials for local people who may be struggling to get food & essentials for them & their families, during these difficult times.



**If you need help or have any concerns please call**

**01873 280028**

**or visit**

**[www.longtownvillagehall.org.uk/cv19](http://www.longtownvillagehall.org.uk/cv19)**

**Please do not make a special journey to donate to the food bank.  
Try to incorporate a donation into a necessary trip.**

**Food parcels are available for delivery or collection** for anyone that may be struggling either financially or through ill health, change of circumstances etc.

Also, if you are **in receipt of a vulnerable persons box** and would like to top up with some fresh fruit or vegetables, please contact us using the details above.

**The Longtown Community Network** would like to formally thank everyone in the local community for all the support in terms of volunteers, donations to the foodbank; and the support fund. People have been very kind.

We would also like to note that whilst we are all hoping for a COVID free future as soon as possible we – The Longtown Community Network – have concerns that a post COVID future will mean ongoing and new areas of hardship within our community and so expect to maintain the group for as long as it may be needed.

**We would be interested in hearing from people in the community, and other groups and networks, about their views on what the network could or should focus on over the next 6 months or so.**

The purpose of this is in order to be able to offer the support that people want without duplicating the great work of others.

**Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team**

**Peterchurch Police & Fire Hub, Hereford HR2 0RU. 01981 550253**

PC 3687 Jeff Rouse

07870 150972

PCSO 6173 Fiona Witcher

07773 054 582

[fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO 6378 Pete Knight

07773 053 919

[peter.knight@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:peter.knight@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

**Contact: 101 ext 4820 – Email: [goldenvalley.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:goldenvalley.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)**

