

# Dear Friends

**Happy Easter to you all!**

## **Curtains**

'It's all curtains' means it is certain something will end. In the theatre, we think about the end of the show. When we say 'It's all curtains' we have in mind a situation without hope or escape ... and it often seems to apply in sport!

There are many situations in our lives that feel like curtains. Apart from sporting disasters it can feel like curtains when a relationship goes wrong, or when we don't achieve, or perhaps when the dream we have does not materialise, or maybe when we come face to face with a serious flaw in our personality, or perhaps when tragedy affects us or someone we love, or maybe when dark depression descends. It can feel like the end of the world! And what about when death comes and the curtain is closed at the Crematorium, or the coffin is placed in the ground, is that not the end? Is it not all curtains then?

## **Easter Hope**

For Christians, the Easter message that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead gives us hope and promise that there is life beyond the grave, and speaks to the most desolate and difficult times and places of life, and at the point of death. Easter says, "It's not all over," "It's not the end," "It's not all curtains". There is always hope, there is always a future, there is always a tomorrow!

The late evangelist, Billy Graham, taking the words of the 19th Century Evangelist D L Moody, summed up the Christian promise, through Jesus, of a tomorrow at the point of death, when he said, "Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God."

Death, disappointment, failure, dejection, despair, depression and darkness do not mean it's curtains for us. In fact, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and the promise of new life and eternal life, ultimately means it is curtains for death, disappointment, failure, dejection, despair, depression and darkness!

May the hope and life and promise of the joyous Easter message flood into our hearts, homes and communities!

David

Revd David Treharne

## **BROCKWEIR MORAVIAN CHURCH**

### **Church Services for April 2018**

Sun	1 Apr	9.00 pm	Easter Morning Liturgy (Led by Sue Groves and followed by Easter Breakfast)
Sun	8 Apr	6:00 pm	Rev Rose Mary Dagger
Sun	15 Apr	6:00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth
Sun	22 Apr	6.00 pm	Rev Julian White
Sun	29 Apr	6.00 pm	Srs Carol Ostler & Judith Ashton

### **REGULAR MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **Tap Dancing**

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

#### **Table Tennis**

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

**Charity Lunch, 12 noon, the Sunday School Room, 1st Thurs of month**  
Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> April – In aid of the Elim Home for disabled children in South Africa

#### **Book Group**

Please contact Heather Armstrong (01291 689326) for details.

#### **Brockweir & Hewelsfield History Group**

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

#### **Food Bank Collection**

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

#### **Ecumenical Welcome**

 Because we are the only church offering regular public worship in the village of Brockweir, we invite all Christians in the local community to play as full a part as they are able [allowing for any continued commitments to their own denomination] in the life and fellowship of this congregation. We invite those of all Christian traditions, and those having no particular denominational affiliation, to worship and to share in Holy Communion with us, and to share in the ministry and mission of the Church in this area.

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

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

#### **Church Committee**

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

## **ST BRIAVELS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

As I write this, St Briavels is again wrapped in snow but, as the Equinox fast approaches, we expect better things!

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

On Good Friday (30th March) we join with the parish church to remember the death of Jesus. Beginning in Smithville Close at 1:15pm and going via the Memorial Gates to meet at the Tump (behind the Castle) at 2pm. This will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard (c2:45pm) and refreshments in the Assembly Rooms.

Our Easter Sunday service (10am), the most joyful day in the year for Christians, will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the victory of the Son of God over death itself.

Whether you're a regular church-goer or it's your first-time, we warmly invite you to join us at any of these occasions.

Coffee Morning Tuesday 10th April, 10am to 12 noon

If you would like to know more about us please get in touch or visit our website: [www.stbriavelscongregational.org.uk](http://www.stbriavelscongregational.org.uk)

Matt Rees, Pastor



## **FOREST OF DEAN QUAKER MEETING**

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

Jen Cothier 01594 530348

## St Mary the Virgin St Briavels & St Mary Magdalene Hewelsfield

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

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

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

April begins with our celebration of Jesus' resurrection, our most important festival, as we celebrate Jesus' conquest of death, reflecting on its continuing importance for us and the whole of Creation. Easter has a cosmic significance. Just as the Big Bang is the beginning of the creation, so Easter is the beginning of the renewed creation. In our worship over the rest of the month we explore reactions to Jesus' resurrection.

Our **Annual Meetings**, when we look back over the past year with thanksgiving and repentance, are on the 22nd for Hewelsfield and Brockweir and the 29th for St Briavels, both after short services. On Sunday May 6th we invite Parents and Godparents to join in giving thanks for Baptism and to renew their promises.

### APRIL SERVICES: PREACHERS AND THEMES:

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

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

#### MIDWEEK: St Briavels

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

#### SUNDAY 8th - Easter 2: The Confused and Fearful

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

#### MIDWEEK: St Briavels

10th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
11th Weds	10.30am	Communion
12th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 15th - Easter 3: The Wondering. Rev David Treharne

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

#### MIDWEEK: St Briavels

17th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
19th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 22nd - Easter 4: The Antagonistic. Robert

9.30am	St Briavels	All Age Eucharist
10.30am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Morning Worship
11.00am	Hewelsfield and Brockweir	Annual Meeting

#### MIDWEEK: St Briavels

24th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
25th Weds	10.30am	Communion
26th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 29th - Easter 5: The Seeker. Robert

9.30am	St Briavels	Said Communion
10.00am	St Briavels	Annual Meeting
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Communion

#### MIDWEEK: St Briavels

1st May Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
3rd Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 6th - Easter 6: 'Abide in my love.' Godparents' Sunday. Robert

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

### SAINT MARY MAGDALENE, HEWELSFIELD, AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the church  
on the 22nd April, 2018 at 11:00.  
There will be the usual Sunday service at 10:30.  
*All parishioners are welcome to attend.*

## ST. BRIAVELS PARISH COUNCIL

*Notes from the Meeting held on Monday, 12th March, 2018 in the Assembly Rooms, St. Briavels*

**A Date for your Diary** - St. Briavels Get-Together - Wednesday, 23rd May, 2018, 6.30 p.m. at the Pavilion. This event is an opportunity to hear from local organisations about what is happening in and around St. Briavels .... and there is a lot going on! It's an informal occasion with a delicious two- course buffet provided.

**A Grant Request** from St. Briavels Primary School for £2010 towards the cost of an Outdoor Learning Project was received and approved. The school children have designed a garden to enter the RHS Malvern Spring Festival Schools Challenge. The design is based on the story of Robert Forester Mushet who discovered the process of making tungsten steel in 1868; 2018 being the 150th anniversary of this invention. The Parish Council welcomed the involvement of local groups, as well as parents and grandparents; a real community project. It is intended that the garden will be dismantled and re-built somewhere in the Parish, so that it can be enjoyed by all.

**Farmers' Market** – the Parish Council will have a stand at this event each month. Do come along and have a chat, provide feedback or pass on your suggestions.

**Litter Picking** – a group of volunteers (Councillors and residents) has been set up by Cllr. Paul Lounds. They have been out twice and already collected several bags of litter. They intend to continue until all litter around the Parish is collected and then to make this a regular event.

**Footpaths** – Cllr. John Hurley is working closely with the Public Rights of Way Officer and a group of volunteers to clear and tidy local footpaths.

**Safety Cameras** – The Chairman is in the process of setting up the Working Group to explore several safety initiatives - mentioned in the last edition of Village News.

**Snow Warden** – the Parish Council thanked Cllr. Glenys Walker for her hard work in answering numerous telephone calls and organising the replenishment of as many grit bins as possible before and after each of the recent snowfalls. Huge thanks to Jamie Morris who was on hand to collect grit from Cannop and ensure that bins were filled, also to the residents who came out to support each other and help clear snow and spread grit on side roads.

**Road Safety** - The good news is that County Councillor Molyneux has agreed to match the £5,000 allocated by the Parish Council; there is now £10,000 available to ensure the scheme to improve road safety on the B4228 is given priority and is undertaken in 2018/19.

*Next meeting – Monday, 9th April, 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in the Assembly Rooms, with planning applications available to view from 6.30 p.m. and Councillors available for you to raise any issues you feel the PC may be able to resolve. Full minutes are available on the Parish Council website.*

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

## BROCKWEIR AND HEWELSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

*Summary Minutes from the meeting on Tuesday 6th February 2018.  
Full Minutes available on website.*

Present: Cllrs. Fox, Harris, Bowen, Endersby, Sinfield, Merrett. Clerk. Two members of the public.

Ruth Ward, Dementia Friendly Communities, outlined their work and the Action Alliance. This will be discussed at the April meeting.

Two concerns were raised by a member of the public. Dog fouling in the parish and a fallen tree across the Monk's path. Councillors confirmed there are several litter bins around the parish and the services of FODDC Dog Warden. The issue will be monitored and additional bins purchased if necessary. The fallen tree will be cleared.

Payments agreed:

AEB Price	Strimming	£80.00
Lynda Skuse	Clerk Salary & Expenses	£282.52
GAPTC	Annual Subscription	£130.09
Kingfisher Direct	Replacement Grit Bin	£157.74

**P2016/18/FUL – Box Cottage**, Brockweir Road, Hewelsfield. Councillors had no comment to make on this application.

**P0160/18/FUL – Alexandra Bungalow**, Coldharbour Road, Brockweir. Councillors had no comment to make on this application.

**APP/P1615/W/17/3177951 – P1102/16/FUL – Gregory Farm**, Brockweir. Appeal has been dismissed by the Inspector. Council will seek information on future plans.

GCC is investigating possible infringement/closure of footpaths opposite Tintern Abbey. GCC will take appropriate action if no response is forthcoming from the land owner.

An Invitation to Tender for grass cutting, litter management and maintenance for the parish has been prepared and advertised.

An Emergency Plan is being drawn up with co-operation from parishioners, which will be presented at the Annual Meeting in May.

The Parish Plan for 2018-19 was adopted by all Councillors. To be presented at the Annual Meeting in May.

Lise Brekmoe confirmed that she would take the lead in creating a Brockweir Archive to move the project forward and agreed to draw up a first draft of possible scope for discussion with the History Society, Youth Club and parishioners. Initial meetings will be organised with these groups and outlines presented at Annual Meeting in May.

*The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 7pm, The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop.*



**THANK YOU FROM MARY AND MARTIN AT THE PANTRY!**

It is not often that we are reminded of the kindness of people. The snow storm at the beginning of March provided just such an opportunity and we witnessed some amazingly generous and thoughtful acts toward others. Therefore, we want to write a thank you note to everyone in the village who helped others out during the three or four days that we were stuck in the village together, the ones we know about and the many others that we do not.

**THANK YOU!**

We also wanted to shout out about some of the people who helped to keep the shop stocked and also some of the individual acts of kindness in the shop. So, in no particular order:

Deborah from Cinderhill Farm who delivered extra milk to our home on the Thursday evening so that we had some to open with on the Friday.

Yogi from St Briavels Meats who crossed the fields in his tractor when the road was closed, to deliver us extra bacon and sausages on the Friday and Saturday.

Robert and Amber from Cowshill Farm, who delivered meat to us on the Friday afternoon in their off road vehicle.

Ann and Richard of Green Gables B & B in Mork, who walked up to us on the Saturday morning to deliver their cakes.

Becky of Woodgate Sawmills, who delivered bags of logs on the Thursday evening, when we had only ordered them only a couple of hours before.

Adrian the Plumber of Culls Solutions, who walked from the Common and sorted out our frozen valve and enabled us to get hot water again.

In the shop, we were heartened by a number of customers who gave up part of their milk orders so that others might have some when we had otherwise run out; I may not have spotted or remembered them all so thank you to all of you who did. The ones I remember include; Mike, Jo, Sandy, Flora and Lorna. Thank you Adele and her daughter Angharad, who offered to walk down to Mork and collect the cakes if Ann and Richard were unable to get here.

And finally ... To everyone who came out and shared a cup of tea and coffee with us on the Saturday morning, to help us celebrate our first year in The Pantry – Thank you!

Martin & Mary Sollars

**SOFT (Sharing our Faiths Together) MEETINGS**

Our regular SOFT meetings will be held on Wednesdays 4 & 18 April in The Loft above the Brockweir Village Shop. SOFT is a small group of people from a variety of, or no, faith backgrounds. We welcome people of all views to join us as we widen our understanding and appreciation of each other in our communities.

Usually our meetings take the form of a discussion around a topic chosen by one of our members. We have some very interesting conversations as the topics cover a wide and diverse range of subjects! Refreshments are provided and there is no admission fee, though a contribution towards costs is always welcome.

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

**CHEPSTOW WALKING FESTIVAL 4TH - 8TH APRIL 2018**

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

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

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

★★★★★★	<b>Film Night</b>	★★★★★★
Bring your own wine, drinks & snacks.	<b>Friday 13th April</b> Amazing all-star cast	Information: Andrew Reid andrew.reid@huntermillerreid.co.uk or phone 07774 726860
Teas, coffees & ice cream on sale.	<b>Murder on the Orient Express</b> One of the most stylish, suspenseful and thrilling murder mysteries ever told.	★★★★★★
★★★★★★	<b>Tintern Village Hall 7.45pm</b>	★★★★★★
	Tickets £4.00 15s & under £2.50	

## **ST BRIAVELS WI - CELEBRATINGWOMEN**

The WI are extending an invitation to the women and girls of the village to join a walking float as part of the St Briavels carnival on Saturday 9th June. We are celebrating 100 years since some British women were able to vote. Join us dressed either as Edwardian Suffragettes, or in their colours of purple, green and white, or in the fashions of the year you got your vote, or take a guess at the fashions when you will!

We will be encouraging the making of banners and invite everyone to take part. If you'd like to find out more, join us at the Courtyard Community Cafe between 2.00 & 3.00pm on Thursday 19th April. There will be a second meeting on Tuesday the 22nd May 7.30 to 8.30pm in the George Pub, St Briavels to confirm plans. If you live in the other parishes of Hewelsfield or Brockweir please feel welcome to join us. If you'd like to find out more, please contact Sue Smith or Gay Jones at [suesmith13@btinternet.com](mailto:suesmith13@btinternet.com) or [gay.jones@live.co.uk](mailto:gay.jones@live.co.uk)

## **FUND RAISING CONCERT FOR MONMOUTH AID 7 APRIL, ST BRIAVELS CHURCH**

May I bring a fund raising concert to the attention of the Village News readers. There is an advert in this edition of the magazine and you may have noticed several larger posters on display in the village and the locality. I live in the village with my wife Louise and, since Christmas, we have been fund raising for my marathon fund. I have already received sponsorship and donations from many generous friends and well-wishers, and the Concert, on Saturday 7th April at 7pm, is one of our final attempts to swell my fund before the event – which is the London Marathon - on the 22nd of April.

I've been training long and hard, and we hope you will consider joining us for a fun evening of light music, raffle and refreshments in exchange for donations to a worthwhile cause. The charity I'm running on behalf of is Monmouth Aid. This local organisation is supported by Action Aid and the projects we'll be funding will assist two primary schools in Ethiopia to be kitted out with desks, blackboards, books, fresh water and separate toilets for boys and girls; many girls in particular are missing out on their education without vital assistance from Monmouth Aid. I hope you will consider coming to the concert and thank you in anticipation of your help.

My Just Giving fund raising page address is on the poster. Please ring 01594 530421 for any further information.

Meurig Greening

## **ST. BRIAVELS SENIOR CITIZENS AGM**

The club will be holding its AGM at the Orepool, Sling on Tuesday 17th April at 12.30pm. Members please note that it is at this meeting that we pay our membership fees. We also have a lunch that is paid for by the club. If any members have not yet booked their lunch could they please do so with Sue Barnby tel.no. 01594 530845 by Wednesday 11th April

Many thanks, Sheila Brown

## **BANK HOLIDAY COFFEE MORNING**

Just a quick reminder about the Coffee Morning on Monday April 2nd. We would love to see you all, so please come and join us at The Pavilion for a chat and cup of coffee from 10am to 12 noon and support these great local charities: The Great Oaks Hospice and Heart of the Forest School. Thanks.

Adele, Tessa and Family

## **FRIENDS OF ST BRIAVELS CHURCH - AGM & RECEPTION: THURSDAY 3RD MAY**

The Friends of St Briavels Church are holding their AGM and reception at 8pm on Thursday 3rd May in the Assembly Rooms. There will be a very short AGM. There will be a 20 minute talk on the architecture of the five churches in the Benefice (St Briavels, Hewelsfield, Tidenham Chase, Tidenham and Tutshill). The current state of our discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund and our plans in that connection will be explained. And then there will be some drinks and finger food. All are welcome. The idea behind the society is that it is hoped that membership will appeal in particular to our neighbours who are not regular churchgoers but who nevertheless would like to support the church as the most important building in the area (Grade 1 listed) and the embodiment of its history. We try to assist the PCC in maintaining and repairing the fabric of the building. Other events planned for this year are a fund raising Hog Roast at Church Farm on 21st July (similar to the event last year) and a church visiting day on 15th September, visiting St Fagans Folk Museum and the two churches there and then Llandaff Cathedral (and if time permits, St Augustine, Penarth.)

Friends of St Briavels Church

## **LADIES - WATCH THIS SPACE!**

The very successful BROCKWEIR BOUTIQUE is back, by public demand. Give your wardrobes a spring clean and donate your good quality clothes to the Brockweir Book Club for another enjoyable evening in the Mack Hall.

The next event will be held in June. Full information to follow in next month's issue of Village News.

Start sorting now!

Patricia Boden

## NOSH AND NATTER

It was lovely to see so many of us gathered at Carol Stickland's home in March for the third meeting of the year. Carol made us very welcome, serving us refreshments of tea, coffee and homemade cakes. It was a very sociable atmosphere and, as always, fun to catch up with friends old and new. Thank you, Carol.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday April 11th from 10.30 – 12.00 at Pear Tree Cottage, Hewelsfield GL15 6UU, where our hosts will be Rosie and Jo. Nosh and Natter is open to all ladies in the area. So if you have not been before and would like to join us, you would be very welcome.

Please contact me on 01594 530524 or at [siddonspauline@aol.com](mailto:siddonspauline@aol.com)

Pauline Siddons

**Local teenage boy (St Briavels) is looking for places to Metal Detect in the St Briavels, Brockweir, Hewelsfield and Tintern areas.**

**He is neat when he digs and will share any treasure!**

**Please contact Emma Price (Mother) 07826 709304**

## ST BRIAVELS LUNCH CLUB - 26TH APRIL

We all meet at 11.45 for a glass of sherry and a three-course lunch at 12 o'clock in St Briavels Pavilion. We are a happy group of about 22 people and are always pleased to see a new face.

If you are new to the village and would like to join us please contact Mary (530505) for more information.

The three-course meal, sherry and coffee costs £5.50. There is also a raffle.

Mary Perryman

## Brockweir & Hewelsfield Local History Group

This month the History Group will meet on Thursday April 12th when we'll be looking at the newspapers from the 1800s and discovering what happened in Brockweir in the century before the bridge was built.

### **“Brockweir in the 1800s – What the Papers Said”**

All welcome, please join us in the Moravian Schoolrooms  
at 7.30 pm on April 12th.

John Norman

## TINTERN WINE TASTING - MARCH MEETING

We blind tasted 4 clarets at different price points between £6.00 and £25.00. One person managed to place them in the right order, whilst the rest were relieved that they did not like the most expensive wine! However, an enjoyable evening was had by all. There will be no April Tasting as we could not find a suitable date. The day for the May tasting will be decided shortly when we shall be tasting Rioja wines.

Alan Hillard. [alan.hillard@gmail.com](mailto:alan.hillard@gmail.com)

## ST BRIAVELS OPEN GARDENS, 2018

We will be holding an Open Gardens in St Briavels again this year. So put the date in your diary. Sunday, 1st July, 2018 from 11am to 5pm. Anyone who would like to participate by showing their garden for the enjoyment of visitors should contact me on 01594 531096 or [emailjandjsheraton@gmail.com](mailto:emailjandjsheraton@gmail.com).

People really enjoyed the variety of gardens last year - so please show others what a beautiful area we live in.

Jean Sheraton

## OFFA'S 'ORROR

**Chepstow Harriers are holding their annual race which follows Offa's Dyke on Sunday 15 April, starting at 10.30am. It is 12 miles long and with plenty of hills.**

Registration will be at Mackenzie Hall from 8.30am and parking will be in the field near The Triangle.

The start will be on the track linking Hewelsfield Common Road with Sandy Lane. Crossing to Cold Harbour Lane it will follow Offa's Dyke to Bigsweir Bridge, then follow the River Wye path south back to Brockweir. From there it will follow the Dyke north before cutting back down from Shorncliff to the Brockweir track, back to Brockweir, then back up to finish at the Mackenzie Hall. All runners should be through by 1.30pm.

Please be aware of increased traffic on roads immediately around the Hall and the Triangle during the course of the morning. We will obviously aim to keep any disruption to a minimum.

**Interested in competing in this race? More information at [www.chepstowharriers.org.uk](http://www.chepstowharriers.org.uk) or the Offas Orror facebook page.**

## SO LONG TO SALMON

As climate change begins to bite, we are likely to see a decreasing number of salmon returning to our rivers. As the sea temperature continues to rise – the result of global warming - the feeding grounds for salmon are being tracked moving northwards to cooler waters. This means the salmon need to swim ever further to return to the Severn estuary and their spawning grounds. These iconic fish will tire more in making the longer journey; they'll be more susceptible to predation and might not have the energy needed to jump the weirs and stream blockages to be able to reproduce. Add to that the debilitations caused by ingesting increasing amounts of microplastics and we must now question the future viability of the wild Severn population.

To watch salmon jumping as they return to their spawning grounds is a very special experience. One I intend doing soon. It seems crazy that through our actions or inactions, this special local experience will be denied to future generations of Foresters and Severnsiders.

Chris McFarling [chrismcfarling@phonecoop.coop](mailto:chrismcfarling@phonecoop.coop)

### **HEWELSFIELD & BROCKWEIR PARISH COUNCIL**

This is advance notice for the Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting, both of which will take place on the 22nd May 2018 at The Loft, Village Shop. All parishioners are very welcome to attend both meetings and a detailed Agenda for each one will be published the week before the meeting on all parish notice boards and the parish council website.

The Annual Meeting will start at 7pm for the purpose of electing the Chairman for 2018/19 and to agree the year end accounts.

The Annual Parish Meeting will then follow at 7.30pm to offer the following issues for discussion:

- The Parish Plan for 2018/19
- The Parish Emergency Plan
- Possible Speed Limits for the Village
- The Creation of a Brockweir Archive

Our local societies and groups will be invited to present at this meeting and it is also an opportunity for parishioners to express their hopes and concerns for the parish for the coming year. Please come along and have your say.

## Action4OurCare Update

The Cross Border Protocol, which came into effect on 1 April 2013, is going to be replaced by an agreement known as "A Statement of Values and Principles".

We have been told by NHS England that this document will ensure that English residents registered with GP surgeries under contract to NHS Wales (cross border patients) will be able to access the healthcare that they are entitled to under the NHS England Constitution through their Welsh GP.

Action4OurCare have discussed our main concerns with NHS England and they have assured us that these concerns will be addressed directly in this document. We understand that, over the last three months, regular meetings have been taking place between NHS England and NHS Wales and the Welsh Government and Local Health Boards, as well as Clinical Commissioning Groups, to address the issues and to agree the wording of the document so that it reflects the current arrangements for Welsh resident patients and guarantees the legal rights of cross border English patients. NHS England have kept us up to date with their progress, which has been helpful.

We asked Mark Harper to meet with Ministers in the Department of Health, to ensure that they were also very clear that any future agreement must reflect our legal rights. He met with Lord O'Shaughnessy (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health (Lords)) at the end of February 2018 and he has given us feedback that it was a positive meeting and that he was assured that our rights would indeed be enshrined in this cross border agreement. Since then, we have received correspondence from the Department of Health confirming the new arrangements in some detail and assuring us that "NHS England is confident about resolving the remaining issues" and that Lord O'Shaughnessy is "optimistic about a successful outcome."

NHS England was trying to get this document signed and effective from 1 April 2018 but there will apparently be some slippage as some points do still need to be resolved. Action4OurCare will keep pushing on getting this finalised as soon as possible which, in fairness to all concerned, does seem to be their objective, given that this has now taken 5 years to resolve.

Once the Statement of Values and Principles has been signed, we have been told that it will be published on NHS England's website and all the Frequently Answered Questions (FAQ) will be updated. Meanwhile, more and more Welsh registered GPs are joining the Referral Assessment Service further up the border so more and more cross border patients are gaining access to the healthcare that they are entitled to.

Pam Plummer

St Briavels, Hewelsfield and Brockweir Garden Society

# ANNUAL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, 21st APRIL

St Briavels Pavilion, 10.30am – 12.30pm



- Kick start your garden with some new plants for the new year
- Save £££s on garden centre prices
- Browse pots, seeds and garden sundries
- Pop your purchases in the plant crèche and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a tasty homemade cake

**Plants sell FAST! Come early to avoid disappointment!**

As in previous years, we will be delighted to receive donations for the sale - mature plants that you no longer have room for or surplus young vegetable and annual plants. When you are tidying, cutting back and dividing plants that are getting too big for their spaces, please pop unwanted divisions into pots and bring them along to the Pavilion on the evening of 20th or from 8am on 21st. Garden lovers with busy lives will be delighted to acquire them at prices considerably more reasonable than the garden centres charge!

Please *label* all plants clearly – *thank you*. Proceeds from the Plant Sale help to boost the society's funds and enable us to encourage beekeeping in our area, through our Bee Grants. For more information, visit our website [www.wyegarden.com](http://www.wyegarden.com)

Donations of seeds, produce, garden tools and gardening books are also most welcome. If you'd need plants or other items to be collected, please ring **Sue Davis** on **01594 531460**.

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

### CAULIFLOWER AND BROCCOLI BAKE

- 1 small cauliflower – about 300g
- 1 head of broccoli
- 2 medium sized potatoes, peeled and diced
- ¾ pt. of cheese sauce made using 8-10 oz. strong cheese
- Browned breadcrumbs

Cook the cauliflower – save the water  
Cut up the broccoli and cook in the saved cauliflower water. Again save the water.  
Cook the diced potatoes and save the water.  
Put the cooked vegetables in a dish and gently mix together

To make the Cheese Sauce

- 2oz butter
- 2oz flour
- Milk

Put the saved vegetable water in a jug and make up to ¾ pt. with milk. Melt the butter, add the flour and then add the stock. Add most of the grated cheese (save some for a topping). If the sauce is too thin, thicken by adding a small amount of paste made from cornflour and water.

Pour the sauce over the vegetables; sprinkle the remainder of the grated cheese and the breadcrumbs over the top and cook for about an hour at 175°C, until brown and well heated.



Mary Perryman

## MAY DAY COFFEE MORNING

POOLFIELD COURT COTTAGE, HEWELSFIELD

TUESDAY 1ST MAY 10.30 - 12 noon

**Bring and Buy / Raffle**

**Proceeds to Hewelsfield Church Flower Fund**



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

**ST BRIAVELS LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET**

**Saturday 7th April**

The Pavilion 10-12.30 pm



## NEWS FROM THE BROCKWEIR VILLAGE SHOP

### It's at times when Mother Nature goes all out with snow or storms that I really appreciate our local community.

Here at the shop, special praise must go to the volunteers and staff who battled in and then served with such good cheer. The local suppliers were wonderful, getting all our essential supplies to us, including fresh meat, milk and fruit and veg - it goes to show how important using our local suppliers is. And, of course, our great customers, who came in with all the gossip, who checked on their neighbours and thanked the volunteers. The shop has been a really special place to be over the last few days with a fabulous atmosphere of community.

If you need anything when you are going through a rough time please contact the shop and we will try and help, either by dropping off groceries, or homemade soup, putting you in contact with someone who might be



able to assist or being a friendly ear. Just give me a call.

Spring is supposedly on its way and by the time you read this you may already be planning your gardening for the year ahead. We will be having a range of plants and seedlings available. Alternatively you may be planning some walks with friends and family. We have some booklets and maps of the area that are waterproof!

In the run up to Easter we will have freshly made hot cross buns and Easter biscuits. Remember, if you plan on making a Simnel cake, we have marzipan. We also have a range of eggs for Easter, including Hens Eggs, Scotch Eggs, Cadbury Crème Eggs, Mini Eggs and Eggcellent ideas for your Easter Meal, including local lamb, new season Jersey Royals and the first Asparagus!

Alison

### ART IN THE CAFÉ

#### Katie Benge: 9th April – 21st May, 2018

Katie will be the next local artist to exhibit her current work in the café. Born in Anglesey, she comes from a family of artists, and before settling in the Forest of Dean five years ago, led a nomadic life - travelling extensively as a child with her RAF family, and later with her New Zealand born husband. This has given her a wide perspective on the living world and its forms, and

she now draws her inspiration from the wild creatures which surround her in her Forest home. She captures their movement and vitality in great detail on wood and slate, drawing each piece carefully by hand, with Indian ink and quill.

Katie studied Art and Media at Middlesex, and Humberside Universities. For the past 15 years

she has won awards for her work as a Graphic Designer for major advertising agencies and brands, and design and direct marketing companies. This has been both in the UK and in New Zealand. She likes working in a broad range of media and has a wide portfolio, which includes painting, illustration, photography and graphic pieces. Freelancing for the last seven

years, Katie has had recent local exhibitions : 'Things with Wings', at the New Leaf Art Gallery, Monmouth and 'The Names of the Hare', at New Brewery Arts, Cirencester. We look forward to her forthcoming Brockweir exhibition with great interest and anticipation.

Annie Charlton

### ARTISTS IN THE LOFT

If you would like to get out and learn a new skill, have more 'me time', or just 'do something different'; then we can help! Using your hands, mind and eyes in a creative skill is hugely beneficial, as well as being social & relaxing. Many of the talented artists who have shown in the Café, previously or in the year ahead, are willing to share their skills. We would love to take advantage of this to organise a few 'taster days' or short courses for our community, using the Loft above the Brockweir shop during this summer

and into the later autumn and winter. NOW we need those of you who are interested to let us know what you would like to do! Please see the list below and send an email indicating which number course might interest you. The courses with most 'hits' will then be pursued for possibilities of dates / numbers / costs. The courses will need to be self-funding but we aim to be as affordable as possible The list is also published throughout April in the Village Shop.

### Course Suggestions

- Course 1 Cyanotype Printing ('Blue print' as exhibited in Dec & Jan)
- Course 2 Drawing for the Terrified – no experience necessary!
- Course 3 Draw / Paint your Pet
- Course 4 Scraper Board (remember this from school?)
- Course 5 Polymer Clay beads, buttons & brooches
- Course 6 Make a Hedgerow Basket, Make a Scarecrow
- Course 7 Illustration: for your poems, personalised letter headings, cards etc
- Course 8 Make a Sparkling Crystal Christmas Tree decoration
- Course 9 Hand stitched Applique Textile Pictures
- Course 10 Carve a Wooden Spoon
- Course 11 Make your own Christmas cards & wrap/tags

Let us know if you have any further suggestions. Please send your email indicating your name, contact email & course numbers to: [info@newleafgallery.co.uk](mailto:info@newleafgallery.co.uk) or fill in a form at the shop. Places will be limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Over to you!

Jacqui Trefgarne

## DIARY DATES - weekly/regular activities

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

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

### Wednesdays

ECSTATIC DANCING 9.45 am -11.30 pm Mackenzie Hall  
FRIENDLY ART GROUP Most Wednesdays, 10am-1pm Assembly Rooms. Call Ann Kilminster on 07980 978348.  
SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS: 12 noon - 1:45 pm, Assembly Rooms  
PILATES: 2-3pm. Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. For info call: 01291 627243 / 07787 193302.  
BROCKWEIR BOWLS CLUB: 2-4pm Wednesday afternoons. For more information email Trevor Williams. [fishthw@gmail.com](mailto:fishthw@gmail.com)  
BROCKWEIR YOUTH CLUB - the club meets during term time. For further information please ring 01291 689 327 or visit: [www.brockweiryouthclub.co.uk](http://www.brockweiryouthclub.co.uk).  
SOFT MEETING. On two Weds each month. 7.30pm. The Loft above Village Shop.

### Thursdays

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

### Fridays

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

### Saturdays

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

### Sundays

Nothing listed for Sundays at the moment



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[www.treesandgrounds.co.uk](http://www.treesandgrounds.co.uk)**

## DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

Walking for Health every Tuesday – meet at the Assembly Rooms, 2pm			
2 Mon	Easter Bank Holiday Coffee Morning	10am to 12 noon	St Briavels Pavilion
3 Tues	Brockweir & Hewelsfield PC meeting	7pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
4 Weds - 8 Sun	Chepstow Walking Festival		www.walksinchepstow.co.uk
4 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
5 Thurs	Charity Soup Lunch	12noon	Moravian Sunday School Hall
5 Thurs	St Briavels Walking Group	1pm	Meet at St Briavels Church
7 Sat	Produce Market	10am-12.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
7 Sat	Fund Raising Concert for Monmouth Aid	7pm	St Briavels Church
9 Mon	St Briavels PC meeting (planning applications and councillors available from 6.30pm)	7pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
10 Tues	Coffee Morning	10am	Congregational Church, St Briavels
10 Tues	Get Creative Group meeting	7.30-9pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
11 Weds	Nosh & Natter: Morning Coffee	10.30-12.00	Pear Tree Cottage, Hewelsfield
11 Weds	WI Working Party making Comfort Cushions	11am-3pm	Congregational Church, St Briavels
12 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
12 Thurs	History Group: Brockweir in the 1800s	7.30pm	Moravian Schoolroom
13 Fri	Brockweir Events: Ninebarrow	7.30 for 8pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
Sat Sun 14/15	History in Action pop-up weekend		St Briavels Castle
14 Sat	Moat Society Working Party - All welcome	10am to 12noon	Castle Moat.

17 Tues	St Briavels Senior Citizens Club: AGM & Lunch	12.30pm	The Orepool, Sling
18 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
18 Weds	St Briavels WI meeting: 'Life as a Narrowboat Woman'	7.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
19 Thurs	WI Carnival Float planning meeting	2-3pm	Courtyard Café, Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
21 Sat	Garden Society: Annual Plant Sale	10.30-noon	St Briavels Pavilion
22 Sun	St Mary Magdalene, Hewelsfield: AGM	11am	Hewelsfield Church
24 Tues	Get Creative Group meeting	7.30-9pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
26 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
26 Thurs	St Briavels Lunch Club	11.45am	St Briavels Pavilion
27 Fri	Wye Valley Music Concert: Astaria Quartet	7.30 pm	Bridges Centre, Monmouth
29 Sun	St Briavels Church Annual Meeting	10am	St Briavels Church

## ADVANCE DATES

1 May	May Day Coffee Morning	10.30am – 12 noon	Poolfield Court Cottage
3 May	Friends of St Briavels Church - AGM & Reception	8pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
20 May	St Briavels Heritage Celebration	5.30pm	Castle Moat
20 May	Whittington Purse Sermon & Bread & Cheese distribution	7.00pm	
22 May	Brockweir & Hewelsfield PC: Annual Meeting (7.00pm) & Parish Meeting (7.30pm)	7.00pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
22 May	WI Carnival Float – second planning meeting	7.30 to 8.30pm	The George, St Briavels
23 May	St. Briavels Get-Together	6.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
6 June	St Briavels Carnival		
1 July	St Briavels Open Gardens	11am-5pm	
21 July	Friends of St Briavels Church: Hog Roast		Church Farm, St Briavels

## ST BRIAVELS WI – A BUSY START TO 2018!

St Briavels WI members have had a very busy start to 2018. The New Year began with a visit to the pantomime in Chepstow, which proved amusing and interesting. We are still wondering if the King got his Queen!

Mulled wine, shortbread and an introduction to Mary and Martin Sollars, who told us of their life before taking over The Pantry, was the first of our monthly meetings, held on the third Wednesday in the month in the Pavilion at 7.30pm.

Members have since popped in to say hello and purchase some of the selection of cold meats and cheeses, etc, on offer in the Village Shop.

The newly formed social committee have had their thinking caps on and have arranged several trips. The monthly coffee morning has been a great success. Following the first, which was held in Coleford, others have taken place at Toast in Tutshill and The Speech House. The next is on Monday 9th April at Taurus Crafts. Meet around 10.30am.

Some members have thoroughly enjoyed Live Screenings of both ballet and opera at The Studio Cinema in Coleford. Places are booked for the Ninebarrow Folk Duo at the Mackenzie Hall on Friday 13th April for those wishing to attend

We had two speakers in February. The main speaker was Lena Maller, from the Forest of Dean District Council, who clearly and ably made us aware of the problems faced by those suffering with dementia and their carers.

Louise Maclay, from Linking Lives, explained the work of the organization, formed to combat loneliness and isolation in the Forest of Dean. Members are involved with both subjects through WI Resolutions.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Editorial Committee of the Village News, members will be holding another working party to make "comfort cushions" for use by both men and women following abdominal or mastectomy operations. Should anyone wish to pop into the Congregational Chapel on Wednesday, 11th April between 11.00am and 3.00pm to view members in action, they will be welcome - but please avoid holding up production! Our target is 75 this year! Similarly, if anyone knows of a local lady or gentleman who would benefit from one of these cushions, please let the ladies know

Valerie Hooper



## WYE VALLEY MUSIC (ST BRIAVELS MUSIC SOCIETY)

### **Worcester Quartet at Bridges Monmouth and St Briavels School**

The Society's concert this month will take place in the **Bridges Centre, Monmouth on Friday 27th April at 7.30 pm** and will feature the **Astoria Quartet** from Worcester.

This inspirational and innovative quartet are quartet in residence at the Huntingdon Hall in Worcester and have developed a festival called 'Chamber Music @ Worcester', which aims to create a vibrant, accessible and enjoyable environment, where people of all ages can interact with chamber music concerts and related events. They continue to explore not only less well known works for string quartet, but also aspects of audience development and the commissioning of new music by local composers.

The Astoria Quartet were awarded an 'Arts4All' Grant from the National Lottery to study with the distinguished chamber musician Gábor Takács-Nagy in Geneva and were also awarded a bursary to attend the prestigious International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove. They were Selected Artists for the Making Music Concert Promoter's Network in both the 2013/14 seasons and the current season.

Their busy touring schedule has seen them perform throughout the UK.

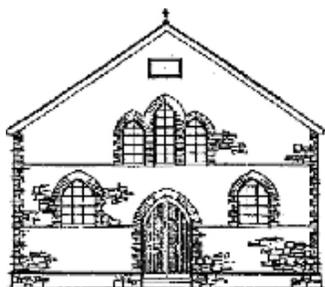
The quartet have recorded their first CD entitled Fiesta, a celebration of Spanish and Latin American music, including compositions by Turina, Villa-Lobos and a first recording of the 'Tango Ballet' by Piazzolla for string quartet. Most recently, as part of their commitment to contemporary music, they have also recorded works by Clement Jewitt and Helen Ottaway.

The quartet's commitment to education and music in the community is reflected through coaching, master-classes, workshops and performances in both primary and secondary school settings as well as in hospices and Camphill Communities. Before the concert they will be giving an afternoon workshop and performance for pupils from three primary schools at St Briavels School. The Society has long wanted to encourage school workshops, so we are thrilled to have been able to arrange this event.

The varied and accessible programme at Monmouth will be Mozart String Quartet in C K157, Joachin Turina's "The Bullfighter's Prayer", Ravel's String Quartet in F and the String Quartet by Kreisler.

Keith Norman. 01594 530419

.....  
**Admission is £15 for the general public, £12 for Wye Valley Music members and £2 for students; booking on-line at [wvm.org.uk](http://wvm.org.uk) is highly recommended. Enquiries can be made to our message line at 01291 330020 or by email to [info@wvm.org.uk](mailto:info@wvm.org.uk).**



## WYE VALLEY ARTS CENTRE, LLANDOGO

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

### APRIL

**FRI 13, 20 PAINTING AND DRAWING Ann Hulme**  
 10 x Friday classes (continued) 9.30 - 12.30 and/or 1.00 - 4.00

**SAT 14 FOUR SEASONS PHOTOGRAPHY 9.30 - 12.30 David Broadbent**  
 First of 4 Seasonal Workshops. Cost for 4 sessions: £100

**THUR 26 NEW SILVER JEWELLERY 1.00 - 4.00 Ann Skehel**  
 10 x Thursday classes Special price of £230 for 10x 3hr sessions (Silver is not included.)

### MAY

**THUR 3, 10, 17, 24 SILVER JEWELLERY (cont) 1.00 - 4.00 Ann Skehel**

**FRI 13, 20 PAINTING AND DRAWING Ann Hulme**  
 10 x Friday classes continued 9.30 - 12.30 and/or 1.00 - 4.00

**SAT 12/SUN 13 MAKING MOSAICS - 2 DAY WORKSHOP Teri Cookson**  
 9am to 4.30 pm

2 day workshop, aimed at all levels of ability, to cut shape and apply a range of Mosaic and ceramic tiles. Price for 2 day workshop: £100 (An additional £20 to be paid to the Tutor to cover the cost of materials)

**SAT 19 PAINTING & DRAWING - 1 DAY WORKSHOP Ann Hulme**  
 Cost - £50

Tel: 01594 530214 Email: [info@wyearts.co.uk](mailto:info@wyearts.co.uk) Web: [www.wyearts.co.uk](http://www.wyearts.co.uk)

## Celebrate St Briavels Heritage

Sunday 20th May

5.30pm in the Moat - Music, Stalls, BBQ, Drinks

7.00 pm Whittington Purse Sermon

7.30 pm Bread and Cheese



## PARISH GRASSLANDS PROJECT

[www.paritygrasslandsproject.org.uk](http://www.paritygrasslandsproject.org.uk)

**There was a strong botanical theme running through the Parish Grasslands Project's annual general meeting at the Mackenzie Hall on March 15.**

After the formal business was completed, two speakers, George Peterken and Elsa Wood, addressed various aspects of change in the local flora over time. George Peterken presented the results of the PGP's wild flower survey, undertaken in the

find some relatively easily but others have not been seen for many years and some are obscure and hard to identify.

Elsa Wood is the joint botanical recorder for Monmouthshire, and as



two local parishes last year. This had established that of the eight species featured in the survey, five were holding their own and the other three declining. It was already known that several other species survive as very small at-risk populations.

This appears to be part of a long-term process of decline. Almost a century ago a local flora had recorded about 500 wild species in our area, but George had been able to find only 289 of these in recent years, and he was fairly certain that several have long been extinct locally. He explained that this year the PGP will undertake another wild flower survey in our two parishes, when we will try to find the "missing" 200-plus species, or rather as many of them as possible. We expect to

such is one of the leading authorities on the flora of the Wye Valley. Her fully-illustrated talk on change in the wild flowers of the valley as a whole gave a more encouraging picture, showing that many species that are increasingly rare in other parts of Monmouthshire, for instance, continue to be strongly represented in the Wye Valley.

The 2018 PGP wild flower survey will be launched later in the year. Lists of the target plants will be available, and any help from local residents in the search for the missing plants will be hugely appreciated. Watch the Village News for full details!

Mike Topp

**GOD SPEED THE DRONE!**

I don't know how many Commoners would recognize it today, but we cherish a cider mug, bought in the village before WW2 for sixpence. Its pattern consists of a rather priggish verse in praise of the farmer's life, ending thus:

So jolly boys now, here's God Speed the Plough,  
Long life and success to the Farmer!

Surrounding it, is a selection of farm implements common in the 1930s: Plough, Harrow, Rake, Pike and, relevant to this column, Bill Hook (Hacker to you and me) and Hedging Mitt. As the hedge laying season draws to a close, I presume to offer some advice to the absolute beginner.

**INSTRUCTION:**

Rule 1: Have a go! It's remarkable how much you pick up as you go.

Rule 2: Go on a short course. A mate of mine who did a one-day course at Kate Humble's Trellech Centre came to help me two weeks ago and quickly showed me a basic skill I've been getting wrong for years.

Rule 3. Style: There are many regional styles, some of them rather poncey. The North Somerset style is basic. Simply lay your hedge between two rows of stakes, many of which you may have cut from the hedge itself.

Rule 4. Direction: Your hedge should "point" uphill, not down. The reason? If your hedge runs downhill it will be only too easy for your rampant Welsh tup to hop over and deflower your neighbour's pedigree Saltmarsh ewes. I can just hear

them bleating "ME TOO!"

**KIT:** *Bill Hook* - Get it right! It must be razor sharp. To get the required edge, you need a forged steel hacker, not some lump of inert metal from a garden centre. *A Chainsaw* is permitted for older hedges. *Bowsaw* - triangular 18" to tidy the hedge base. *Lopper* - for superfluous branches. *Lump Hammer* - to bang in stakes. *Robust Gardening gloves* will protect your hands and allow you to grip the hacker. *Hedging Mitts* - to push down a tough



Blackthorn without getting a poisonous spike in your hand. (Oh, the tales I can tell!)

**SEASON:** End of August to end of Feb. is traditional, but from a legal angle remember that while you may operate throughout the year, the disturbance/destruction of wildlife (nesting birds) can put you on the wrong side of the law.

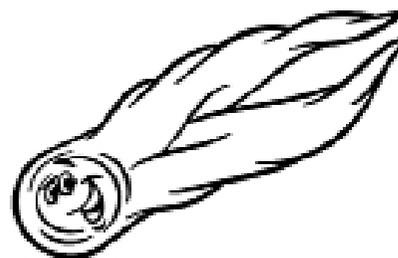
Back to the cider mug! Remember Kit? Perhaps it needs an updated version. What would I alter? Oddly, the verse still holds good,

I eat my own ham, my own chicken and lamb,

I shear my own fleece and I wear it.

(Parish Grasslands take a bow!)

But the implements need sexing up a bit. Out go Harrow, Rake and Pike. In come Forage harvester, Bale Wrapper and (why not?) a hovering Drone. But the Hacker and the Mitt? They've persisted through the ages unchanged. Heirlooms. Try mouching around a few farm sales if you've got the time. You might get lucky!



Every year we experience the regular return of a number of meteor showers. This month, it is the turn of the Lyrid meteor shower which lasts from April 16th till April 26th and peaks a few hours before dawn on the morning of April 22nd.

A meteor shower occurs when the Earth passes through the stream of debris left by a comet. Perspective makes meteor showers appear to emanate from a single point of sky which is called the "radiant" of the meteor shower. Meteor showers are named after the area of sky within which the radiant is found - in this case the Lyrid meteors emanate from the area of sky occupied by the constellation of Lyra. This constellation can be found in the NE sky late in April evenings. The main star of Lyra is Vega, a brilliant blue-white star and the 2nd brightest in the northern hemisphere, which really helps locate the constellation.

As the comet debris (mostly the size of a grain of sand) enters our atmosphere it encounters massive friction that causes it to burn up and emit light which we see streak across the sky.

In the case of the Lyrids, the debris is dust left over by Comet Thatcher (C/186 G1) which orbits the sun every 415 years. It last visited the inner Solar System in 1861 and no photos of this visit exist. It won't return until 2276.

With little to no moon, stargazers can hope to be able to see between 10 and 20 Lyrid meteors per hour at the peak. Lyrid meteors are typically about as bright as a star but some, called Lyrid fireballs, are much brighter and cast brief shadows and leave behind a column of ionised gas that fades as it cools.

The best way to view meteors is to wrap up warm and lie on your back on a lounge chair. Give your eyes at least 15 minutes to adjust to the dark. Settle in, look up, and relax.

**To all our contributors...**

**The deadline for the May 2018 edition of the Village News is:**

**Midday, Tuesday 17th April**

**As always, the email address to send your contributions to is**

**[editors@villagemag.co.uk](mailto:editors@villagemag.co.uk)**



**TIME TO REPLENISH YOUR BORDERS!**

Our Annual Plant Sale this year is on Saturday, 21 April at The Pavilion, St Briavels, 10.30am – 12.30pm. Find high quality plants at reasonable prices – and some great cakes, too! See page 16 for details.

**SPRING BULB COMPETITION**

Entries were down this year, no doubt due to the total absence of Spring and the recurring heavy snow and cold weather.

I am very grateful to Tom Edwards for judging the competition. It was an eye opener listening to his comments about hellebore heads, and how to judge the good from the not so good. This class always attracts a lot of entries, as does the class for miniature daffodils. Congratulations to the winners of the classes and thank you to all who took part. The Cup for the Judge's favourite exhibit of the evening was presented to Christine Haines for her 3 perfectly matching heads of hellebore.

Sally Secrett

*Many thanks from members, Sally, for once again organising the event so brilliantly!*

**MORE BEES BUZZING – THANKS TO THE TURBINE FUND!**

This year, a grant from the fabulous St Briavels Turbine Community Resilience Fund has helped us to help two budding beekeepers. Judy Craven and I interviewed several strong applicants for our innovative bee grant scheme and it's sad that we can't help everyone who applies. This year, however, after hearing from Sue Clarke of the Resilience Centre that our application had been successful, grants were awarded to Matt Jones from St Briavels and to Kerry Wynne who will keep bees near Bream. We look forward to hearing more about their beekeeping in due course.

Special thanks to Judy for once again giving up her time to conduct interviews.

David Broadbent, Project Co-ordinator

**FORM, FOLIAGE, TEXTURE – MAKING AUTUMN BORDERS**

Graham Gough was the speaker at our February meeting. Owner of Marchants Hardy Plants, one of the leading small nurseries in the country, Graham propagates all the plants sold in the nursery and also grows them in his beautiful garden. He started his talk with sage advice - do not be tempted, in the Spring, to fill the flower border gaps with Summer flowering plants and then have little that flowers later in the year.

He introduced us to a long list of Autumn flowering plants, accompanied by beautiful photos. Graham has a sharp eye for colour and detail. Yellow is surely

yellow? But no, we were asked to appreciate the beautiful clear quality of yellow in Helianthus salicifolius or the rich yellow glow of the more familiar Rudbeckia Goldstürm. Dark flowers are in fashion at the moment - but too dark, such as the navy blue agapanthus or dark hued hellebores, and the flowers simply disappear in the border. Blue, particularly a pale, china blue is a rare colour in the garden but Agapanthus offer wonderful pale blues - or the uncommon Amsonia, which has darker, Spode blue, flowers. Graham drew particular attention to the form, foliage and texture of plants. Kniphofia has striking flowers but its foliage is disappointing. Asters come in wonderful colours but have 'bare legs' that need covering. How plants combine and how one plant 'registers' in a border among others was often a point he raised. The audience appreciated his extensive knowledge, presented to us in a style that was engaging and entertaining.

Sue Young

**DESIGNER WEEDS**

The biggest cause of unnecessary work in the garden is a no man's land of nothingness left between plants. Open to erosion and compaction, it's a seedbed for weeds and if the soil has been nicely prepared by hoeing off competitors, any seed blowing about in the wind will find a lovely open friable surface for germination. It's why we never see bare soil in nature. In my garden, my approach is to use 'designer weeds', one which my dad, if he was still around would be absolutely horrified by! He was a vegetable man and his only concession to flowers was roses, beneath which he fastidiously hoed. My mum wanted hardy geraniums



to carpet the soil and smother the weeds, but they would have hindered the hoeing, so roses and bare soil it was until Dad was relegated to the veg patch and mum planted every square inch.

Over time, by survival of the fittest, an equilibrium was reached. The process took about fifty years. So, to speed things up, I give free rein to the self heal, wild strawberries and forget-me-nots thriving in my free draining garden and scatter seeds of ornamental annuals like opium poppies, Love in the Mist and wild carrot. They are perfectly suited to my soil, do wonderfully well, reseed themselves around, and in my garden, just as in nature, there is absolutely no bare soil.

Cheryl Cummings

## WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

I'm writing this, a few days before the Spring Equinox, looking at the snow covering our garden! Plants are ready to grow and I'm itching to get outside and get gardening but the weather is not cooperating! However, once this last blast of winter has passed, expect lots of action in your borders.

Time to get sowing indoors - but make sure seedlings are in good, all round light, preferably not on a window sill. Prick out and grow them on promptly to make the most of the growing season (when it starts!)



- Don't rush to sow seeds in the open ground. Nights can be cold all through this month and check young growth. Experience shows that late sown plants catch up and often overtake those sown earlier
- Follow Cheryl's 'designer weeds' approach (above) or, if you prefer to weed your borders, do so once the soil is warming, and then mulch well
- Keep newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials well watered. They can get dry even if it rains
- Tidy climbing and rambling roses: remove spindly shoots and tie them firmly into a framework or on to strong wires. Mulch with well-rotted manure or use a proprietary feed

Christine Haines

### **Meurig's London Marathon Run A Fund-raising Event**

# **Concert**

**An evening of light vocal & instrumental music with  
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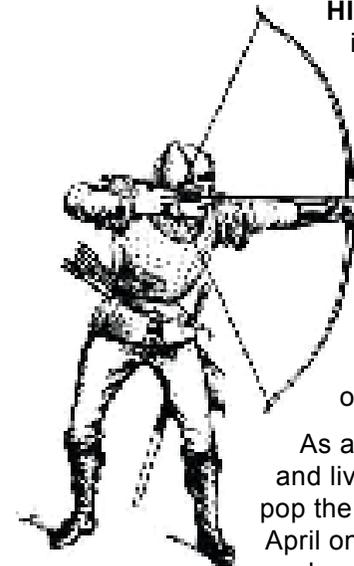
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## NEWS FROM THE CASTLE

Hopefully, by the time this edition of the Village News is hot off the press, we will have the welcome return of the colour and the hope of renewed life brought by Spring flowers, along with a spot of warmer weather! Although I can still remember the year my Dad woke me on May 5<sup>th</sup> to tell me it had snowed - so who knows?!!



**HISTORY IN ACTION: 14<sup>TH</sup> & 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** - April is the month of our first open event of the year and we hope to welcome you all through the gates to enjoy it with you. This year we have a change from our previous focus on WW2, as we introduce "History in Action", a look at the soldier through the ages, from the medieval longbowman to the English Civil War, Redcoats to WW1, and WW2 to modern combat. Our fantastic group of volunteers will be waiting in the grounds to entertain and enlighten, rounding off each day with a display of weapons.

As always, we will have some fun crafts for all ages and live music and refreshments in our tea room. So pop the weekend of Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April on to your calendars and we look forward to welcoming you.

**RECRUITING NOW!** - We are now recruiting Summer positions and part time jobs, so if you are interested please drop a CV into Reception or email to [stbriavelsmanager@yha.org.uk](mailto:stbriavelsmanager@yha.org.uk). We are also happy to consider applications from volunteers and have a number of opportunities.

**FOREST OF DEAN ROCKS** - It has been fabulous to discover the hidden pleasures that are Forest of Dean Rocks around the Castle. We even found one in the Prison!

If you haven't yet joined in the fun, there is a now well established craze for decorating rocks and stones and then hiding them all around the Forest and Wye Valley for people to discover, keep or re-hide somewhere else.

Check out the Facebook page for Forest of Dean Rocks and join in the fun!

Linda Harrison, Manager



**We have had two well -attended events since the last Village News.**

**February 23rd - Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman.**

A mixture of traditional and modern folk/indie songs from this well established highly professional, award-winning duo. Kathryn's superb

voice and Sean's intricate guitar playing were both on form and much enjoyed.

**March 9th - Carmina Trio:**

Again superb singing, this time from Pippa Marland, whose pure voice veers between a jazzy diva's and a folky soprano's.

virtuosity, switching effortlessly between alto and tenor sax. and Uilleann pipes.

Well supported by Paul Bradley (vocals, guitar) and Rob King (guitar, mandola and bodhran) Pippa demonstrated her own musical

They performed a range of Celtic standards such as Cunla, their own take on rock standards, as well as their own songs from their new album.

**COMING UP IN APRIL:**

**NINEBARROW\*. Friday 13th April. 7.30 for 8.00. [www.ninebarrow.co.uk](http://www.ninebarrow.co.uk)**

Ninebarrow (Jon Whitley and Jay Labouchardiere) are a duo who are certainly attracting attention, as a host of nominations, including the 2017 Horizon Award, will testify.

Ninebarrow's songs are a mixture of the originally-adapted traditional and the traditional-sounding original. Each song is crafted with care and perfectly suits their lilting and high-lonesome voices. Jon and Jay are obviously hugely influenced by their physical surroundings, none more so than in their songs commissioned by Artsreach Dorset, inspired by the South Dorset Ridgeway and designed to raise awareness of the rich archaeological heritage of the area.

With an easy manner and beautifully balanced harmonies they produce music that is gentle on the ear and soothes the soul, even if the topics of their songs, inspired by the landscape and history of the British Isles, can explore the darker and sadder sides of human nature. Jon and Jay play keyboard, mandola, harmonium and ukulele.

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

\* Supported by Air in G - [airing.co.uk](http://airing.co.uk)

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**TAI CHI:** Sundays: 22nd April, 20th May, 17th June, 15th July: 10.30am-12noon in Mackenzie Hall. Everyone welcome. Cost £8. Enquiries to: Roy Wilson: 07979 843223 [www.longrivertaichieng.org](http://www.longrivertaichieng.org) Email: [roywgreenwich@aol.com](mailto:roywgreenwich@aol.com)

**YOGA @ LLANDOGO with Ali Rose** - Tuesday evenings 7- 8.30 pm in the Millennium Hall. Renew your vitality with a practice that strengthens and stretches your body whilst calming your mind. [www.yogawithalirose.co.uk](http://www.yogawithalirose.co.uk) 07883 678629

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The **May** issue deadline is: Midday on **Tuesday 17th April 2018.**

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Christine Haines	01594 531050	Joyce McKay	01291 689910

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

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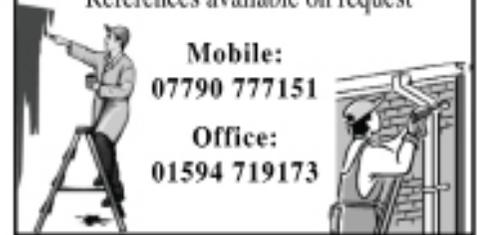
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