

Dear Friends

The month of August traditionally marks the heart of British summertime and brings with it not only a change in the weather, but also a change in the way we experience the world around us. The summer season gives us opportunities to notice the beauty of nature around us. We have been blessed with amazing weather for weeks now but - not a surprise - we are all complaining how hot it is. In March, when the snow came, we were once again complaining because we could not get about and we kept saying, 'I can't cope with this cold weather'. Typically, in Britain we talk about the weather all the time. If we do not know what to say to someone we naturally talk about the weather.

We know as Christians, like the change in weather, our spiritual life is subject to seasonal fluctuations, or that there is something about the summer that is more or less spiritual or spiritually significant than any other time of the year. But the liturgical life of the Church has always been firmly governed by a sense of times and seasons. One of the most disconcerting things about modern travel is the way that it can transport us from one season and climate to another within so short a space of time that our own bodies and inner sense of rhythm become completely disorientated. One day we could be in a British midsummer, the next we could be in an Australian midwinter.

One of the delights of an English summer lies in being able to shed layers and carry round fewer protective barriers between our bodies and the cold and damp of the external world. Behaviour becomes less guarded: people sit in parks picnicking over lunch breaks, take coffee outside, sit at pavement cafés, instead of huddling indoors. Summer becomes a time for reconnecting with the natural light, the greater opportunities for communal living afforded by being able to sit out of doors for longer, watching children playing and people talking outside, instead of sitting enclosed. There is a sense of a general relaxing into the present, a willingness to linger over meals or encounters, savouring the moment, allowing the time to flow by. Summer takes us into holiday time when, in families, the rhythms of work change, children and adults may spend more time together, positively or negatively as such an experience may be. Holidays can take us into different environments, give opportunities for exploration and the expansion of horizons.

So we must not complain but embrace summer and thank God for this wonderful weather.

God bless.

Patsy

BROCKWEIR MORAVIAN CHURCH

Church Services for August 2018

Sat	4 Aug	7.00 pm	Taizé
Sun	5 Aug	6:00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth (<i>Holy Communion</i>)
Sun	12 Aug	6.00 pm	Sr Sue Groves
Sun	19 Aug	6.00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth
Sun	26 Aug	6.00 pm	Russell Doddington

REGULAR MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Tap Dancing

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

Table Tennis

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

Charity Lunch - There will be no lunches in July & August. Normal service resumes on Thursday 6th September

Book Group - Please contact Heather Armstrong (01291 689326) for details.

Brockweir & Hewelsfield History Group

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

Food Bank Collection

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

Ecumenical Welcome

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

Minister: Rev Patsy Holdsworth, 35 Quarry Way, Emersons Green, Bristol, BS16 7BN, Tel: 0117 907 8994 email: Patsy.holdsworth@moravian.org.uk
Please note that Patsy's day off is normally on a Tuesday. Please try to only contact her in an emergency on that day.

Church Committee

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

Taizé Service:

We will be hosting a Taizé style service on Saturday 4th August at 7.00 pm. The Taizé group is made up of people from the local community, and if you would like to learn the chants prior to the service, a practice session will be held from 5.00 - 6.30 pm. Refreshments will be served at 6.30 pm before the service proper, starting at 7.00 pm. Even if you are not a regular churchgoer, or even a Christian, everyone is welcome to come and experience the peace of this unique style of worship.

ST BRIAVELS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ST BRIAVELS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

We're a group of ordinary people, united by our belief in Jesus Christ and with a desire to follow him. 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 Thursday (8pm, venue changes) and Tuesday (10:15am in the chapel).

Our Coffee Mornings raise funds for charities that we support and also provide a great chance to meet up for a chat. Everyone is welcome.

Coffee Morning Tuesday August 7th, 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

Matt Rees, Pastor

St Mary the Virgin St Briavels & St Mary Magdalene Hewelsfield

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

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

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

During August, we continue exploring different issues that arise from our following Jesus.

On the 5th David Rees will be helping us think about the significance of the Transfiguration, while on the 12th we look at whether our perspectives are long or short term. Then on the 19th David Treharne continues by asking whether we see things from our, or God's, point of view. On the 26th we consider whether problems are seen as obstacles in life or a source of strength. We begin September by looking at how we communicate love through our words. This will be the first of occasional talks, usually on the first Sunday of the month, with the opportunity for discussion and feedback. On Sunday 2nd September we are holding, with the PTA, the BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ, in the Moat, 3.00 pm – 6.00pm. All are welcome.

AUGUST SERVICES: PREACHERS AND THEMES:

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

31 st Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
1 st Weds	10.30am	Communion
2 nd Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 5th - Trinity 10: Being Changed. David Rees

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

7 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
9 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 12th - Trinity 11: Perspective 1 - Long or Short Sighted? Robert

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

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

SUNDAY 19th - Perspective 2 - Ours or God's? David Treharne

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

21 st Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
23 rd Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 26th - Perspective 3 - Difficulty or Inspiration? Robert

9.30am	St Briavels	Baptism
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Communion

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

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

SUNDAY 2nd September - Being Family 3! - Love Languages. Robert

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

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



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. BRIAVELS PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Meeting on Monday, 9th July, 2018, the Assembly Rooms, St. Briavels

Two Grant Applications were received by the Council and approved as follows: (i) St. Briavels Parochial Church Council (PCC) – up to £350 for the repair of the clock on the Church tower, which is an important Village asset. (ii) St. Briavels Cricket Club (CC) - £400 towards the purchase of children's cricket equipment so that the CC can start a summer cricket club for the children of St. Briavels and surrounding area.

The Parish Council welcomes applications for grants from local groups/ organisations, so please get in touch with the Clerk (contact details below).

Child Safety and Parking at the School – the Parish Council (PC) received representations from the Chair of the School PTA and from the Chair of the School Governors concerning child safety and parking at the school. Following lengthy discussion, the PC approved a proposal to engage actively with Gloucestershire Highways, the Police and other authorities to implement the double primrose lines (muted shade of yellow lines with the same parking restrictions) suggested by school representatives. This will create a vehicle free zone and improve visibility at this junction at all times. It is also planned to install bollards on the junction between the High Street and (old) Barrowell Lane which will stop temporary or long-term parking at this junction. The PC also welcomed the development of a School Staff Parking Policy as a matter of urgency and the plan to enhance usage of the Breakfast Club and the initiative to promote walking to School.

Fly Tipping has been taking place in the corner of the playing fields and rubbish has been burnt there too, which is most disappointing after all the hard work by the Litter Action Group to clear this site. The PC is engaging with the Playing Fields Committee to consider options.

Remembrance Sunday – arrangements for the special event to commemorate the Centenary of the end of the First World War are progressing well. The PC will be purchasing a memorial bench, which will be installed on the playing fields – site to be agreed.

Bus Shelter Revamp – keep an eye open for the new look bus shelter at The Square. It is planned to add a book swap library/local information etc. to this bus shelter. This will be monitored to see whether it is successful/popular or not.

Farmers' Market – pop along to see the Parish Councillor in attendance at each of the markets and have a chat. If you don't have time for a chat, there is a book on the stand that you can leave comments in.

Next meeting – Monday, 10th September, 2018 at 19.00 in the Assembly Rooms, with planning applications available to view from 18.30 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 516518E-mail: stbriavelsclerk@outlook.com

HEWELSFIELD AND BROCKWEIR PARISH COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 3rd July 2018, in The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir.

Present: Cllrs. Fox, Bowen, Sinfield, Endersby, Harris, Haythornthwaite, Parish Clerk and 2 parishioners.

P0883/18/FUL – Hudnalls Cottage, Bailey Lane, Hewelsfield, Lydney. The erection of a two-storey extension, attached greenhouse and detached double garage with associated works. Councillors had no comment to make on this application.

P0950/18/FUL Belmont Lodge, Belmont Road, Hewelsfield, Lydney. Variation of Conditions 03 (External Materials) and 04 (Window Details) of planning permission P0052/18/FUL. Councillors had no comment to make on this application.

Payments were agreed for:

Payee	Service	Amount
Lynda Skuse	Clerk Salary & Expenses	£325.50
GAPTC	Training Fees	£145.00
Forest Equipment Services	Emptying dog foul bins	£64.80
AEB Price	Grass Strimming	£320.00
Iain Selkirk	Internal Audit	£90.00

Cllr. Harris still investigating how many Perspex figures would be purchased to commemorate WW1 and reported that some of the figures would be funded by family members. Cllr. Harris to confirm the final funding requirements and possible sources.

It was agreed not to pursue a licence to spray Japanese Knotweed and to accept a quote of £250.00 to spray on parish owned land only. Cllr. Bowen to organise the work. Cllr. Harris to inform adjacent landowners of the work to be carried out.

The public meeting on 7th August about road safety will be a forum to listen to all concerns and explore possible solutions. Outcomes will be discussed at the September council meeting. The possible Village Archive will also be discussed at this meeting.

The running water between Quay House and Weir House is being investigated. A survey of all drains will be carried out and positions of new drains added to help keep records of clearance etc.

Concerns were received about changes to the drain on Underhill near the Spout, which had been made shallow to allow heavy vehicles to turn safely when using a private drive as part of the alternative route when Quayside is closed. The Clerk to write to GCC to inform them that this had reduced

the capacity of the drain and to seek reassurance that this was a temporary measure which would be corrected when works on Quayside were completed.

A replacement traffic mirror to be requested from Gloucestershire Highways for the junction at Hollywell Lane. A new sign for Hewelsfield Common had been put in place. Highways asked whether more new signs could be available.

There was a discussion on possible next steps for the development of the former oil yard site. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with the developer.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 4th September 2018 at 7pm The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

CENTENARY ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR 1

Following on from our article last month about the special significance of Remembrance Sunday this year as the centenary anniversary of the end of World War 1, the Parish Council is now putting in place all the arrangements to have "a dignified and respectful celebration of the Centenary of the end of the war, acknowledging the sacrifice of the armed forces and civilians within the Parish of St Briavels in World War 1 and subsequent wars."

We are assembling an exhibition showing what St Briavels village looked like in World War 1 (& World War 2). So, if you have any information or pictures, please contact us.

We also want to collect and record for posterity the stories of the people who are living in St Briavels now and remember what it was like living through a time of war. You may know someone who was an evacuee or in the forces or in the Land Army or working in a munitions factory or a prisoner of war etc. Your story may be about World War 1 but it can also be about subsequent wars and may relate to other parts of the country, e.g. the Blitz, and you don't have to have lived in St Briavels during the war as long as you live here now.

We want to record the wartime memories and voices of St Briavels parishioners to find out what it was like living through a war. We wish to interview and record these stories as a permanent record (but only with the story teller's permission) as time is slipping by since wartimes.

If you have any memories or stories that you are willing to share personally or if you know of anyone who might have, please can you call Liz Stuart on 01594 530346 or Pam Plummer on 01594 530008.



BROCKWEIR BOUTIQUE

A huge thank you to all who supported the Brockweir Boutique on 7th June, whether donating items, helping in any way or simply attending the event. It was a very successful and fun evening, with happy ladies going home with some excellent bargains, new haircuts, newly shaped eyebrows and delicious cakes!

A total of £460 was raised and this amount will be shared between two local causes; The Mackenzie Hall and the Children's Play Area.

Thank you again for all your support.

The Brockweir Book Club

HEWELSFIELD CHURCH COFFEE MORNING.

Many thanks to everyone who helped and supported our coffee morning in aid of our Wildlife Garden Project on Saturday 2nd June.

The amount raised was £185.00

Mandy Vaughan

Annual Charity Cricket Match **Sunday 26th August at 2pm**

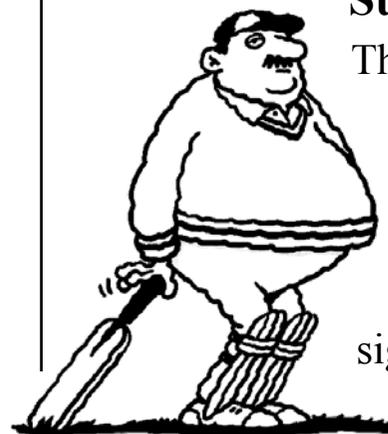
The Acres, Brockweir Farm

Bring a chair

In support of local and national charities

Team sheet in Brockweir Inn -
sign up to play, or contact

Mark Baker on 01291 689331



SOFT (Sharing our Faiths Together) Meeting

Does an internet meme, news item, Sunday sermon, or a general observation on life, leave you wanting to discuss the subject in more depth? If so, why not come along to a SOFT meeting where any subject can be talked about in a friendly, mixed faith group of people seeking to explore and understand the world around us.

We will be meeting at 7.30 p.m. in The Loft above the Village Shop on Wednesday 15th August

We welcome anyone to our meetings and although there is no admission fee we do request a contribution towards room rental and refreshment costs.

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

RIDE & STRIDE - WHAT'S THAT?

Ride & Stride is the title of the fundraising day for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants to help with repairs to the fabric of any church in Gloucestershire. We have been fortunate in St Briavels and Hewelsfield in receiving grants from GHCT in the past. They also help churches by returning to the church half of any money raised by the church from Ride & Stride and the other half goes to providing the grants.

This year Ride & Stride is on Saturday, 8th September. Our church in St Briavels will be open to provide refreshments for anyone including participants. You can help your church by:

- joining us for refreshments
- going round local churches anywhere you choose in Gloucestershire - driving, cycling, walking, horse riding - and being sponsored for doing so.
- sponsoring anyone who will be participating in Ride & Stride.

Last year, I drove round 30 churches from the Forest to Westbury and Robert, our Vicar, cycled from Bream to our Forest churches. This year, I hope to walk around as many churches in Gloucester as I can in a day. I will be looking for sponsors, so do support your church by thinking what you can do to help. Some of the projects we have to fund are:

- complete the under-pew heating
- complete the provision of pew cushions
- provide a kitchen area to comply with health and safety.
- provide a full length curtain at the chancel to prevent draughts on performers.
- general decoration to walls
- cleaning of windows.

There are many more things which are needed to keep your church from deteriorating. These things cannot be provided without funding so we ask you to help in any way you can, and on September 9th to please support our Ride & Stride efforts. Thank you in anticipation.

Jean Sheraton

AN ECUMENICAL EVENING SERVICE FOR ALL

A Taizé service will take place at 7pm on Saturday August 4th in Brockweir Moravian Church. Practice for a volunteer choir and instrumentalists will precede the service at 5.00 pm in the church. (We have 12+ volunteers already). Welcome to all at one or both services.

Taizé services offer a nice mix of contemplation and readings and use simple repeated chants from the world famous community, based in Burgundy.

Please come and share an hour with folk of all churches and of none, with small refreshments afterwards for all.

BANK HOLIDAY COFFEE MORNING

Once again, we will be holding a Coffee Morning on Bank Holiday Monday (August 27th) at The Pavilion, St Briavels. We will be raising money for local charities, including the defibrillators in St Briavels, which need batteries at quite a cost.

So please come and join us for a Coffee and Cake between 10am and 12 noon.

If you have any items to donate, or perhaps a bottle for the bottle stall, just drop them into my porch or please bring them down to the Pavilion on the morning.

We cannot hold these Coffee Mornings without your help. So if you can please come and join us on Bank Holiday Monday and raise some money for these great causes. Thanks again.

Adele, Tessa and Family

MALUS Momentum

During these beautifully balmy evenings (written during the heatwave) I have taken to sitting in the garden and admiring the apple trees. Do they have enough water? Are the fruits too small? And then recalling that these are old trees, they've survived a heatwave or three; they'll deliver once more the usual healthy crop of apples in time for the juicing event. Booked this year for the second Sunday in October at the Pavilion: it's a good excuse for building social capital, never mind enjoying a natural renewable resource for which we in Gloucestershire were once famous.

Chris McFarling, chrismcfarling@phonecoop.coop

News and Activities continued on next page...

NOSH & NATTER

With the sun shining, but not too hot, we merry band spent the morning sitting outside on the patio, enjoying Ann's peaceful garden and a wonderful, relaxed atmosphere. In fact, we were enjoying ourselves so much that time just disappeared and we were still sitting there a long time after 12.00! Lots of tea and coffee and plenty of cakes (Ann would like to say a big thank you to all those who contributed cakes on the day) made the whole morning a pleasure. Thank you, Ann.

Our next meeting is our American Supper on Wednesday August 22nd from 6.30-9.00 at Church Croft, Hewelsfield, GL15 6UL. Partners are welcome to come to this event, which is always popular. Please bring a dish - either savoury or sweet – so we have lots of food to share.

If you would like any information about Nosh & Natter and our meetings, please contact me by email or phone.

Pauline Siddons, siddonspauline@aol.com 01594 530524

LYDNEY DIAL A RIDE

There has been a surge in demand for volunteer car drivers to take people for medical appointments in the last three months. Are you one of the hidden gems who can volunteer?

We are always looking for volunteers: car drivers, charity shop assistants, and corporate and trustee volunteers. Any help you can give is welcome. Call Louise on 01594 843809 to find out more.

ST BRIAVELS LUNCH CLUB - THURSDAY 23RD AUGUST AT 3:15PM

We usually have a break in August. However, this year, we are holding an afternoon tea party in the Pavilion. It is an easy afternoon get together. Most people bring a dish, a cake or whatever they want and we all share. Everyone is welcome. If you want any more information please phone Mary on 01594 530505

Mary Perryman

TINTERN WINE TASTING

Thanks to Steph for hosting Sparkling Wines on the Riverside. We tasted two wines, a Brut and a Rosé, from two local vineyards, Tintern Parva and Black Mountain. The wines from Black Mountain were not appreciated at all, even when flavoured liquors such as cassis and peche were added. However, the Tintern Parva wines were thoroughly enjoyed.

Sparkling Wines on the Riverside, Part 2 will again be hosted by Steph, on Monday, 6 August, when we shall be tasting a range of wines, blind, as this seems to add to the fun.

We have room for some more members. If you are interested please email me.

Alan Hillard, alan.hillard@gmail.com

ST BRIAVELS PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE RHS MALVERN SPRING FESTIVAL SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

On a cold evening in November 2017, the school community was invited to dream big and design a garden to enter into the RHS Schools Challenge to be held in Malvern in May 2018. The theme of the competition: Great Britain. Design a garden celebrating a group, individual or invention that has contributed to making what Britain what it is today.

After much deliberation and refining of ideas, the children settled on Mushet Special Steel - a celebration of our local history. We found out that 2018 would mark the 150th anniversary of the discovery of Tungsten Steel at Darkhill Ironworks, less than 4 miles from St Briavels. This discovery revolutionised the tool industry and is still used today. The Ironworks also made the first steel railway lines. The ruin of the ironworks inspired the structures of the garden, which included a foundry room and tunnel leading out into the forest.

The children brought along their parents to various workshops throughout the winter, to build walls out of pallets and to design woodland creatures out of old tools and cutlery. More than 40 families contributed to the project, using the Easter holidays and weekends to complete the ambitious design. Meanwhile in the classrooms, acorns and tulips were planted, mosaics created, bunting sewn and a bug hotel built.

The project received so much support from the wider community: Mike and Judy Topp, from the Parish Grasslands Project, donated native turf. Christine and Mike Haines, from the Garden Society, helped with plants and growing advice. Phil and Sandra Harris supported with so many artefacts and with transport to and from Malvern. There was a significant grant from the Parish Council to enable staff to bring more than 50 children to Malvern to participate in the build and to talk to the public about their garden. Several businesses supported the project, including Howle Hill Nursery who loaned specimen trees, and Jewson, Coleford, who helped transport the structure.

It has been such an incredible learning experience for all those involved, from the youngest to the oldest. Thank you, St Briavels, for agreeing to be part of this project. There are so many treasured memories - from the cold, and the wind and the snow, to the award ceremony on a bright sunny afternoon in May.

'Mushet Special Steel' won the BAM Construction Best Build Award. Well done!

Should we do it again...? I hope so.

Alexia Naylor

WYDEAN SCHOOL ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING COURSES

AUTUMN TERM 2018

AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, EAST STREET

Painting and Drawing

Suitable for beginners to advanced. Starting with some basic drawing, you will move on to develop your Watercolour and Acrylic painting techniques. Bring your own materials (advice at first session). **Start:** 17 Sep. **Length:** 9 wks **Mon:** 2 - 4 **Cost:** £70

French for Absolute Beginners

This course is suitable for complete beginners. Learn the basics such as greetings, introductions and key holiday vocabulary. **Start:** 24 Sep. **Length:** 8 wks **Mon:** 11.45am -1.15 **Cost:** £68

Brush Up Your Basic French

This course is suitable for those who wish to learn French and consider themselves as 'rusty' beginners. The main aim is to increase confidence in conversation situations and to extend length of conversation. **Start:** 24 Sep. **Length:** 9 wks **Mon:** 10-11.30 **Cost:** £75

Painting and Drawing Day Workshop

Suitable for all levels. You know what it's like - just as you get going, it's almost time to stop! This is a chance to get to grips with the subject. Flowers are recommended; or if the weather permits we may work outdoors. Bring lunch and your own materials. Drinks are available. **Start:** 23 Oct. **Length:** 4 hrs **Tues:** 10-2 **Cost:** £25

AT ST BRIAVELS PAVILION, COLEFORD ROAD

Italian for Beginners

This course is suitable for students who have never studied the language before or for those who studied Italian years ago and need to refresh their knowledge of the language. It will cover topics such as restaurants, directions and verbs, using fun/games/role play in a relaxed atmosphere, together with an insight into the Italian culture and - why not? - also a bit of slang. **Start:** 24 Sep. **Length:** 8 wks **Mon:** 10.30-12.30 **Cost:** £77

Italian – Intermediate

This course is suitable for students who have studied Italian for 2/3 years or who have a qualification at AS level. The course will consolidate grammar structures whilst introducing new grammar rules. Conversation will be at the centre of the course, together with other activities. Italian magazines and newspapers, real life listening, movies and recipes will be used during the course. **Start:** 24 Sep **Length:** 8 wks **Mon:** 12.45-2.45 **Cost:** £77

For further information: Download the Autumn Term ACL Brochure + enrolment form (from 25 June) www.wydean.gloucs.sch.uk (Go to 'Community', then 'Adult Learning' then 'Courses available') Or, contact the School Office on 01291 625340 (answerphone during School Hols. Please leave a message/contact number). Post off your enrolment form and payment, with your email address or SAE (if you wish for a receipt) during the holidays to: Wydean School & Sixth Form Centre, Beachley Road, Sedbury, Chepstow, Glos NP16 7AA

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

TWO EASY SALADS

Yorkshire Ploughboy

- 1 small red cabbage, cored and shredded.
- 1 onion, peeled and thinly sliced.
- 15ml dark treacle
- 30ml white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp mustard.

Place the cabbage and onion in a large serving bowl. Mix together the treacle, white wine vinegar and mustard. Pour the dressing over the cabbage mixture and toss together.

Celery, Apple and Walnut Salad.

- 1 medium head of celery, thinly chopped.
- 4 red eating apples, cored and diced.
- 2 tablespoons of French dressing
- 3 tablespoons of mayonnaise
- 2oz chopped walnuts.

Mix the first four ingredients together and chill. Add the walnuts before serving.



Mary Perryman

To all our contributors...

The deadline for the September 2018 edition of the Village News is:

Midday, Tuesday 21st August

Send your contributions to
editors@villagemag.co.uk



PLEASE NOTE: The above deadline is fine for normal editorial pieces, letters, news and activities, etc. But if you are sending in **EVENT ADS** that require a display box, images and layout (like this ad), which take longer to create than normal text, then please submit your copy **at the latest on the Friday BEFORE the deadline** (which is always a Tuesday), preferably sooner. This allows time to check any details with you and make any changes needed, which is not possible after the main deadline.



NEWS FROM THE BROCKWEIR VILLAGE SHOP

Dear All

The heat continues and here in the shop we are regretting that the building is so well insulated. Our fridges and freezers have been working overtime to ensure that we keep plenty of cooling snacks available for you. Not only ice creams and ice for your gin but in warm weather our appetites change and we all want to take advantage and eat outside. We sell items for the perfect picnic or BBQ, including Gwent Wildlife Trust Charcoal, some wonderful BBQ ribs from Cowshill Farm, and, for vegetarians, in the freezer we have some Good Food sausages and burgers and corn on the cob. We have all the ingredients for veggie skewers, including Red Peppers, Mushrooms, Courgettes and Halloumi Cheese. If salad is your thing, try adding some fresh broad beans or French beans, both of which are local and seasonal at present. We have a lovely Pea and Mint dressing, which tastes fabulous drizzled on salad.

It's not really the right weather for chocolate - I know, I cannot believe I

have just written that statement! But why not cool down with a chocolate ice cream from Brookes or Booja Booja, or melt some chocolate and mix with cream to make a dipping sauce for your strawberries or indulge at the weekend with one of our freshly baked Pain Au Chocolat?

Calling any parents out there. We are looking for someone to canvas opinions on what the shop should stock for children - what soft drinks, sweets, crisps and healthy alternatives? If this could be you, or if you belong to a group and can give me some feedback, that would be wonderful. Thanks.

Look out for lights by Christopher Lewis in the shop shortly. Christopher has lived in the Forest of Dean for nearly 30 years and, wherever possible, his unique designs are made from local timbers. Four chairs he designed and made are placed in the Verderers Court in Speech House. Although his love of furniture remains, at present he is concentrating on lighting designs, including LED and low voltage lights.

Enjoy your summer! - Alison

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Brockweir Bistro: 27 Sept, 25 Oct, 29 Nov, 13 Dec.

Christmas Lunches: 6 & 12 Dec.

**Chocolate comes from cocoa.
Which is a tree.
That makes it a plant.
Chocolate is salad!**

ART IN THE CAFÉ

Jane Brooks - until 13th August 2018

An ongoing exhibition, which has provoked great interest. Jane is an artist and printmaker who uses traditional techniques, but to contemporary effect. Her work is semi-abstract, with a special emphasis on the natural world, the

seasons and their changing effect on landscape. In some designs, she includes lettering from poems which have inspired her, as well as imprints of natural items (eg leaves, twigs) collected on lengthy walks in the Wye Valley.

A New exhibition, 'Open Landscape', from 13th August to 24th September, reflects the works of a trio of talented local artists:

Rebecca Way

Rebecca lives in Chepstow, and teaches art at local leisure centre classes in Chepstow and Lydney. Her most recent work focuses on landscapes and birds as subjects, but she does, however, also paint horses and animals to commission.

Currently, she works in acrylic inks, but also uses pastels, watercolours, charcoal and pencil as media. She is fascinated by, and enjoys exploring, colour, texture and light.

Lyndon Richards

Lyndon lives on the riverside in Chepstow, but also travels regularly to Australia and Brittany, painting in all three locations. He graduated in the late 1970s from Cardiff College of Art and subsequently taught in schools, whilst continuing to produce his own work. In 2006, he retired in order to be able to paint full time. He remains a moderator for AQA, the schools' examining board. A successful artist in each of the three countries in which he spends time, he has current exhibitions

in Pembrokeshire and Brittany and also as a "Short-listed Artist" for the Bayton Award, in Queensland, Australia. Last year, he showed his work at the Society of Marine Artists exhibition in the Mall Galleries, London. Mainly painting in oils, he attempts to capture the subtle essence of light, and its play on landscapes, harbours and boats. His inspiration is the artists of Brittany circa 1900, particularly Charles Fromuth and Le Gout-Gerard.

David Young

David has previously exhibited at the Village Shop, in other local venues and at the National Trust Visitor Centre in Rhossili. He lives in Usk, and began learning his craft through evening classes and following a printmaking course. He paints mainly landscapes, usually featuring the South Wales

area – particularly the Gower and Pembrokeshire. Currently, his favoured medium is acrylics, but he also used watercolours, ink and pencil. In his larger paintings he attempts a freer style, tending towards the abstract. He is a member of the Wye Valley Art Society.

Annie Charlton

DIARY DATES - weekly/regular activities

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

COMMUNITY VINYASA YOGA 9-10 am, Assembly Rooms, St Briavels, Lorna Kennedy 07793 381849 lornayoga@me.com www.lornayoga.com
ECSTATIC DANCING 9.45 am -11.30 pm Mackenzie Hall
FRIENDLY ART GROUP Most Wednesdays, 10am-1pm Assembly Rooms. Call Ann Kilminster on 07980 978348.
PILATES: 2-3pm. Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. For info call: 01291 627243 / 07787 193302.
BROCKWEIR BOWLS CLUB: 2-4pm Wednesday afternoons. Last meeting 30 May. Meetings resume in early September. For more information email Trevor Williams. fishthw@gmail.com
BROCKWEIR YOUTH CLUB - the club meets during term time. For further information please ring 01291 689 327 or visit: www.brockweiryouthclub.co.uk.
SOFT MEETING. On two Weds each month. 7.30pm. The Loft above Village Shop.

Thursdays

COURTYARD CAFE: 1:30-4:30. Assembly Rooms - hairdresser, seamstress services, "Pop- up" shop: French bread/patisserie.
MIXED CIRCUITS CLASS: 6:30pm at Mackenzie Hall
YOGA WITH ALI ROSE: 7- 8:30pm, Assembly Rooms. 07883 678629 simplyalirose@yahoo.co.uk.
ZUMBA WITH JO, 'Zumba Strong', St Briavels School Hall, 8.15pm - 9.15pm
ST BRIAVELS WALKING GROUP - monthly walks. John Hurley 01594 530890

Fridays

TEA AND TOTS: 9:00-10.30am - term time only, Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. For more information please visit our Facebook page: St Briavels Tea and Tots.
IYENGAR YOGA - Re-starts in September at a new time: 9.30-11am at Mackenzie Hall. www.wildwoodyoga.co.uk or call/message Kishe Redwood 07805 729893

Saturdays

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

Sundays

ST BRIAVELS PEOPLE'S CHOIR will meet at 7 pm at the Assembly Rooms after the summer break on September 9th.



**Based in the Wye Valley,
Your Local Choice for
Professional Garden and
Grounds Maintenance**

**Tree Surgery, Hedge Cutting Services, Agricultural and
Equine Fencing, Lawn Grass and Paddock Management,
Weed Control - especially Japanese Knotweed.
Access Platform available for hire.**

**Telephone 01600 717097 Email info@treesandgrounds.co.uk
www.treesandgrounds.co.uk**

DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST

Walking for Health every Tuesday – meet at the Assembly Rooms, 2pm			
2 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
3 Fri -12 Sun	Summer Sale. Gallery open Thurs-Mon	10.30 – 5pm	Mariana-Art Gallery, St Briavels
4 Sat	Produce Market	10am-12.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
4 Sat	Taizé Service	7pm	Brockweir Moravian Church
6 Mon	Tintern Wine Tasting		alan.hillard@gmail.com
7 Tues	Coffee Morning	10am -12noon	Congregational Church, St Briavels
7 Tues	Hewelsfield & Brockweir PC - Public Meeting	7pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
9 Thurs	St Briavels Walking Group	1pm	Meet at St Briavels Church
11 Sat	Moat Society Working Party - All welcome	10am to 12noon	Castle Moat.
15 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
15 Weds	St Briavels WI meeting: Members' Night	7.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
16 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
21 Tues	St Briavels Senior Citizens	12.30pm	Orepool, Sling
22 Weds	Nosh & Natter: American Supper	6.30-9pm	Church Croft, Hewelsfield
23 Thurs	St Briavels Lunch Club	3.15pm	St Briavels Pavilion
26 Sun	Annual Cricket Match	2pm	The Acres, Brockweir Farm
27 Mon	Bank Holiday Coffee Morning	10am - 12noon	St Briavels Pavilion
30 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church

ADVANCE DATES

2 Sept	Back to School BBQ - All welcome	3.00 pm – 6.00 pm	The Castle Moat
4 Sept	Brockweir & Hewelsfield PC meeting	7pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
8/9 Sept	English Heritage Open Weekend		St Briavels Castle
8 Sept	Ride & Stride	10am - 6pm	St Briavels Church open for refreshments
10 Sept	St Briavels PC meeting (planning applications and councillors available from 6.30pm)	7pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
15 Sept	Piano Recital - Natalia Williams-Wandoch.	7.30pm	St Briavels Church
21 Sept	Garden Society meeting: Practical Propagation	7.30pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
27 Sept	Brockweir Bistro		Brockweir Village Shop
13 Oct	PGP meeting: Our Trees	2.30 pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
14 Oct	Apple Juicing Event		St Briavels Pavilion
11 Nov	Remembrance Sunday – Armistice Day Centenary Celebration		St Briavels
6 & 12 Dec	Christmas Lunches		Brockweir Village Shop

Are you going to any of the above events?

If so, why not take a photo of it and send it to us for next year's Village News Covers?

Or do you have some lovely views of the area? A historic postcard of our parishes? Photos of local wild life or flowers?

Please send them to covers@villagemag.co.uk, or email for technical help. Full submission details can be found on our web site www.villagemag.co.uk

This month in 1848

IMPORTANT SALE.

To Naval Contractors, Ship Builders, Timber Merchants, Carpenters, Blacksmiths,
and others,

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY ORDER OF THE ASSIGNEES OF THOMAS SWIFT,

BY Messrs. Burton and Son,

On Tuesday, the 29th of August, 1848, commencing punctually at Eleven o'clock, at
Brockweir, six miles from Chepstow, on the premises, at Mr. Swift's Timber and Ship
Yard,

ALL the STOCK-IN-TRADE, Tools, Stock of Timber, A Iron, and other effects:
comprising smith's bellows, anvils, swage" boshes, vices, sledge and hand hammers, tongs,
benches, drilling machine, lathe frames, ship-carpenters tools, several tons of flat and
round bar iron, lignum vitae, Muntz's metal, copper and iron bolts, spikes and nails, ropes,
oakum, oil and paints, a quantity of oak and other plank, from 1, up to 4 inches thick,
butts and tops of oak timber, slabs, slides, packings, blocks and standards for ship building
purposes, a powerful crane, plank steaming apparatus, and other valuable effects.

Also, at the George Inn, in the Town of Chepstow, ON THE FOLLOWING DAY,

Wednesday, the 30th of August, at 11 for 12 o'clock,

2323 PIECES OF SUPERIOR NAVY OAK AND OTHER TIMBER,

(IN CONVENIENT LOTS,)

Situate and being in various places on the Banks of the Wye, between the Towns of Hay
and Chepstow,

And a quarter-share in the Brig Queen of Chepstow," A. 1. 12 years, 127 tons register,
O.M.

Full particulars 'of the whole may be had on application at the Office of the Midland
Counties Herald,

From The Monmouthshire Merlin — 26 August 1848

Brockweir & Hewelsfield Local History Group



WYE VALLEY MUSIC (ST BRIAVELS MUSIC SOCIETY)

Nothing can be more enjoyable and exhilarating than the
experience of great live music performed by top class
musicians in attractive settings – usually within 15 minutes
of your doorstep!

In 2017/18, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the St Briavels Music Society (now Wye Valley Music) in some style, with young star pianist, **Nuno Lucas**, and internationally renowned string players, **Rachel Podger** and **Jane Rogers**, performing to a packed church in St Briavels. Double bass player, **Chi-chi Nwanoku** joined up with the **Frith Quartet** in Monmouth and June also saw the return of the ever-popular **Moscow Drug Club** to

the Mackenzie Hall. Later in the year, we enjoyed two great clarinet quintets, a Baroque ensemble, a string quartet (members of which also held successful workshops for pupils in St Briavels and other local schools). There were recitals for four trumpets, keyboards, two for violin and piano, and we ended, last month, with a hugely enjoyable evening of Argentinian tango music (plus Sangria and nibbles!) in Chepstow.

New Programme of Concerts for 2018/19

In this edition of Village News, you should find a leaflet with information about all the concerts for the coming autumn and spring. As always, we have planned for variety in terms of instruments and composers, as well as musical periods and styles. As always, we have aimed to book artists of the highest quality.

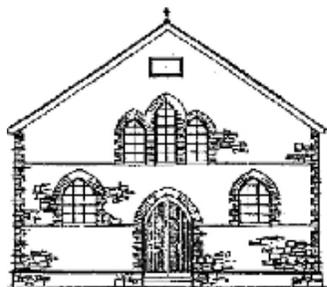
The new line-up includes: a Baroque ensemble, a string quartet, a new a cappella singing group, our annual showcase from students at the Royal Welsh College of Music and the return of local flute/piano duo, **Tranquillo**. We are fortunate in St Briavels that one of our members generously donated the fine Yamaha piano kept in the church – and the first of our concerts at 7.30pm on Saturday 15th September is a piano recital by **Natalia Williams-Wandoch**. The season ends in May with the exciting prospect of pianist **Clare Hammond** returning to play for us - as part of a joint festival - hopefully in Tintern Abbey!

Natalia Williams-Wandoch started performing at the age of 8, played as a soloist with an orchestra for the first time at 11, gave her first full-length recital at 14 and performed the complete Op.10 Études by Chopin in the composer's house, while still a student. Enthusiastically received by the audience and the critics in the 2005 International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Natalia has since won numerous prizes, including every piano competition she entered at the Royal Academy of Music. She now has a busy schedule as a soloist, chamber musician and in piano concertos. Natalia's recital will include a range of music from Scarlatti to Debussy to Bax, and, of course, feature music by Chopin.

Do come along and enjoy our concerts. If you have enjoyed them in the past, consider becoming a member; in addition to gaining reduced prices, this is a key way to support the society and help us to provide high quality programmes, hopefully for the next 50 years!

Mke Haines

ORGANIC FRUIT & VEG * FRENCH BREAD & PATISSERIE * ORGANIC LAMB *		
* RARE BREED PEDIGREE BEEF & PORK * FREE RANGE POULTRY & GAME * CHEESE		
CHUTNEY	ST BRIAVELS LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET	* SAUSAGES
* OLIVES *	Saturday 4th August	* PASTIES
* NUTS *	The Pavilion 10-12.30 pm	* HONEY *
* CIDER *		* BUTTER
* EGGS *		UIT JUICE
* DELI *		* CAKES *
* HERBS *		RESERVES *
INNOVATIVE VEGETARIAN & VEGAN FOOD * FUDGE * PLANTS * REFRESHMENTS *		
SWEET & SAVOURY PIES * AUTHENTIC FRESHLY MADE CURRIES & INDIAN SNACKS		



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.

AUGUST

THURS 9 MAKE A SILVER SPOON - 1 DAY WORKSHOP Ann Skehel

9.30am - 5pm Cost - £52 (Silver is not included - £25 to £40 per spoon)

SAT 18 PAINTING & DRAWING - 1 DAY WORKSHOP Ann Hulme

9.30am - 5pm Cost - £50

SEPTEMBER

THUR 13, 20, 27 SILVER JEWELLERY (10 classes) 1.00 - 4.00 Ann Skehel

Special price of £230 for 10 x 3hr session (Silver is not included)

Fri 7, 14, 21, 28 PAINTING & DRAWING - (10 classes) Ann Hulme

9.30am - 12.30pm and/or 1pm - 4pm

Special price of £220 for 10 x 3 hr sessions, am or pm, or £440 for both morning and afternoon.

SAT/SUN 15/16 MAKING MOSAICS - 2 day workshop 9.00am-4.30pm Teri Cookson

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)

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

★★★★★	Film Night	★★★★★
Bring your own wine, drinks & snacks.	Friday 10th August	Information: Andrew Reid
Teas, coffees & ice cream on sale.	Paddington 2	andrew.reid@huntermillerreid.co.uk
★★★★★	"There is so much to love about this sequel...it is hard to know where to start." Evening Standard	co.uk
	Tintern Village Hall 7.45pm	or phone 07774 726860
	Tickets £4.00 15s & under £2.50	★★★★★



PARISH GRASSLANDS PROJECT

www.parishgrasslandsproject.org.uk

Our autumn meeting always generates a lot of interest, so here are some advance details of this year's event

We are calling it **Our Trees**.

It will take the form of a wide ranging symposium on the ownership of trees, in which we will attempt to cover all aspects that can impinge on the tree owner. There will be a number of presentations examining different areas, followed by a question and answer session. Subjects covered will include: choice of species when planting, in view of mature size and potential threat to property; notoriously dangerous species; signs of danger for the layman; options when removing threat/nuisance; and last but by no means least pleasure derived from trees. The session will end with an examination of the history of the introduction of exotic species

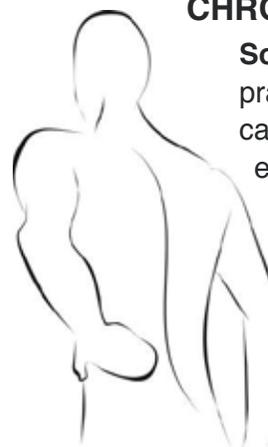
to Britain by the plant hunters of the past.

Our specialist speakers will be John Josephi and Gwion Trefgarne. There will be an interval with tea, coffee and cake. All are welcome to attend and entry is free, although we invite non-members to make a small contribution towards the refreshments. It will also be possible to join the PGP at the meeting, for the modest sum of £5 per household per year.

The meeting will take place at the Mackenzie Hall at 2.30 pm on Saturday October 13.

Mike Topp

CHRONIC TENSION?... LOOKING FOR RELIEF?



Somatic movement education uses simple, effective practices to release chronic tightness. Pain may be caused by sport, injury or simply everyday life, for example long hours sat driving or at the computer.

This is a practice for *everybody!*

Workshops throughout **August: Tuesdays 10.00-11.30 am** at St Briavels Assembly Rooms

Further information and booking:

07883 678629 ali@yogawithalirose.co.uk

www.yogawithalirose.co.uk

ASHES TO ASHES?

I dimly remember that when I launched out on this Moucher caper years ago the nation was gripped in a panic over the fate of one of our well loved native trees, the Ash. Cockily, I urged VN readers to calm down because Ash Dieback was unlikely to make a great impact among the robust native Ash of the Welsh Border. Today, as I look around to see young trees withering back to their roots, big old trees going thin on top, clearly in need of a comb over, I realise that a Moucher U-Turn is in order. This thing is really with us.

My revised "advice" is as follows. It seems that any Ash tree you plant today has only a percentage chance of growing into a fine specimen. So, don't plant Ash. Rather pin your hopes on the existing crop, which will continue to

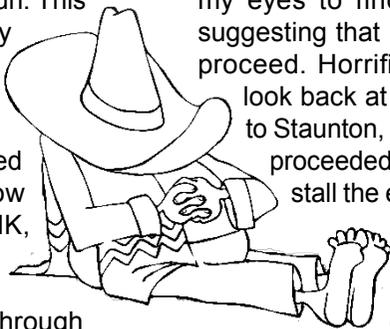
seed itself everywhere. And, importantly, treat the elderly with respect! Those manky old monsters may be written off where timber production is concerned, but their deadwood, splits and hollows have always provided food and nest/roost sites for the birds, bugs and fungi that enrich the lives of country dwellers. Ash is a hugely adaptable specie and may well develop its own immunity. It can even change sex in mid-life. (But who can't these days?) I fear that for our lifetimes our landscape will be scarred with singed and dead wood until a gradual resurgence restores the equilibrium. 30 years ago we were spooked by the deadly fungus that was decimating our native Common Alder. Now look at it! If wailing and g-nashing of teeth is for you then save it for the ELM!

WHO SNORES WINS!

Weeks of Mediterranean weather have prompted me to adopt a similar lifestyle. All meaningful work about the place now ceases at the Noonday Gun. This is followed by a leisurely lunch under the Mulberry tree. Next comes a delicious respite which, as a 20 year old conscripted squaddy, I came to know by the generic term GONK, aka EGYPTIAN PT. That irresistible post prandial torpor has assailed me through all the changing scenes of life, prompting me to indulge in 20 minutes worth of life enhancing oblivion.

This genial torpor ambushed me a few weeks ago as I sat at the traffic lights

waiting to proceed into Monmouth. The first I knew of it was to be aware of a gentle tapping on the window. I opened my eyes to find a gentleman mildly suggesting that I engage first gear and proceed. Horrified, and not daring to look back at the road that winds up to Staunton, I crashed the gears and proceeded. I'm proud to say I didn't stall the engine. Recollecting the incident later I couldn't help marvelling at the forbearance of the drivers in my wake. I pictured horns blaring, fists waved, but could recollect nothing. But then, as someone has famously observed, "Oblivion means Oblivion".



SOME LIKE IT HOT!

This hot weather has been glorious, and with any luck will still be with us when you read this. But of course it has its downsides – the chore of watering the garden of course being one of them!

But there are other things to watch out for as well. One of my sons, who lives in South Korea, told me about a phenomenon that roughly translated means "Death by Fan". In South Korea the weather is cold and snowy in the winter, but it can be very hot indeed in July and August. Although most people in that prosperous country have air conditioning, there are still some older people who prefer to make do with just an electric fan, and this can cause problems: firstly, older people lose their thirst reflex – they just might not drink enough; secondly, the evaporative effect of the fan leads the person to feel cool and not realise they are sweating profusely. After a while, if they live alone, are not mobile and do not have relatives calling in regularly, they can fall into a coma from dehydration and heat stroke and eventually die.

Prolonged extremely hot weather in the UK is rare, but that can make it all the more dangerous, as very often we are just not prepared for it.

By the time you read this, the worst of the hot weather may be over, but if it is not, it is worth taking note of the following edited version of advice on the NHS web site:

A heatwave can affect anyone, but the most vulnerable people are:

- older people, especially those over 75
- babies and young children
- people with a serious chronic condition, especially heart or breathing problems
- people with mobility problems
- people with serious mental health problems
- people on certain medications, including those that affect sweating and temperature control
- people who misuse alcohol or drugs
- people who are physically active – for example, labourers or those doing sports

Tips for coping in hot weather

- Shut windows and pull down the shades when it is hotter outside. You can open the windows for ventilation when it is cooler.
- Don't go out between 11am and 3pm (the hottest part of the day) if you're vulnerable to the effects of heat.
- Have cool baths or showers, and splash yourself with cool water.
- Drink cold drinks regularly, such as water and diluted fruit juice. Avoid excess alcohol, caffeine (tea, coffee and cola) or drinks high in sugar.
- Check up on friends, relatives and neighbours who may be less able to look after themselves.

John French

LONG HOT SUMMER!

Members enjoyed visits to two contrasting Wiltshire gardens in July - Iford Manor and The Courts, both close to Bradford-on-Avon. Despite the long dry spell, there was much to enjoy and inspire. Our next event is our annual American Supper, and then monthly meetings resume on 21 September at Mackenzie Hall, when Victoria Logue will demonstrate Practical Propagation - Seeds, Cuttings and Beyond. She came to horticulture after 25 years as an accountant, trained at Pershore and worked for Bob Brown at Cotswold Garden Flowers. She now runs a tiny nursery, high up in the Cotswolds, selling interesting and unusual, hardy herbaceous plants

All welcome – visitors £5

Christine Haines

BEHIND THE SCENES AT CHELSEA

Chelsea is renowned the world over for its extravagant, original show gardens, filled with perfect plants and amazing sculptures and landscaping. Sally Nex works as a journalist for the BBC during Chelsea, and so had a stock of 'behind the scenes' stories to share with us at our meeting in June.

In the Great Pavilion, the muted light and still air make it impossible for plants to remain looking their best for long. Daffodil specialist, Walkers, stage their display at the absolute last minute, working through the night so that the flowers are at the peak of perfection for judging. Rose breeders use Chelsea as a launch pad for new varieties. The process of breeding a new rose takes about 10 years, starting with 2 roses, from which about 250,000 seedlings are raised and grown on for 7-8 years, during which each individual cross is assessed on all its features. Only 4 or 5 new breeds make it to Chelsea each year.

The show gardens cost on average £250,000 and involve a huge team effort to build. There can be unforeseen challenges, however meticulous the planning. In 2015, Dan Pearson's recreation of the rockery at Chatsworth required huge rocks and trees to be craned in to create a naturalistic landscape. As the rocks were being lowered into place, it was discovered that a sewer pipe ran beneath his site and the rocks were too heavy. The original design had to be drastically modified on the spot.

And when it's all over? In 5 days the whole show must be dismantled and disappear without trace.

Sue Young

IN MY GARDEN

I recently had an e-mail from a well known rose grower advising customers that during the hot weather their roses should be watered daily - an onerous task - and as the ones in my garden were planted by my predecessor and are all very well established I have to say I ignored the advice, and none of them have had a drop. Although roses love a rich, moisture retentive soil - which is why, much as

I love them, I haven't planted any more - mine have weathered the heat better than I expected. The soil in my garden is very free draining, sloping away from the house to the south and losing moisture quickly, so my choice of plants has been to suit the conditions. Most of them have done remarkably well.



I'm convinced that whatever the weather throws at us we owe it to our planet to conserve natural resources, so choosing our garden plants wisely is essential, and the best adapted are, of course, those that have sown themselves. They know best where they'll be happy and thrive. Buddlejia, wild carrot, fennel, red valerian, veronica spicata and lots of members of the vetch family have kept my garden full of flowers and the bees buzzing through weeks without rain.

I'm not feeling at all smug though. Quite the reverse - the water level in the pond has dropped so much I'm now having to water the marginal plants!

Cheryl Cummings

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

With July feeling like August from almost the beginning of the month, perhaps we should skip straight to September in thinking about what to get on with in the garden! August is always a quiet month for gardeners, anyway – too early to start making changes and too late to rectify mistakes. Time, though, to reflect and plan – and enjoy (when you're not watering!) We've already decided that we must collect more rainwater this winter – a precious, free resource (apart from the cost of the rain barrels). Weather cycles and the effect of climate change mean that gardeners must increasingly expect the unexpected! This month, even if it rains, you will need to keep up the watering. Use rain or grey water where you can.

- Give a thorough soaking, rather than a sprinkling, to trees and shrubs looking very stressed
- Feed, water and deadhead tender plants regularly, to keep them going until the first frosts
- Cut down fruited raspberry canes and prune blackcurrant bushes when you've harvested the last of their fruits
- Lift onions and lay them out to dry in the sun – if the current weather continues, this won't take long!
- Pot up strawberry runners – grow them on to replace old plants or for a bigger crop next year
- Prune climbing and rambling roses that flower only once – this will give them time to make new growth for next year
- Time to give your Wisteria its first prune - cutting back wispy shoots. (Second prune in early spring.)

Find detailed guidance notes for August on our website: www.wyegarden.com

Christine Haines

If you didn't visit, you missed a treat. From novices to experts, our flower arrangers did an amazing job this year.

'Song and Dance' was the theme, and inspiration came from many of the musicals and films, including Wizard of Oz, Cats, Singin' in the Rain, Any Dream Will Do and The Black and White Minstrels.

Other songs represented were Lavender Blue, In an English Country Garden and Dressed to Impress (yes, it is a song title!!).

Dance - illustrated in flowers were the ballets Swan Lake, The Nutcracker and The Red Shoes.

Celtic music came alive with Highland Fling and Riverdance. Ice dance and the famous Bolero also made an appearance.

The youth of our community were represented with Brockweir Youth Club's Brockweir Ballerina and Years 1 & 2 of St Briavels School, who made colourful paper flowers to represent A Song of Flowers.

For the Beauty of the Earth, also represented as a floral piece, was one of the hymns sung at the joyful Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving, which brought our festival weekend to a close.

Thanks to Rev. David Treharne, Mandy Vaughan and also to our organist Jane Benson, who, before the service, played a medley of tunes which included some of the music illustrated in flowers around the church.

Alongside the beautiful floral displays, our visitors were treated to an excellent array of refreshments, capably prepared and served by Carol Stickland and her band of willing helpers.

A massive thank you must go to everyone who helped in any way to make this year's festival such a success, despite being in competition with the World Cup, Wimbledon, Monmouth Show and the hottest, driest summer we can remember!!

The final total raised should clear £1,000 – a wonderful result. However, what was more important was the enjoyment we all had working together to create the floral arrangements for our visitors to enjoy. Comments in the visitors book proved we succeeded – "beautiful", "stunning", "amazing", "a welcoming and wonderful church". These words of appreciation make the amount of work that goes into these events worthwhile.

To sum up, a very successful, hot and enjoyable weekend. Thank you so, so much everyone.

Marion Harrison.

PATIO TABLE, SEATS 4/6. Very Good Condition - no rust. Glass top on metal legs. Does not fold down but easily taken apart for storage (allen key provided) No charge but a donation to Mike Parry's August Coffee Morning appreciated. Will deliver if not too far. Philip Jenkins 01594 530537

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TAI CHI: No class in August. Classes recommence on 23 September and continue on the third Sunday of the month, 10.30am-12noon in Mackenzie Hall. Everyone welcome. Cost £8. Enquiries: Roy Wilson: 07979 843223 www.longrivertaichieng.org roywgreenwich@aol.com

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

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Parish Grasslands Project	www.parishgrasslandsproject.org.uk
St Briavels Assembly Rooms	www.st-briavels.com
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