

Dear Friends

Every year, around this time, there is much media comment around the Christmas adverts. I wonder which has caught your eye this year? Perhaps you got nostalgic listening to Elton John on the John Lewis ad; the gift of a piano changed his life. Iceland's Orangutan ad was never aired but has had over 30m views to date - a gift for them. Marks and Spencer asked, "What makes Christmas, Christmas?" the answers included "seething gift envy", which seemed very sad.

Many people take the idea of gift giving at Christmas back to Matthew's biography of Jesus which talks about the Magi (wise men) bringing gifts to Jesus at his home: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh – the original "must haves"! Christians started giving gifts to celebrate the fact that God had given his own son to enter our world and restore us to himself. As the Apostle Paul said – Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.

Wishing you each a very happy Christmas.

Matt Rees, Pastor

St Briavels Congregational Church

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.

In the retail world, Black Friday marks the start of their real Christmas push. It is vital for them, as up to 70% of their business is done between October and January. For Christians the start of preparing for our celebration of Christ's birth is Advent Sunday. Advent means coming, and we look back with thanks to those who prepared the way for this. Men and women who accepted God's invitation to be his friends and work with him, sharing his life in his renewing of the creation that we had broken. Through his birth, life, death and resurrection we are all invited to be part of this. Here we find life in all its fullness and the love, joy, hope, faith and peace which his life brings. Come and explore what that can mean today as we remember and celebrate not only Jesus coming as a baby, but look forward and prepare for his return as Lord and God to complete cosmic renewal and re-creation.

We begin the month with the Hewelsfield Nativity Scene Festival - Sat/Sun 1st & 2nd December, 10am – 4pm, also Christmas Crafts at the Congregational Church, Saturday Morning. Food for Thought, on Sunday 9th is on the theme of Restoration and Renewal.

The month climaxes in celebrating Jesus' birth with Family Carols, 'The Mystery of the Noisy Neighbour' on Christmas Eve, the Midnight Communion, and our Christmas Morning Worship. For those for whom Christmas has a sadder side, we have our Blue Christmas Service on the 28th. We begin the New Year Celebration with Epiphany, the coming of the Wise Men on January 6th.

DECEMBER SERVICES: PREACHERS AND THEMES:

SUNDAY 2nd - Advent 1: Our Redemption is Drawing Near. David Treharne

8.30am	St Briavels	BCP Communion
9.30am	St Briavels	All Age Eucharist
10.00am – 4.00pm	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Nativity Scene Festival
4.00pm	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	All Age Worship

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

4 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
5 th Weds	10.30am	Holy Communion
6 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 9th - Advent 2: Prepare the Way of the Lord. Mandy

8.30am	St Briavels	BCP Communion
10.00am	St Briavels School Hall	Food for Thought - Restoration
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Communion

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

11 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
13 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 16th - Advent 3: Community Carols by Candlelight. Robert

8.30am	St Briavels	BCP Communion
5.00pm	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Community Carols by Candlelight & Refreshments
6.30pm	St Briavels	Community Carols by Candlelight & Refreshments

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

18 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
19 th Weds	10.30am	Holy Communion
20 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 23th - Advent 4: My Spirit Rejoices in God. Mandy

9.30am	St Briavels	All Age Eucharist
11am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Communion

CHRISTMAS EVE 24th - All Shall See God's Salvation

4.30pm	St Briavels	Family Carols. 'The Mystery of the Noisy Neighbour'
10.00pm	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	'Midnight' Communion
11.30pm	St Briavels	Midnight Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY 25th - A Child Has Been Born. Robert

10.00am	St Briavels	All Age Christmas Communion
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FRIDAY 28th

3.00pm	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Blue Christmas Service
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SUNDAY 30th - Knowing God as a Friend. Robert

11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	All Age Communion
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MIDWEEK: St Briavels

1st JAN. Tues	9.00am	No Service
2nd Weds	10.30am	Holy Communion
3rd Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 6th - Epiphany: Your Light Has Come. Robert

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

BROCKWEIR MORAVIAN CHURCH

Church Services for December 2018

Sun	2 Dec	6.00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth (<i>Advent Sunday & Holy Communion</i>)
Sun	9 Dec	6:00 pm	Rev Jane Avery
Sun	16 Dec	5.00 pm	Joint Service at Hewelsfield Church (<i>No Service at Brockweir</i>)
Fri	21 Dec	7.00 pm	Nativity Walk
Sun	23 Dec	4.00 pm	Christingle Service with Lovefeast (<i>led by Rev Patsy Holdsworth</i>)
Tue	25 Dec	10.00 am	Christmas Liturgy (<i>led by Sr Sue Groves</i>)
Sun	30 Dec	6.00 pm	Service of Lessons and Carols (<i>led by Srs Judith Ashton & Carol Ostler</i>)
Sun	6 Jan	6.00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth (<i>Holy Communion</i>)

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS!

Advent Windows - Starting on 1st December @ 6.00 p.m. and then every evening, meet in the village to reveal the next window in our Village Advent Calendar

Nativity Walk - Friday 21st Dec – meet at 'Herries', Underhill at 7.00 pm for mulled wine before our popular walk and carol singing, telling the Christmas story in different village locations, ending up at the church. Poignancy, pantomime and a real donkey!! Hot drinks and mince pies will be available afterwards. Feel free to dress up as shepherds, angels etc.

Family Lovefeast and Christingle - Sunday 23rd Dec at 4.00 pm
Enjoy the Moravian custom of Christingles and the magic of this service for all ages, served with a drink and biscuit! It is the perfect way to get ready for Christmas.

REGULAR MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

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

Table Tennis - 2.15 - 4.00 pm - Tuesdays & Thursdays in the School Room. Players of all abilities always welcome - for more information contact Jean Green on 01594 530955.

Charity Lunch - at 12 noon in the Sunday School Room on 1st Thurs of the month. Thurs 6th December – In aid of our Christmas Charity To be decided at our Congregations Council meeting. Our December Lunch will include a Christmas sale of gifts, cards and our new recipe book.

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		



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 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Have you ever considered the extraordinary claims that the church makes? Infinite God was born as a human baby and laid down to sleep in a feed trough. Either we're bonkers, or there's more to this than meets the eye. Why not join us to investigate over the Christmas season.

We hold our Sunday Morning Service at 10am (6pm Evening Service). 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 in my home) and Tuesday (10:15am in the chapel), apart from the first Tuesday of the month.

... ST BRIAVELS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH continued

A special invitation to families: Saturday 1st December, bring the children and make Christmas decorations at the chapel. 10:30am-1:30pm. Why not pop in after you've been to the farmers' market?

Tuesday 4th December: our regular coffee morning will have carols and mince pies. We are excited to welcome back the choir of St Briavels Primary School who will come and sing for us. Join us at 10am.

Sunday 9th December: Food for Thought, our joint service held with the parish church in the school. The world is broken; join us as we reflect on God's plan to restore it. 10am in St Briavels Primary School Hall.

Sunday 23rd December: an all-age Carol Service with a "pop-up" nativity - children, please come and help in retelling the Christmas story! 10am at the chapel.

Christmas Day: 10am. A short, informal, service to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Families are especially welcome. Children, would you please bring a new toy!

Christmas is a very exciting time, it can also be a hard time with extra family pressures and financial strains, and particularly hard for those grieving loved ones. We understand these things and if you would like to have someone to speak to or pray with, please do get in touch.

If you would like to know more about us please get in touch or visit our website: www.stbriavelscongregational.org.uk

Matt Rees, Pastor

VILLAGE NEWS COMMUNITY GRANTS

Thanks to the support of our readers, Village News continues to achieve a surplus of income over costs each year. As we have capital in the bank against future needs, we will again use surplus income to fund grants to community groups for particular projects in 2019. The exact sum available will be confirmed but will be in the region of £1,500.

If you are a local group in the communities of Brockweir, Hewelsfield or St Briavels and have an idea for a project, you can apply for a grant. An independent panel will assess all applications and make recommendations for awards to the Editorial Committee.

The closing date for applications is 14 January 2019. Awards will be made by 28 February 2019. If you would like to apply, email editors@villagemag.co.uk for further details and application guidelines.

The Editorial Committee

Christmas Services In St Briavels, Hewelsfield & Brockweir

Sunday 16th December

Community Carols by Candlelight. Followed by Refreshments

5pm - Hewelsfield & Brockweir. 6.30pm - St Briavels

Friday 21st December

Moravian Church - Nativity Walk, Brockweir. 7pm

Sunday 23rd December

St Mary the Virgin - 9.30am & St Mary Magdalene - 11am, both Communion

St Briavels' Congregational Church Carol Service with pop-up nativity 10 am

Brockweir Moravian Church - Christingle Service with Lovefeast, 4.00 pm

Christmas Eve

Family Carols by Candlelight, St Briavels - 4.30 pm

'Midnight Communion', Hewelsfield & Brockweir - 10.00pm

Midnight Communion, St Briavels - 11.30pm

Christmas Day - All Age Communion, St Briavels - 10.30am

Christmas Day

St Briavels' Congregation Church - Christmas Service, 10am

St Mary's, St Briavels - All Age Communion, 10am

Brockweir Moravian Church

Christmas Liturgy 10am

Friday 28th December

**St Marys, Hewelsfield & Brockweir - Blue Christmas Service 3.00 pm.
To remember loved ones no longer with us**

CHRISTINGLE – IT’S MORE THAN 50 YEARS!

Anyone who receives information from the Children’s Society will no doubt be aware that this year they are celebrating 50 years of Christingle. Facebook posts promote ‘last chance’ to apply for your Christingle pack and register your Christingle celebration; and their website is full of information about this 50 year anniversary. It is true that it is 50 years since the Children’s Society held THEIR first Christingle service, in Lincoln Cathedral on 7th December 1968, but Christingle services were being held in Moravian Churches in the UK for many years before that.

The Children’s Society does acknowledge that the custom of giving children a candle originated in 1747 in the Moravian Church in Germany. However they claim that it was they who introduced the custom to the UK! This quote from their website is one of many making that claim!

In 1968, John Pensom of The Children's Society .. brought Christingle to this country and introduced it to the Church of England. This involved children decorating an orange with a red ribbon, dried fruits, sweets and a candle to create a new visual representation of Christ, the light of the world, celebrated by the lighting of the Christingle candles.

Their website is so full of inaccurate and misleading information about Christingle that it has caused great upset to many Moravians. No one doubts that the Children’s Society does a lot of good work and whilst using our precious Christingle as a fundraising tool goes against the grain with many of us, we acknowledge that it does help them raise money for their work. HOWEVER, it surely is not too much to ask that they get their facts right! Repeated requests for them to do this have fallen on deaf ears over the years!

It is not known exactly how the Christingle developed from the original candle tied with a ribbon to the orange stuck with sweets and a frill that we know today, but our archives show that they developed into this form prior to the First World War, and Christingles are known in all parts of the world served by British Moravian missionaries. During the war Moravians in the UK used turnips in place of the oranges that were not readily available! The symbolism of the Christingle is essentially that the light of the candle represents Christ, the Light of the world. The fruit and nuts are God’s bounty to us and the red frill at the base of the candle is the blood of Jesus shed for all people. The Christingle is given freely to show that God’s love is given to us freely. We cannot earn it by our own efforts, it is a gift to us.

The correct history of the Christingle can be found on the Moravian Church website, <https://bit.ly/2Fvo9fJ>

Leaflets about the true history of Christingles are also available in Brockweir Moravian Church. If you are attending a Christingle Service, please consider passing the correct information on to organisers.

Sue Groves

ACTION4OURCARE UPDATE 19 NOVEMBER 2018

Action4OurCare are pleased to confirm that the new Statement of Values and Principle (SVP) has been signed by all the Ministers concerned and was laid before the House of Commons and the House of Lords in Westminster on Monday, 12 November 2018, as a Written Ministerial Statement. This replaces the old Cross Border Protocol signed in April 2013 which did not comply with the law.

This means that Action4OurCare’s campaign is finished - 5 years and 4 months after we held our first Public Meeting in July 2013 to gather support from local residents.

The new SVP allows all the patients living in Gloucestershire and registered with a GP under contract to NHS Wales to exercise their legal rights under the NHS Constitution to be referred to a provider under contract with NHS England. This is achieved by Welsh GP practices referring English residents via the Referral Assessment Service (RAS) which ensures choice of provider and treatment to NHS England waiting times. Alternatively, you can still choose to receive treatment in Wales under Welsh waiting times.

Unfortunately, there is still one local Gloucestershire GP practice with English cross border residents which is not yet using the RAS but we understand that plans are underway for them to join the RAS. The Wye Valley Practice was one of the first to join the RAS and we have had good feedback from patients that the RAS is working well. NHS England has updated its website to reflect all these changes. The link is www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/part-rel/x-border-health/xb-faq/. On this website, you need to click on “Information on Cross Border Healthcare for the NHS in England and Wales” option to read the explanation about the introduction of the SVP and to access a copy. You can also click on “England/Wales Cross Border Frequently Asked Questions” option for more practical details on how these changes affect you.

The new SVP will take effect immediately and an evaluation of its effectiveness will take place in a year’s time. Like all those involved in these new arrangements, we hope that this Statement of Values and Principles will provide a long-term resolution but we will continue to monitor its effectiveness in Gloucestershire and to help to resolve any local cross border health issues that may arise during this year of evaluation. Action4OurCare have received a letter of thanks from the Department of Health about our contribution to these changes. I would like to give personal thanks to the St Briavels Women’s Institute, who gave me the confidence in the first instance to seek help from local people through the medium of the Village News, and for the support, encouragement and donations received from many local people during our campaign.

Above all, I would like to especially thank the Action4OurCare Committee who have stuck by this campaign through thick and thin over the last 5 years.

Pam Plummer, Chair.

The Editorial Committee wish to thank Pam and her colleagues for their dedication and perseverance in achieving such a satisfactory outcome on behalf of the villages.

HEWELSFIELD AND BROCKWEIR PARISH COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of 6th October 2018.

Present: Cllr Bowen, Cllr Harris, Cllr Haythornthwaite, Cllr Brundle and the Parish Clerk

Payments agreed:

Payee	Service	Amount
Lynda Skuse	Clerk salary & expenses	£288.40
AEB Price	Strimming/Litter Picking	£80.00
Royal British Legion	Commemorative Wreaths	£50.00

The Clerk to seek an extension for comment on new information submitted under Application No. P0307/18/FUL - Land at Hewelsfield, Off Mill Hill, Brockweir NP16 7NW. Change of use of agricultural land to a tourism site, and clarification of the criteria used for this application to be decided by committee.

Cllr Molyneux had confirmed finance for a road traffic survey to be conducted in the village later this month.

To alleviate the problem of increased traffic, specifically HGVs using Brockweir Bridge and Mill Hill when neighbouring main roads were closed by accidents etc. the Clerk was asked to enquire about signs top and bottom of the parish warning HGV drivers that the road was unsuitable for them to use.

Cllr Brundle will represent the parish council on the Mackenzie Hall Committee. The Village Shop Committee requested a conversation with Cllr Haythornthwaite before considering representation from the parish council.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Village News editors to seek agreement to publish the calendar of events on the parish council website and Facebook page to add to communication options for parishioners and visitors.

To foster closer working relationships with the Playground Committee, it was decided to seek representation from the parish council at their meetings.

A meeting with representatives of The Environment Agency was held on 1st November. It was reported that following the engagement of Consultants, meetings will be held with property owners affected by flood to discuss possible defences. As no action had been taken over the last few years it was decided to escalate this to major decision makers within the Environment Agency to seek urgent action.

Survey of drains and grit bins in the parish - It was agreed that this survey would be carried out by Councillors, each taking an area of the parish.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes - It was agreed to review the possibility of initiating these schemes at a future date.

A replacement mirror was to be purchased and installed at Hollywell Lane.

A response is still awaited from the application to seek Community Asset status for the former HAPPA/Oil Yard site. The council had been advised that the site was possibly up for sale once again. It was decided to seek parishioner opinion on whether to investigate possible purchase of the site. The December meeting would now be a public meeting, held at the Mackenzie Hall 4th December, for discussion with parishioners to take place. Notices for the meeting would be displayed on notice boards, in the village shop and delivered to households where possible

Public Meeting: 4th Dec at Mackenzie Hall to discuss the former HAPPA/Oil Yard Site

ST. BRIAVELS PARISH COUNCIL

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

Remembrance Sunday – after months of planning, the arrangements for the special event to commemorate the Centenary of the end of WW1 on 11th November came to fruition. Around 250 people of all ages gathered at the memorial gates, despite the rain, to pay their respects to the fallen, to whom we owe so much. The Assembly Rooms looked amazing due to everyone who turned up on Saturday afternoon to lay out the memorabilia; set up the colourful display by local schoolchildren, and other information posters and boards; and sound check the video which shared the war-time memories of several parishioners. So, from the Parish Council, a huge THANK YOU to the people who helped with the service; the school and school children; bakers and film makers; the proud owners of the precious memorabilia and thought-provoking sepia photographs; the People's Choir and Beaujoladies, for their poignant and entertaining songs; to everyone who helped behind the scenes to make sure the day ran as smoothly as possible. There was something for everyone.

Whittington Close/Play Area – A Community Opportunity – as a result of feedback received, the Council approved in principle, subject to detailed costings, the lease of the two adjoining parcels of land for a peppercorn rent of £1 each. The play area is to be improved and seating provided; the Whittington Close land is to be laid to grass and the area behind the garages to be cleared and kept tidy.

Repair of Playing Fields Wall – a specification for work required to repair this wall has been approved and quotations will be sought with a view to making a decision at the January meeting.

The Child Safety Working Group is currently exploring the possibility of providing courses run by the NSPCC regarding on-line safety for local school children.

Letters from Parishioners – the Parish Council will always respond to correspondence received. It is, however difficult to get in touch with correspondents unless contact details are provided.

Christmas Lights will be placed on the tree outside The George from 1st December, with the official 'switch-on' taking place on 14th December; look out for details of this festive community event.

Local Council elections take place in May, 2019. If you are thinking of becoming a Councillor, don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the existing Councillors, or the Clerk, and of course you are welcome to come along to any of the meetings to see what goes on.

Next meeting – Monday, 14th January, 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Assembly Rooms, when the budget for the next financial year will be decided, 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

ST BRIAVELS COUNCIL AWARD

St Briavels Parish Council - Chair, Piers Chivers - has received an award from the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Gloucestershire for 'engaging with partners and the community in developing design principles leading to the planning, construction and letting of sustainable, affordable housing in a rural village, satisfying local needs' at Whittington Close, St Briavels.

ON BEING A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Eighteen months ago, I knew nothing about the Parish Council. I went to a couple of meetings because I was particularly interested in one of the topics under discussion and was pleasantly surprised to find that I actually recognised several of the Councillors. At about this time a vacancy arose. I was persuaded to apply and was subsequently co-opted to become a member of the Parish Council, that is, elected onto the Council by the existing members of the Council on behalf of the Parishioners.

One of my discoveries was that there were nine Councillors, all unpaid volunteers, plus the Clerk, who is paid a salary and is there to provide skilled technical support to the Council and Councillors, but who takes no part in the decision-making process.

My time on the Parish Council has been rewarding. I have been able to express my opinion (not always accepted!) on various topics during meetings and I can see tangible results as some of my suggestions come to fruition. I get to meet and talk to more people, as rumour spreads that I'm now a Councillor (not all rumours are false or malicious!). It's very pleasing that, on a number of occasions, I've been able to tell some of these people that the situation which concerns them is already in hand by the Council. Above all, because I have been able to contribute to decisions and actually do things that others can see, I feel useful - and that is a very worthwhile feeling. I don't get asked to undertake any task which I feel is not within my capabilities - with eight other Councillors, there's generally a volunteer - it's very much teamwork.

One common grouse is that the current Councillors were not elected by Parishioners. This is no fault of the present Council - if there aren't sufficient candidates prepared to stand then an election cannot be held and consequently those who do stand (that is, they are validly nominated) are automatically elected. Thus, it is that some people feel the Parish Council doesn't always reflect the views of the Parishioners. The subsequent process of co-option, though, is very democratic, in that any Parishioner, with any views, can apply to join the Council. However, all Councillors would like to be subject to the rigours of an election - it only needs ten people to apply to become Councillors next May - indeed, it would be good to see more than ten people apply. All you need is the enthusiasm to keep the Parish (that's not just the village, but also outlying areas such as The Common and The Fence!) as a place where people enjoy living and to improve it where possible. The amount of time you give is up to you. Don't grouse - be the person who does something!

John Hurley, Parish Councillor

LETTERS TO THE VILLAGE NEWS



BADGER CULLING UPDATE

The Badger Culling Licences issued by Natural England authorise approved operatives: 'to take and kill badgers (meles meles) within the area specified..... for the purposes of carrying out an annual cull during each Open Season 1 (June-31 January)' up to a specified target number of kills.

The current licences which may have been issued for our area are valid until 31 January 2022 or longer if specified by Natural England.

The Bovine TB. Policy Team for Wales have confirmed to me that they have no record of any consultations with Natural England concerning badger culling within 2 km. of the Welsh border, so it looks likely that our parishes have been largely spared culling this Open Season although there is still time up to 31 January for licences to be activated.

I have thankfully not received any reports of culling operations actually taking place in our locality but I thank my correspondents who have let me know by, 'phone, email and conversations that they are on alert for any such activity. I have used their news to follow up enquiries to try and find out what is going on. Can I ask parishioners to stay vigilant and, if they feel inclined, report back to me.

Keith Childs. 01291 689319 madgettsbadgers@gmail.com

BADGER CULLING

I understand that the 'authorities' have issued licences to permit badger culling in our area, including the Hudnalls Wood, where many of us exercise our dogs daily.

Only 6% of Bovine TB has been directly linked with badgers. Bovine TB can be found in multiple species, including deer, foxes, rodents (and farmers' boots). According to the Sunday Times, Bovine TB has been spread across England mainly as a result of farmers moving cattle with undiscovered infections between farms. Thus, just killing our badgers will have very little impact in eradicating TB in cattle.

If I discover any traps or poison in the Hudnalls Wood, I will ensure that they will be unable to harm our pets.

Mike Downey

WHAT'S ON...

AT ST BRIAVELS PAVILION

9th December - **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

For more details, contact Jill: 01594 530035 or Kim: 01594 531116

THE EMERGENCY WE ARE TOLD TO IGNORE

In the 25 years to 2015, the world's forests were cut and burnt at a breathtaking rate to create land for growing products such as palm oil, beef and soya. The rate is equivalent to the Forest of Dean being removed in 20 hours. Adding insult to injury, this has led to an increase of 11% in greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in extinction rates for many forest creatures.

We import a considerable amount of these products in our food and cosmetics. Try checking the labels. Palm oil, and other vegetable oils are in so many things we consume, it's a job to comprehend how much we'd have to avoid in order to save the orangutans, and other creatures from losing their forest homes forever. I find the pictures and videos of orphaned primates particularly upsetting - having looked them in the eyes for real in West Africa, where they are caught and eaten or sold as pets. What does it take to reduce consumption? With a growing human population, and only 12 years to save the world from climate breakdown*, this question becomes more challenging the more we think about it. Will the Extinction Rebellion save the day or will the new Brazilian President have his way?

*If a young person was about to fall off a cliff, would you help save them? Then what are we to say to our young people about their future? They're coming to the realisation that they are facing extinction. What is it they are supposed to feel - grateful? The real world, the natural world we depend upon; the interconnected world of soils, aquifers, rainfall, ice, the pattern of winds and currents, pollinators, biological abundance and diversity is faltering; it's breaking down. One relatively small change, one subtle tipping point exceeded, could trigger a quick and irreversible collapse in our biosphere.

My friends, this is an emergency we must not ignore.

Chris McFarling. chrismcfarling@phonecoop.coop

St. Briavels People's Choir WINTER CONCERT

*Step into Christmas with Seasonal Words &
Music, Mince pies & Mulled Wine!*

Saturday 1st Dec. 7pm £6.00, the Assembly Rooms

Tickets: 01594 530421 or on the door

Proceeds to the Assembly Rooms



A WONDERFUL BONFIRE NIGHT!

We recently enjoyed a few days in the Brockweir area and attended the bonfire and fireworks on Saturday 3 November. Both the bonfire and fireworks displays were wonderful, the atmosphere and friendliness second to none! We were amazed to witness that all was done by local volunteers, who also did all the clearing up on Sunday morning.

We think these volunteers well deserve a mention for their sterling efforts. Many thanks to all involved.

Sincerely, Cheryl & Basil Killough

BROCKWEIR EVENTS

In an effort to broaden the base of entertainment at the Mackenzie Hall we have endeavoured to put on alternative comedy and theatrical events.

Folk duo Jimmy Aldridge and Sid Goldsmith were well received on 26th October, but it was noticeable that this was only due to an established audience for this act joining us from Bristol and Abergavenny. Not many locals attended. Some decided to attend Blithe Spirit by BADS, which was unfortunately timed to clash with the Garden Society and Jimmy and Sid. Instant Wit, on 2nd November, was very funny and thoroughly enjoyed by the 20 people who attended. This was supported by Air in G, who were somewhat dismayed by the turnout as their funding from the Arts Council has been reduced and poor attendances do not help their case. Thankfully, bookings for The Moscow Drug Club have been very brisk and this promises to redress the balance.

I guess it is a matter of swings and roundabouts. It is highly likely that funding will dry up for rural arts groups such as Air in G next year, as funding for the Arts Council continues to be reduced. This means ticket prices will have to go up, which will result in poorer attendance. Like all services - use it or lose it. If you don't like what's on offer then tell me what you want and we can work something out. Otherwise apathy rules!

Adrian Birch

ST BRIAVELS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER

**St Briavels Primary School, 4-5pm
Adults: £5 Children £3 (inc. a mince pie)**

**Mulled wine, a bar & hot drinks available
St Briavels School Choir, The Bella Mammias, The Beaujoladies**

Tickets: clairevgilmour@btinternet.com /07702761299

NEWS FROM THE MACKENZIE HALL

Thank you to everyone who supported the Mackenzie Hall Christmas Market on Saturday 17th November, and thanks to the committee for all the hard work that went into making the event a success for stall holders and gift buyers alike.

Once again it was a colourful, musical, community event - with great cake and refreshments!

As the Mackenzie Hall's main annual fundraising event, we were delighted to have raised the sum of £616. This will go towards some of the latest stage improvements. The stage area has been renovated and decorated, demountable apron staging has been purchased, and the new backdrop curtains and blinds are going up any day now. The next step, a completely new sound system and control console, will be happening shortly.

Barbara French

Brockweir & Hewelsfield Local History Group

The Local History Group will meet at 7.30 pm, on Thursday 13th December in the Moravian Schoolrooms for our **traditional pre Christmas get-together.**

Everyone is welcome to come along to share cheese, mulled wine, mince pies and to enjoy an "historical" chat over **pictures of bygone Brockweir.**

As we are now approaching the cold dark nights of winter there will be no History Group meetings in January or February 2019. Please see your Village News for date and details of our next meeting in the Spring.

John Norman

Citizens Advice at St. Briavels Assembly Rooms

For free, impartial and confidential advice.
Drop-in sessions first Thursday each month
1.30 - 4 pm
For a fixed appointment please call 0300 330 9006



NEWS FROM THE GALLERY, ST BRIAVELS

I would like, through your pages, to wish my customers a very Happy Christmas & New Year and to thank you all for your valued custom. The Gallery will be closing for winter on 22nd December 2018, except for booked courses.

It has been a topsy-turvy year at the Mariana-Art Gallery. Teaching has been busier this year, with many art groups taking up one-day watercolour workshops to learn about the techniques, materials and basics of this medium. I've designed a new Christmas card, The Madonna of the Forest, and have limited stock, as many were pre-ordered. Local Christmas card designs have always been popular. We have a full range of silver jewelry, local pottery and gifts. 95% of items in the gallery are British made and most are made within the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley. Do come along and shop British, supporting local businesses.

Mariana Robinson

KEEP BEES BUZZING – THE GARDEN SOCIETY'S 2019 BEE GRANT

The Brockweir, Hewelsfield & St Briavels Garden Society is hoping to award a grant to support a new beekeeper in 2019. Anyone resident within the Parish of Alvington, Aylburton, Coleford, Hewelsfield and Brockweir, Lydney, Newland, St. Briavels, Tidenham, West Dean or Woolaston and wishing to take up beekeeping within any of those areas is eligible to apply for a start-up grant of up to £300. A place has already been reserved on the Dean Forest Beekeepers Association's basic beekeeping course.

For an application form and the terms and conditions of the grant, please contact David Broadbent by email wyegardensociety@gmail.com Applications close on the 16 December 2018; interviews of the short-listed applicants will take place in January 2019.

David Broadbent – scheme administrator

ST. BRIAVELS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year, the club are having their Christmas lunch at the Orepool Inn, Sling on 18th December at 12.30pm.

Would any club members who haven't booked their lunch with Jane Duggan (Tel: 01594 530517) please do so by Thursday 13th December. Many thanks.

Sheila Brown

TINTERN FOLK SESSION - SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER

We meet at the Rose and Crown on the first Sunday of each month over the winter (Oct-April inclusive) 7.15pm - 8.45pm, for an informal get together, playing in the round. Come and join in or listen

2019 Dates: 6th Jan; 2nd Feb; 3rd March; 7th April

Freya Sears frejasears@hotmail.com

ST BRIAVELS LUNCH CLUB, THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER 2018

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 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 (01594 530505) for more information. The three-course meal, sherry and coffee costs £5.50. There is also a raffle. We look forward to meeting you on December 13th.

Mary Perryman

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK AND DROP-IN PARTY AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS

We have decided to repeat last year's event, which was enjoyed. So the Friends of St Briavels Church and the St Briavels Walking Group, led by John Hurley, will again be at home together at the Assembly Rooms, on New Year's day, Tuesday January 1st, from 12 noon to 4pm, and all are most welcome.

John will lead an optional, short, circular walk of about an hour and a half, leaving the Assembly Rooms at 12.30pm. The walk will be mainly along lanes but there will be some wet grass and some stiles (specialist walking boots not required but please bring sensible, strongish shoes.)

We will put out tables and chairs. It would be great also if you could bring some contributions of food and/or drink from Christmas, since catering will be on a strictly bring and share basis.

The Assembly Rooms team have very kindly agreed to provide tea and coffee and we are very grateful to them for allowing this event to take place. It will be a Brexit/Remainer free zone/period and a nice way to spend an hour or two after the Christmas rigours, meeting friends and neighbours in the area. In addition, though not on this occasion compulsory, hopefully a lot of people will enjoy the walk, which will be surely needed by then!

Please bring along, but do not abandon with us, dogs, children, grandchildren, grandparents etc, and other Christmas accumulations.

Friends of St Briavels Church & St Briavels Walking Group

NOSH AND NATTER

Our meeting was cancelled this month so that members could attend the funeral of Annie. Our sympathy goes to her family and friends.

Our meeting in December is the Christmas meal on Wednesday 5th. Any ladies wishing to attend please contact me for information. Partners are welcome.

On behalf of Nosh and Natter I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas.

Pauline Siddons. 01594 530524 siddonspauline@aol.com

GLoucestershire FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE GOVERNANCE REVIEW

In September, Police & Crime Commissioner, Martin Surl, announced that he had taken the decision to reopen the work to assess the case for a change in the governance of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS). Work carried out by Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has identified a number of clear benefits a change in governance could bring. They are all contained in an outline business case, now available on our website www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk

The next stage is to gather the views of people who live and work in Gloucestershire - including you. It is very important that as many people as possible take part, so please spare a few minutes to complete the short, anonymous, online survey. This link also takes you to a short video explain the options and the case for change.

There are four models of governance to consider. These are:

- No change / status quo: This would mean Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service remains part of the County Council and collaboration continues to be progressed on a voluntary basis.
- Representation: This is where the PCC would become a formal part of the existing governance for fire and rescue in GCC, with full voting rights.
- Governance: Here the PCC takes on responsibility for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service in much the same way he currently does for Gloucestershire Constabulary. The role would become the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. Police and fire would retain their own chief officers and staff and be operationally independent of each another.
- Single employer: This is where the PCC would take on responsibility for fire alongside the police and also appoint a single chief officer for both services. Front-line services would remain distinct but support services would be increasingly integrated.

Against a statutory test of critical factors (economy and efficiency, effectiveness, public safety) and an additional assessment of deliverability, our analysis shows that the Governance Model would achieve the best outcomes for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and for Gloucestershire residents. This would mean that the PCC would become the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Governance of GFRS would be very much the same as is it with the police. Neither the PCC nor the OPCC would be involved in any operational activity but there would be a requirement to develop a police and fire plan setting the strategic direction of the service, as well as overseeing funding. Roles won't change either – police will stay police and fire will remain fire.

We do hope you will make your views known via the survey, which you can find on our website: www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk Follow the links to how-to-get-involved/consultations-and-surveys. Alternatively you can e-mail us at pcc@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk or telephone 01452 754348. You can also write to us at The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, 1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 2AN.

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

DIARY DATES - weekly/regular activities

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

COMMUNITY VINYASA YOGA 9-10 am, Assembly Rooms, St Briavels, Lorna Kennedy 07793 381849 lornayoga@me.com www.lornayoga.com
ECSTATIC DANCING 9.45 am -11.30 pm Mackenzie Hall
FRIENDLY ART GROUP Most Wednesdays, 10am-1pm Assembly Rooms. Call Ann Kilminster on 07980 978348.
PILATES: 2-3pm. Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. For info call: 01291 627243 / 07787 193302.
BROCKWEIR BOWLS CLUB: 2-4pm Wednesday afternoons. For more information call Bob Broughton 01594 530003.
BROCKWEIR YOUTH CLUB - the club meets during term time. For further information please ring 01291 689 327 or visit: www.brockweiryouthclub.co.uk.
SOFT MEETING. On two Weds each month. 7.30pm. The Loft above Village Shop.

Thursdays

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

Fridays

TEA AND TOTS: 9:00-10.30am - term time only, Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. For more information please visit our Facebook page: St Briavels Tea and Tots.
IYENGAR YOGA - 9.30-11am at Mackenzie Hall. www.wildwoodyoga.co.uk or call/message Kiske Redwood 07805 729893
UNDER 5s PLAY CLUB - 11am – 1pm at the Pavilion.

Saturdays

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

Sundays

ST BRIAVELS PEOPLE'S CHOIR meets at 7 pm at the Assembly Rooms every week.

★★★★★	Film Night	★★★★★
FREE wine and mince pies	Friday 14th December	Information: tinternvillage.co.uk
FREE entry to raffle	The Greatest Showman	or phone 07774 726860
★★★★★	"The most enduring film for a decade." "A genuine rush of spectacle and wonder."	★★★★★
	Tintern Village Hall 7.45pm	
	Tickets £4.00 15s & under £2.50	

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

Walking for Health every Tuesday – meet at the Assembly Rooms, 2pm			
1/2 Sat/Sun	Nativity Exhibition	10am – 4pm	St Marys, Hewelsfield & Brockweir
1 Sat	Christmas Decoration Making for Families	10:30am-1:30pm	St Briavels Congregational Church
1 Sat	Produce Market	10am-12.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
1 Sat	Advent Windows starts - then every evening	6.00pm	Brockweir village
1 Sat	St. Briavels People's Choir: Winter Concert	7pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
2 Sun	Tintern Folk Session	7.15-8.45pm	Rose & Crown, Tintern
4 Tues	Coffee Morning	10am -12noon	St Briavels Congregational Church,
4 Tues	Hewelsfield & Brockweir PC: Public Meeting to discuss the former HAPPA/Oil Yard Site	7pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
5 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir
6 Thurs	Charity Soup Lunch	12noon	Moravian Schoolroom
6 Thurs	Christmas Lunch	12.30pm	Village Shop, Brockweir
6 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Ch.
7 Fri	Book Launch	6.30 - 8pm	Village Shop, Brockweir
8 Sat	Seniors' Christmas Lunch	12noon-3pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
8 Sat	WVM Concert: Nos Miseri Homines	7.30pm	St Briavels Church
9 Sun	Children's Christmas Party	3 - 5pm	St Briavels Pavilion
12 Weds	Christmas Lunch	12.30pm	Village Shop, Brockweir
13 Thurs	St Briavels Walking Group	1pm	Meet at St Briavels Church
13 Thurs	St Briavels Lunch Club	11.45am	St Briavels Pavilion
13 Thurs	Brockweir Bistro	7pm	Village Shop, Brockweir
13 Thurs	History Group: Pre Christmas get-together	7.30pm	Moravian Schoolroom
15 Sat	A Lighter Side of Christmas	6 – 8pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir

16 Sun	St Briavels Christmas Concert	4 - 5pm	St Briavels Primary School
16 Sun	Community Carols by Candlelight	5pm	St Marys, Hewelsfield & Brockweir
16 Sun	Community Carols by Candlelight	6.30pm	St Briavels Church
17 Mon - 22 Sat	Christmas at the Gallery (Mon/Thu/Fri/Sat)	10.30-4.30	Mariana-Art Gallery, St Briavels
18 Tues	St Briavels Senior Citizens: Christmas Lunch	12.30pm	The Orepool, Sling
19 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir
20 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Ch.
21 Fri	Festive Afternoon Tea	3 - 5pm	Village Shop, Brockweir
21 Fri	Nativity Walk	7pm	'Herries', Underhill
22 Sat	Mariana-Art Gallery closes for winter: re-opens March 2019		
23 Sun	Carol Service with pop up nativity	10am	St Briavels' Congregational Chapel
23 Sun	Family Lovefeast & Christingle	4pm	Moravian Church, Brockweir
24 Mon	Family Carols by Candlelight	4.30pm	St Briavels
24 Mon	'Midnight Communion'	10.30pm	St Marys, Hewelsfield & Brockweir
24 Mon	Midnight Communion	11.30pm	St Briavels Church
25 Tues	All Age Communion	10.30am	St Briavels Church
25 Tues	Christmas Service	10am	St Briavels Congregation Chapel - ,
25 Tues	Christmas Liturgy	10am	Moravian Church, Brockweir
28 Fri	Board Games Café	7 – 10pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
28 Fri	Blue Christmas Service	3pm	St Marys, Hewelsfield & Brockweir

ADVANCE DATES 2019

1 Jan	New Year's Day Walk & Drop-In Party	12noon-4pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
14 Jan	St Briavels PC meeting (planning applications and councillors available from 6.30pm)	7pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
18 Jan	Garden Society meeting: Digging Deeper	7.30pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir

Thank you to the people of Brockweir and the local community for the friendship, support and many acts of kindness shown following Margaret's death. Margaret witnessed great changes over her lifetime and was one of the few remaining villagers who recalled life at a time when water was still collected from the village well, cars were a rarity and steam trains ran through the valley. A few of her memories are shared here.

I was born in Birch Cottage, Brockweir. My earliest experience of education was of Sunday School and it was oh so boring! We were expected to behave impeccably and if we failed to attend, the minister would arrive on the doorstep, demanding to know why we were absent. Church itself as a child was a different experience. Nearly all the village adults were there as well as us children. I remember several of Brockweir's 'Ladies' in their Sunday Best. They always wore hats and some were wonderful creations containing bunches of shiny red cherries, roses or violets. And then there were the fox furs! Many of them wore these as warmers around their necks and I remember being so frightened of the open fox's mouth with its visible teeth. Usually, the fur stank of mothballs and – as I later discovered – spilt wine!

I started school at the age of four in the Infant class, which was a little hut situated where the shop is now. There were about one hundred children and some of the teachers were really kind. I gained a scholarship to Bells Grammar School in Coleford, which necessitated cycling both ways - nearly 20 miles a day for four years till I was fifteen. My scholarship consisted of a free school place and a bike. As my parents couldn't afford one, it was provided by Gloucestershire Education Committee.

One Thursday afternoon I went shopping in Monmouth with a friend. We caught the train from Brockweir Halt to Monmouth Troy Station. Back at the station to come home, we were surprised to see a number of police and special constables. King George VI had been visiting Monmouth Castle inspecting troops shortly to depart on overseas service. The Royal Car pulled up only a few yards from us and the king, looking superb in his dark uniform, stepped out. He actually waved to us. I was star struck and smitten!

Although many changes have taken place over my lifetime, there still remains a strong sense of community in the village. The hedgerows are still the same as they were when I was a little girl. The tranquility and joy of living here is a constant delight. It is a stunningly beautiful place to live. I feel I've lived a very fortunate life. Who could possibly ask for more?

Margaret's life was a long and happy one. As she grew older, she travelled to many places, from Brussels to Bermuda, but always longed to return to her beloved Brockweir.

Carol, Tom and Jodie Knight

SPRING 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:** 14 Jan. **Length:** 10 wks **Mon:** 2 - 4 **Cost:** £80

Brush Up Your Basic French

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

Painting and Drawing Day Workshop

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

AT ST BRIAVELS PAVILION, COLEFORD ROAD**Italian for Beginners (term 2)**

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

Italian – Intermediate

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

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

THE FLAIL MAN COMETH

Patron saints: I've always been a bit vague about the calendar of saints' days and the reasons why each saint achieved promotion, but I am aware that martyrdom comes into it somewhere, and that there is usually a patron saint to cover for any one of life's less promising scenarios. I think there should be a patron saint of slow punctures, and for this appointment I would like to propose Saint Sebastian. After all, if I've got it right, he was set up for target practice by his local archery club.

My interest in this area stems from a flailing incident many years ago when, having endured two flat tyres in a fortnight, I encountered a local farmer blocking the lane as he, oh so slowly, showered the tarmac with Quickthorn and Blackthorn twigs, creating a rural equivalent of the Police Stinger. The heated exchange that followed has faded in the memory but I see that the issue is alive and kicking in the national press, with correspondents offering contradictory views on the subject. All, however, agree that flailing is one of those operations most likely to cause a sharp intake of breath, simply by virtue of being so totally In Yer Face. A mature hedge that has been bludgeoned into submission by a flail, instead of being laboriously cut and laid, looks as though a mugging has been committed, but this is a case of a tried and trusted agricultural skill being put to the wrong use.

So what can we agree on about our hedges?

First: they are providers of flowers (Insects/bees), fruit, shelter and nest sites (birds), stockproofing (livestock) and a thoroughfare/safe haven for

mammals of both the scurrying (mice) and pouncing (stoats/weasels) persuasion. An impressive CV.

Second: Regulation - a gentleman's agreement exists between DEFRA and grant receiving landowners that a "close season" be observed between the nesting dates 1st Apr - 31st Aug. While it is not illegal to flail your hedge between those dates, you could be prosecuted for destroying an existing nest site. So, look before you leap!

Third: Roadside hedges - can be a hazard, blocking lanes during the summer. Think restricted vision on corners, twisted metal bumpers. Think Speedy Tweed and his gleaming roadster. Poop Poop! Aaaargh! Some hedges require physical restraint at every season.

Fourth: Botany. Some argue for flailing as late as possible to save the berries/fruit but, if the hedge is flailed annually, the first season's regrowth almost never produces flowers/fruit, so the "right time" question doesn't arise. If you are keen to encourage fruiting then I suggest giving a proportion of your hedges a 1- 2 year holiday. And yourself!

Fifth: Christmas! Holly is now red with berries. Sign of a hard winter, Ho Ho! Fieldfares will have snaffled the lot by 15 Dec. My Cunning Plan? Cut enough berried branches, before the end of November and store in a feed bag in a dry shed.

Damn! I forgot about the mice!



As I sit here drinking my scrummy coffee, which has become an essential part of our lives along with such delicious obligatory cakes from the varied selection, I am amazed by the glorious colours of the trees in the moat, the sun turning the leaves into a shimmering mass of iridescence. This beautiful view is guarded by a very cheeky Robin sitting on the wall beside the entrance to The George Inn.

I love this time of the year when, depending on the weather and the time of day, one can imagine one is on the Riviera, or in the foothills of the Rockies, or on Vancouver Island - if one has sufficient imagination, that is.

I am reminded of the fact that the nights are drawing in and that Christmas is fast approaching. What shall we have for our main meal on Christmas Day? I love being able to choose my cheeses, sausages and ham, not to mention turkeys, chickens, beef, gammon and all the ingredients for a super Christmas, and being confident that Mary and Martin will do their utmost to obtain these things for the best possible price and the fewest travelling miles. I rejoice in the fact that, should we run out of logs or kindling for the fire, then a quick trot down the road will soon remedy the situation.

As always, one never quite knows who one might meet - and the tales recounted and people and places known or visited never cease to amaze.

We are so looking forward to the Pantry's preparation and display for the lead up to Christmas. All power to your frequent forays to delight our tastes!

Sandy and Chris (almost residents of the Cafette)

8 week Mindfulness course in Brockweir

Discover the joy of Mindfulness to improve your mental health and emotional well-being.

Eight week Mindfulness course starting Monday 14th January 2019, 10.00 - 11:45 am, and then weekly at the same time.

At The Loft, Brockweir and Hewelsfield Community Shop, NP16 7NW

Cost: £140.00

Mindfulness is a way of training the mind to be present in the here and now.

The weekly sessions and at home practice will guide and encourage you through meditation to cultivate your mindfulness, paying attention to what is happening as it happens, and doing so with an attitude of kindness, acceptance, and non-judgement.

Mindfulness nurtures and deepens our understanding of our true self, and how we can respond to difficult emotions and experiences with greater wisdom and flexibility.

Over time we learn to live with greater happiness and vitality.

To book a place, please contact Diana on: 07952 548040
Or visit: <https://mindfulnessforestandwye.co.uk>



NEWS FROM THE BROCKWEIR VILLAGE SHOP

You may have been making a list and checking it twice, thinking about products both naughty and nice, 'cos Santa Claus is coming to town.

Before you head across to the cities, why not check out the offerings here at the shop and have a homemade and locally made Christmas?

If you have missed stir up Sunday it's not too late! We sell everything you need for your mince pies, Christmas cake and Christmas puddings, with fruit, nuts, peel and cinnamon, and of course the all-important just roll pastry. We have local Christmas trees and wreaths available from the beginning of December. There is holly and that most romantic of greenery – mistletoe, and plants and bulbs to give as presents nearer to Christmas. We have food and drink, gifts and wrapping, and, of course, those all-important and easy to forget items like Batteries, Foil for the turkey, Dishwashing Tablets, Paracetamol, Sellotape and String.

On the 21st December, there will be a festive afternoon tea. So why not come along on your own or with a group? However, I must warn you there will be no mincepies or Christmas cake! However, whatever the day, the café is a great place to come down to, either to escape the Christmas madness or to use the time whilst sipping a strong coffee to write and post your Christmas cards.

Please check out the shop leaflet for more information and the order form. You can order any meat through us. You can order mini sausage rolls, cream, sprouts, lemons, wine, cakes and brownies, frozen croissants - in fact, the only item you cannot order is an extra pair of hands to do the dishes!

There will also be a community post box, which will be opened the week before Christmas. Feel free to post your local cards and pick up cards from friends and neighbours. I have also arranged with the chap with the white beard to forward any letters sent to him, providing they are correctly addressed to Father Christmas, The North Pole.

The Christmas charity for the Moravian and Hewelsfield & Brockweir churches and for the shop this year is the Smile Train. Smile Train is an international children's charity with a sustainable approach to a single, solvable problem: cleft lip and palate. The shop is also supporting the Church Little Larder and has a donations box for food, drink and toiletries for those in need of a helping hand locally.

I wish you great tidings of comfort and joy this Christmas.

Alison

BROCKWEIR VILLAGE SHOP CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

24th 8.30-3.00. 25/26th Closed. 27th 10.00-4.00. 28th 8.30-3.30

29th 8.30-3.30. 30th 10-4.00. 31st 8.30-3.30

ART IN THE CAFÉ - 10th December – 21st January

Carolyn Black: 'Art and Writing – all about two Rivers'

During the pre and post Christmas weeks, the café walls will feature an innovative exhibition with a dual aspect; an exhibition of original drawings, watercolours and photographic images taken with a 360° lens, combined with a book launch.

Artist, Carolyn Black, has an MA in Fine Art from Cardiff UWIC and comes from a printmaking and video installation background. Around 2001, as a member of an artist-led group in Bristol, she began to initiate, deliver and produce scattered, off-site art projects in public spaces. In 2012, she set up 'Flow Contemporary Arts', connecting people and places to show work in unusual locations. Last year, she turned full circle and returned to her own studio practice. Having previously lived in Thornbury, Carolyn moved to this side of the Severn in 2006, settling in Newnham on Severn. She was inspired by the close proximity of the river, the presence of the tides, dramatic changing moods and the riverside buildings, structures and industries, and this led to her to explore its impact upon her through several creative mediums.

Whilst working in her studio on wide, panoramic format, charcoal drawings and watercolours, she also wrote on her home computer; fact gathering, collating memoirs about her long relationship with the river and ended up writing a

book, now published as "Severnside: An Artist's View of the Severn". This is a travelogue with a difference. It contains many of the drawings which serve as markers along a circular road trip that begins, and ends, at The Old Severn Bridge. Like the drawings, the book is in panoramic format.

In recent months, Carolyn has turned her attention to investigating the River Wye, a natural progression, being in such close proximity to the Severn, but with a very different character. Included in Carolyn's exhibition are photographic prints which include Brockweir, with the bridge and river taking on a totally different perspective when viewed through the 360° lens. There are also new original paintings and charcoal drawings. Hot off the press in the last couple of weeks, the beautiful fifty page hardback publication, "Severnside: An Artist's View of the Severn" is going to be launched and available alongside Carolyn's exhibition here in the café. You are invited to join her for a special evening event on Friday, 14th December, 6.30pm – 8pm. The first edition of the book is of 100 copies and they will be available at the evening event only, at the special price of £25 (rrp £28), and no doubt would make excellent Christmas gifts!

Jacqui Trefgarne

WARNING OF EARLY CHRISTMAS DEADLINE

To all our contributors:

The deadline for the **January 2019** edition of the Village News will be **Tuesday 11th of December** for plain text submissions and **Friday 7th December** for boxed announcements and adverts.





PARISH GRASSLANDS PROJECT

Our survey this year set out to establish the rate of change among wild plants in the parishes of St Briavels and Hewelsfield & Brockweir over the last century, and has produced some remarkable results.

The main finding is that, while there has been remarkably little change in the total number of species, roughly 500, there has been a significant variation in the actual species on the list. Something in the region of 80 of the previously present species were not found this time, but a similar number of “new” species were discovered. The baseline for our survey was the 1920 publication, Flora of Chepstow, by William Shoolbred, a local doctor who seems to have spent much of his free time cycling round the district identifying and recording the wild plants he found. The bulk of the work on this year's survey was undertaken by the PGP's George Peterken, with valuable contributions from a number of local residents and significant assistance from Elsa Wood, who lives just beyond the parish boundary across the Wye and is the botanical recorder for Monmouthshire. The “new” species included a number of non-natives, nasties such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam, but also more agreeable visitors such as Ivy-leaved toadflax, which originates in Eastern Europe. Additions also included a number of garden plants which had “jumped the fence” and subsequently established themselves in the wild. Some of the species that were found still to exist locally were nonetheless on the verge of extinction.



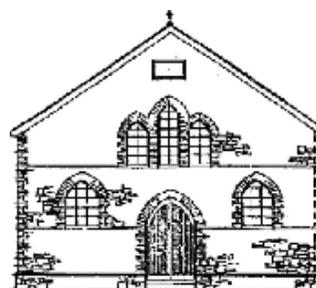
The question remains: what should we do next? A detailed report of the survey will probably appear in one of the specialist publications. We are planning to produce a version more accessible to the non-specialist and with illustrations. We would publish this on our website and in booklet form. We are also keen to establish a “garden of the lost species” where many of the missing plants could be seen – suggestions or offers of possible sites very welcome. Like all our efforts, we hope that the survey and its results gain wide involvement across the parishes. We are very keen to hear what people locally think about the changes in local

species, and whether or not you feel any action should be taken, perhaps to reintroduce species or to protect and encourage those that are in serious decline. Please get in touch – contact details on the website.

Activity continues on the community orchard project. We are preparing to plant our first trees at the site on the St Briavels playing field next month, having established that there is room to plant seven trees on dwarfing rootstocks. The intention is that this will be the first of a number of sites around the two parishes with mini-orchards. The PGP will fund the cost of trees and tree guards etc at this first site. We view this as a pump-priming exercise, and hope to attract funding for later additions. We are still looking for further sites and volunteers.

Mike Topp

www.parishgrasslandsproject.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.

WINTER/SPRING 2019

THURSDAYS Jan 17, 24, 31 Feb 7, 14, 21, 28 Mar 14, 21, 28	SILVER JEWELLERY (10 classes) 1.00 - 4.00pm £230 for 10 x 3hr sessions (Silver not included)	Ann Skehel
FRIDAYS Jan 18, 25 Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 Mar 1, 8, 15, 22	PAINTING & DRAWING (10 classes) 9.30 – 12.30pm and/or 1 - 4pm £220 for 10 x 3hr sessions, am or pm	Ann Hulme
SATURDAYS Jan 19 & April 27	PLAY WITH CLAY FOR A DAY 9.30 – 4pm £50 for one-day workshop	Val Welham
SATURDAYS Winter - Jan 26 Spring - April 13	FOUR SEASONS PHOTOGRAPHY 9.30 - 12.30pm £25 per session	David Broadbent

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

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

SAUSAGES, PARSNIPS AND ONIONS FOR 4

- 4-6 parsnips
- 3 medium onions (mixture of red and white)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 8-12 pork sausages
- 12 sage or thyme leaves
- Seasoning



Preheat the oven to 200°C. Peel parsnips, quarter from roots to tips. Peel onions, leaving root end intact, and cut each onion into quarters or eighths, depending on the size. Place parsnips and onions on a baking tin and trickle the oil over them. Cover the tin with foil and cook in the oven for 30 minutes. Lightly brown the sausages. Remove the foil from the tin, add the sausages to the tin and place the sage leaves in with the parsnips and the onions. Roast uncovered until everything is golden and caramelised. Let it rest for ten minutes and serve with salad.

Mary Perryman

CHRISTMAS FILMS

Ah, Christmas. Log fires, turkey and mince pies, children opening presents around the Christmas tree – and re-runs of old films on the TV. But nowadays, with streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime, and on-demand TV from the main broadcasters, you don't have to be stuck to the broadcasters' schedules. Here is a short list of some of my favourite Christmas films of all time.

It's a Wonderful Life, dir by Frank Capra in 1946, starring Donna Reed and James Stewart. Made in the same year I was born but still as fresh as ever (the film, not me), this is probably the most watched Christmas film of all time. I defy you not to water up. (Trivia: In 1947, the FBI issued a statement declaring the film a communist plot to denigrate bankers and other rich people.)

Gavin and Stacey Christmas Special, 2008. Excruciatingly funny. It could have been made by Mike Leigh (you don't get higher praise than that from me) - and indeed has many of his alumni in it, including the peerless Alison Steadman. I am not generally a fan of Christmas Specials, but this one is... er... special.

Planes and Trains and Automobiles, dir John Hughes, 1987. The ultimate coming-home-for-Christmas movie. John Candy and Steve Martin have never been funnier. Touching and hilarious by turns.

And then of course there is the Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol*. A list of the adaptations made of this tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim would fill this magazine, but for a bit of fun try *The Muppets Christmas Movie*, 1992, if only to watch Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy act Michael Caine off the screen.

John French



WYE VALLEY MUSIC (ST BRIAVELS MUSIC SOCIETY)

Outstanding Young Singers for Christmas Entertainment!

The fourth concert in the Society's 52nd season will be presented on Saturday 8th December at 7.30 pm in St Briavels Church, when the guests will be **Nos Miseri Homines**. This is a fresh, one-per-part, ensemble of outstanding young singers founded in 2013 by a group of Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars from the world-famous choir of Christ Church, Oxford. Now, five years later, it draws as well on outstanding young professional singers from London, Oxford and Cambridge colleges and consorts, and Winchester and Chichester Cathedrals, and has attracted attention for its intimate performances and fresh exciting blend. The name *Nos Miseri Homines* - - 'We unworthy and miserable men...' - reflects their approach to the music they perform; and is taken from the opening line of the grace read out each evening before dinner at Christ Church: 'Nos miseri homines et egeni...'

The programme will include *Videte Miraculum* by the 16th century composer Thomas Tallis, the carol *There is no Rose of Such Virtue* by John Joubert, who was born in South Africa in 1927 but has lived for over 50 years in Birmingham, *The Lamb* by the English composer, John Tavener, who died the year the ensemble was formed, and *The Road to Bethlehem* by the 20th century composer, Michael Head. These pieces will be followed by some light-hearted favourites.

This concert is the society's now traditional Christmas entertainment; included in the ticket price are mulled wine and mince pies, so advance booking is appreciated in order to know numbers as accurately as possible. Booking on-line at www.wvm.org.uk is therefore requested and recommended but admission at the door will also be available: £18 for the public and £15 for WVM members and students.

Keith Norman 01594 530419

Memberships invited: our membership year runs from 1st August to 31st July; join on-line at www.wvm.org.uk for £15 per person, giving a reduced entry price to concerts (12 in total) during the next year.

Enquiries can be made to our message line at 01291 330020 or by email to info@wvm.org.uk.

DIGGING DEEPER – BUT NOT IN DECEMBER!

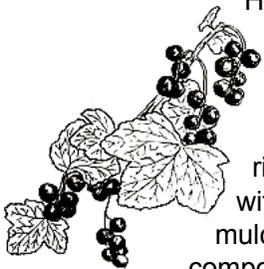
We down tools in December, as the focus turns inside and the garden takes a rest.

Our next meeting will be on 18 January, when gardener, writer and broadcaster Paul Williams, will provide a lively and entertaining look at plant and garden science in his talk, Digging Deeper. "A bit of soft science, looking at what goes on inside plants, how they protect themselves from pests and diseases, how soils behave, why plants are variegated and a lot of other stuff", he says, "not as heavy as it might sound."

Friday 18 January at Mackenzie Hall. All welcome. Visitors £5

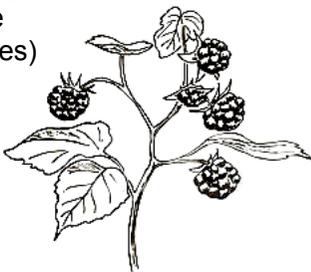
AUTUMN BLISS!

We welcomed Pauline Pears to talk to us in October about growing fruit organically. This was her second visit to the society and she continued to promote a common sense, time-saving approach to gardening. Pauline, a founder member of what later became Garden Organic, brought a great deal of knowledge and experience to share with us.



Her talk covered different ways of growing fruit, with an emphasis on making the most of small spaces by training plants on walls and fences. For the organic grower, who does not use pesticides or artificial fertilisers, building and maintaining a healthy, nutrient rich soil is key to producing healthy plants that can withstand disease and pests. So regular mulching, preferably with homemade compost (another of Pauline's specialties)

is essential. Pauline has a moveable compost bin permanently in her fruit cage, which she places near the roots of plants in turn, allowing the rich liquid that seeps away at the bottom of the bin to feed the plants directly. A great labour and time saving idea!



Two of her recommendations stand out: the relatively new Cassissima varieties of blackcurrant, exceptionally sweet, with individual fruits in bunches ripening at the same time, making picking a lot easier; and Raspberry 'Autumn Bliss' – the very best variety for autumn in Pauline's experience. Both now on my Christmas list!

Christine Haines

IN MY GARDEN

As the year comes to an end, it's good to look back at our gardens' successes and failures; learning from mistakes is as essential in the garden as it is in the rest of life.

This year I thought my meadow lawn was splendid, so much bush vetch appeared that I had a visit from a very rare long horned bee and was thrilled, but, apart from banning my husband and his mower, I can take no credit at all. The wild flowers just love my free draining soil, as do the tulips. The red ones planted in the grass looked a bit daft coming up when the grass was short but were so cheerful with the buttercups when they came out and the deep dark burgundy 'Ronaldo' and the pale cream 'City of Vancouver' were just lovely in the borders. They would have been even better if I'd planted them together, instead of at opposite ends of the garden, so I've bought more for next year and planted them together in containers.

Every year has its ups and downs but one thing we gardeners have in common is an unflinching optimism and belief in the promise of another year. Our December gardens appear uninviting, but if we look closer the hellebores are beginning to bud and under the ground things are moving, bulbs are getting ready to push their noses up through the soil and a whole new cycle of life is just about to begin.

Cheryl Cummings

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

This time last year, I wrote about the spectacular autumn we were enjoying, despite a wet and cold start to the season. This year, I think we have all run out of superlatives! In the third week of November, many of those stunningly coloured leaves have fallen, more than at this time last year. However, I'm still waiting for the, less stunning, weeds to slow down! Hopefully, the colder weather we seem to be moving into this week will check their growth. As days and night become colder, the ground will also start to cool but, unless it's frozen or waterlogged, you can still get a lot done. The shortest day is fast approaching and, although January and February (and possibly March too) will bring us harsher weather and bleaker prospects in the garden, the good news is that every day will be getting longer! As Cheryl says above, it's a good time to reflect on what worked in your garden this year and what you can do better next year. Gardens will never be perfect but there can be moments of perfection - even if they are often very fleeting!

- Clear leaves from grass and paths and make leaf mould, but leave them as mulch on borders
- Prune open ground apples and pears; maples and birches are also best pruned before Christmas
- Plant bare root trees, shrubs and roses. Dig generous holes, water well and mulch with bark or compost.

Christine Haines

Find detailed guidance and more on our website www.wyegarden.com



The winter months have arrived and, after another busy season, we are dusting off the rollers and digging out the paintbrushes to spruce up the Castle before starting all over again in March.

We were joined in November by five fantastic volunteers. They gave up their time and travelled no inconsiderable distances (one came down from Scarborough) to help us with a much needed face lift of the main bedroom corridor (think high ceilings and lots and lots of nooks and crannies and you will get the idea of the challenge faced!), as well as helping clear shrubs and beds in the grounds. The Castle offers a number of volunteering possibilities throughout the year - or if you fancy travelling further afield, YHA has projects throughout England & Wales. It is a great way to meet new people, develop and share skills and to see beautiful parts of the country. To register as a volunteer or to check current opportunities, visit <https://volunteer.yha.org.uk/> or drop a direct email through to stbriavels@yha.org.uk for details about our locally based projects planned for 2019.

This year, we are once again giving our Medieval Banquets a festive twist. So please do join us for Christmas crafts, followed by a lovely three course feast led by our resident hosts, Chris and Jon, who will entertain you with riddles and tales, all within the magnificent setting of our seasonally trimmed Banquet Hall. **Banquet dates are Saturday 22nd and Saturday 29th December.**



If you are part of a group, you may like to consider a private banquet, which we offer at lunch times and evenings, Sunday to Friday, throughout the winter months. For further information email stbriavels@yha.org.uk or call 01594 530272.

Can you solve the following riddle? With pointed fangs it sits in wait, With piercing force it doles out fate, Over bloodless victims proclaiming its might, Eternally joining in a single bite. What am I? Answer in the next edition!

From all of the staff at the Castle, may we thank you for your support during 2018, especially at our various events, and we heartily wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year for 2019.

Linda Harrison, Manager

FOR SALE IN AID OF LYDNEY HOSPITAL - 2 Parrot cages, one with stand. Also 2 bed side tables. For further details, please phone Adele: 01594 530571

FOR SALE - Five-drawer Pedestal Oak Desk, approx. 75cm x 135cm, dismantled. Will go in small hatchback. £10. Please contact Philip or Pearl on 01594 531075

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

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

AZTECH FUEL SERVICES - We offer a fast, domestic heating oils delivery service within the Forest of Dean. 4 x 4 Vehicles, 100ft of hose, metered tickets. Contacts: 01594 836120 Rory - 07511 047056 Emergency - Adrian 07802 627880

SAMANTHA'S HOUSEHOLD SERVICES - Locally based: Domestic cleaning, Family catering, Laundry service, Dog walking/sitting, Shopping, Assistance to and from appointments, Holiday house watch and more. Call Samantha 07885 529038 or email samanthalou822@gmail.com

CHIMKNEE SWEEPS - Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps member. Fully Qualified. Fully insured. Certificates issued. Clean and dust free. Bird Nests removal. Stove Maintenance. Call Jordan on 07498 310712 or 01594 832820.

FOR 2-4 YEARS & THEIR GROWN-UP! Yoga, Mindfulness & Sensory Play Classes - help your child grow in confidence & self-esteem. Thursdays at Mackenzie Hall, 1.45-3pm. Starting 11 September. All levels welcome. Booking essential. Enquiries: tracyderrett@gmail.com www.wigglebums.uk

NONNY BEACH - SOFT FURNISHINGS & INTERIORS - Soft Furnishings. Curtains, Roman Blinds, Cushions, Personalised Embroidered Gifts, Hand-painted Furniture, Seat & Footstool Upholstery, Memory Bears. Call: 03332 001548 or email: sales@nonnybeach.co.uk Visit our website: www.nonnybeach.co.uk

GCSE & A-LEVEL MATHS - Tuition from a very experienced, friendly & approachable tutor. Contact Rosie: rosie.amadia@gmail.com or find me at <https://rosie-meakin.business.site>.

MOBILE FOOT CLINIC - Hannah Davies, SAC Dip RFHP. Fully Qualified and Registered. Nail Trimming, Thickened Nails, Fungal Nails, Corns, Callus, Cracked Heels, Ingrown Toenails, Diabetic Care. For an appointment please telephone 07493 054585.

STEPWISE PODIATRY - Poppy Rastall, Podiatrist /Chiropodist BSc (Hons), MSCh, SRCh, HCPC Reg. Nail cutting, Corns, Callous, Ingrown Toenail, Nail Surgery & Orthotics. Call 07708 092782 for an appointment. Welsh Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LR.

FOR A BLOOMIN' WEED FREE GARDEN or for any other gardening needs you may require give me, Daemon Young, at the Young Ones Gardening Services a call on 01594 531426 or 07702 810924 and I'll be happy to help you.

RHS QUALIFIED GARDENER with over 14 years experience. Specialising in pruning, border renovation, garden design and the management of larger gardens. Physically fit and hard working. Call Alex Corfield on 07868 722477.

PHILIP COOK & COMPANY, BUILDERS - New Builds, Extensions and Alterations. Property Maintenance. Call Philip on 07511 952851 or 01600 860375. Fully Insured. Over 30 Years Experience. Free Estimates.

PAINTING, DECORATING & GARDEN SERVICES - Want to re-decorate or need general garden maintenance but don't have the time -or have a garden mole problem? Call Darren: 07713 235352 or 01594 531240. Local, reliable and friendly.

PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT – Painting, Decorating, Repairs and Maintenance, Tiling, Plumbing. Any job you feel you cannot do. Please call us. Ray James: 07789 743405 Jan Jones: 07766 756941.

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LOCAL HANDYMAN - honest and hardworking. Home and garden, repairs and maintenance, painting and decorating. For free estimates and advice please call Chris on (01594) 531225.

YOGA @ ST BRIAVELS ASSEMBLY ROOMS with Ali Rose - 'create space in body, breath and mind'. Tuesday mornings, Thursday evenings & once a month Saturdays. www.yogawithalirose.co.uk for details / 07883678629.

YOGA - Every Friday from 9.30am - 11am at Mackenzie Hall with Kishe Redwood, CIYT 2004. Drop in or contact me first at wildwoodyoga.co.uk. Lovely end of week class for all to enjoy.

FITNESS + CLASSES - Pilates for all, Legs, Bums and Tums and Chair Aerobics. Pay as you go. Chepstow, Caldicot, Aylburton, Lydney and Bream. For more info please call 07704 628081 or email helen13fitness@gmail.com

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

ENJOY LEARNING MUSIC with John Hurley, CT ABRSM. Tuition given for piano, electronic keyboard, saxophone, clarinet, music theory and aural. Beginners & restarters welcome. Exams optional. Enhanced DBS certificate. St.Briavels 01594 530890.

TINTERN PIANO - piano lessons (classical) beginner to diploma. Stephanie Frankland GRNCM; over 30 years' experience in leading private schools, enhanced CRB checked, please telephone 01291 689887 or send an email to: stephanie.frankland712@hotmail.com

The **January 2019** issue deadline is midday on **Tuesday 11th December 2018**

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

Babs Bergdahl	01594 530623	David Rees	01594 530443
Carolyn Norman	01291 689418	Hilary Lee	01291 689326
Christine Haines	01594 531050	Joyce McKay	01291 689910

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

Views expressed within 'Village News' are those of individual contributors, and are not necessarily those of the magazine or its committee members. We reserve the right to amend, edit or refuse any articles.

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

OUR PARISH CHURCHES
St Mary the Virgin, St Briavels and St Mary Magdalene, Hewelsfield

Associate Parish Priest:	Robert Simpson	01594 560202
Priest in Charge:	David Treharne	01291 760034
Licensed Lay Reader:	Mandy Vaughan	01594 530844
Churchwardens: St Briavels	David Rees	01594 530443
	Martin Pagnamenta	01594 531151
Churchwardens: Hewelsfield	Gary Lewis	01594 833020
	Pauline Siddons	01594 530524
Hon. Secretary: St Briavels	Jean Sheraton	01594 531096
Hon. Secretary: Hewelsfield	Pearl Bradney	01594 531075
Hon. Treasurer: St Briavels	Roger Clewett	01291 680436
Hon. Treasurer: Hewelsfield	David Wedel	01594 530633
Organists:	Martin Pagnamenta	01594 531151
	Caroline Buffrey	01291 689546
	Louise Greening	01594 530421
	Jane Benson	01291 689703
Electoral Roll Officer: St Briavels	David Rees	01594 530443
Electoral Roll Officer: Hewelsfield	Marion Harrison	01594 530264

St Briavels Congregational Church, Pastor: Matt Rees, 01594 530098
 Brockweir Moravian Church, Rev. Patsy Holdsworth, 0117 9078994

TO BOOK OUR VILLAGE ROOMS

Assembly Rooms, St Briavels	Karen Cockfield	01594 530950
Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir	Laura Beddis	01291 689604
Pavilion/Playing Field, St Briavels	Jill Skidmore	01594 530035
School Hall, St Briavels	School Office	01594 530428
The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir	Alison Macklin	01291 689995

DOCTORS' SURGERIES

WYE VALLEY PRACTICE

St Briavels Surgery (including out of hours)	01594 530334
Trellech Surgery (including out of hours)	01600 860302

WYDEAN PRACTICE

Tintern Surgery (including out of hours)	01291 689355
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USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES

Brockweir & Hewelsfield Parish Council	www.hewelsfieldandbrockweirpc.org
Brockweir, Hewelsfield & St Briavels Garden Society	www.wyegarden.com
Brockweir Village Shop	www.bandhvillageshop.co.uk
Brockweir Youth Club	www.brockweiryouthclub.co.uk
Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir	www.brockweirvillagehall.co.uk
Parish Grasslands Project	www.parishgrasslandsproject.org.uk
St Briavels Assembly Rooms	www.st-briavels.com
St Briavels on Facebook	www.facebook.com/StBriavelsWatch
St Briavels Parish Council	www.stbriavels-pc.gov.uk
St Briavels School	www.stbriavelsprimaryschool.co.uk
The Loft at Brockweir	www.theloftatbrockweir.co.uk
Wye Valley Music	www.wyevalleymusic.org.uk

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE (non emergency calls)	(UK dialling only)	101
Police Community Support Officer	Mike Shuttleworth	01452 753804
Email:	mike.shuttleworth@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk	
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Field Officer (Chrissie Parkes)		01452 753784
ELECTRICITY	(Power cuts)	08006 783 105
GCC HIGHWAYS	(for potholes etc.)	08000 514 514
GRASS ROUTES BUS SERVICE		08000 858 015
MP (Forest of Dean):	Mark Harper	01594 823482
COUNTY COUNCILLORS:		
Patrick Molyneux - <i>Hewelsfield, Brockweir & St Briavels</i>		01594 529174

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Hewelsfield and Brockweir
St Briavels and Newland

Chris.McFarling@fdean.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILS: *St Briavels* (Chair)

(Clerk)

(Snow Warden)

Hewelsfield & Brockweir (Chair)

(Clerk)

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B.A.D.S

BROCKWEIR BOWLS CLUB

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ST BRIAVELS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

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Pam Plummer 01594 530008

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Adrian Birch 01291 689812

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Alison Macklin 01291 689995

Barbara French 01291 689327

Paul Bergdahl 01594 530623

Richard Skinner 01594 812447

07927 051328

John Hurley 01594 530890

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John Gooder 01291 689979

Bob Brown 01594 530147

Maurice Harrison 01594 530501

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Ayse Rugg 07766 719950

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Pauline Siddons 01594 530524

Sally Secrett 01594 530539

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Karen Cockfield 01594 530950

Paul Lounds 01594 530573

Mary Perryman 01594 530505

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Louise Greening 01594 530421

School Office 01594 530428

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David Rees 01594 530443

Chris MacFarling 01594 531225

Sheila Brown 01594 530676

Anne Rigby 01594 562541

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