

# *Dear Friends*

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are in the aftermath of the snow that hit us quite badly in the Forest. Trees were down, roads were treacherous, cars had to be dug out, schools were closed with parents having to take time off, and so businesses were also affected. Many had lengthy power cuts. No electricity means no heating, no lighting, no hot water, no internet, no cooking etc. However well-prepared we are with candles, torches, woodburners and camping stoves, life is much more difficult without power.

It is a salutary reminder that even with all the advantages of modern civilisation, we are ultimately at the mercy of natural events. For example, the wildfires that have recently raged in California have threatened not only ordinary, quite humble homes but also the luxurious mansions and possessions of the rich and famous. So none of us can be complacent and think we are always immune to disaster. In other words, we are vulnerable.

It is this vulnerability which we have celebrated in the great festival of the Nativity. After all, what is more vulnerable than a new-born baby, relying totally on others for food, care and love? When these are not provided, physical, mental and emotional damage can occur, leading to a life that may be cut short or be full of anxiety, depression and cruelty.

While it is perhaps easier to appreciate the wonder of life in the case of a newborn, all of us, whatever our age or situation, however grumpy or cross or miserable we might be, are examples of the wonder of life. We are all children of God and if we try to remember that and conduct ourselves and treat each other accordingly, surely the world, or our little bit of it, will be a better place.

During the difficulties of last weekend, I was helped by family and neighbours in various ways, as I am sure were many others, because we are all vulnerable and we need each other. Jesus preached about establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. Perhaps St. Therese of Lisieux had this in mind when she said, 'I wish to spend my heaven doing good on earth.'

Margaret Cooling.

## **BROCKWEIR MORAVIAN CHURCH**

### **Church Services for January 2018**

Sun	7 Jan	11.00 a.m	Rev Patsy Holdsworth ( <i>Holy Communion</i> )
Sun	14 Jan	6:00 p.m	Rev Rose Mary Dagger
Sun	21 Jan	6:00 p.m.	Rev Patsy Holdsworth
Fri	28 Jan	6.00 p.m.	Rev Jan Pain

### **REGULAR MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **Tap Dancing**

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

#### **Table Tennis**

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

#### **Charity Lunch, 12 noon, the Sunday School Room, 1st Thurs of month**

Thurs 4th January – In aid of Emmaus UK, homeless charity.  
Thurs 1st February – In aid of the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline (CCLL).

#### **Book Group**

Please contact Heather Armstrong (01291 689326) for details.

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

Normally on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Sunday School. No Meetings in January or February.

#### **Food Bank Collection**

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

#### **Ecumenical Welcome**



Because we are the only church offering regular public worship in the village of Brockweir, we invite all Christians in the local community to play as full a part as they are able [allowing for any continued commitments to their own denomination] in the life and fellowship of this congregation. We invite those of all

Christian traditions, and those having no particular denominational affiliation, to worship and to share in Holy Communion with us, and to share in the ministry and mission of the Church in this area.

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

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

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

## **ST BRIAVELS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

When January rolls round, we often hope for a new start. We hope this year will be different; we make resolutions. Christians look to new life in Jesus as our fresh start. He can set us free from the mistakes and wrongs in the past.

If you want to know more, then I warmly invite you, whether Christian, seeker or sceptic, to join us at any of our services. These are at 10am and 6pm. Our morning service is a family service when we have a "Sunday Club" for young children. We meet for Bible study and prayer every Thursday (8pm, venue changes) and Tuesday (10:15am in the chapel).

We are a collection site for the Forest Foodbank - a box is available for you to drop off non-perishable goods when the chapel is closed. Find out more here: [theforest.foodbank.org.uk](http://theforest.foodbank.org.uk)

If you would like to know more about us, or if we can help you, then please get in touch. You can also visit our website, where many of our messages are available for download: [www.stbriavelscongregational.org.uk](http://www.stbriavelscongregational.org.uk)

There will be no coffee mornings in January and February

Matt Rees, Pastor



## **FOREST OF DEAN QUAKER MEETING**

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

Jen Cothier 01594 530348

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

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

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

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

### JANUARY SERVICES: PREACHERS AND THEMES:

#### MIDWEEK: St Briavels

2nd Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
3rd Weds	10.30am	Communion
4th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 7th – Epiphany: Fear, Joy and Generosity - Rev David Treharne

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

#### MIDWEEK: St Briavels

9th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
11th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 14th - Epiphany 2: Speak Lord, Your Servant Hears

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

#### MIDWEEK: St Briavels

16th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
17th Weds	10.30am	Communion
18th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 21st - Epiphany 3: Do whatever He tells you

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

#### MIDWEEK: St Briavels

23rd Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
25th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 28th - Presentation of Christ - Tested, He can help others

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

#### MIDWEEK: St Briavels

30th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
31st Weds	10.30am	Communion
1st Feb Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 4th Feb - Jesus said, ' I am the Vine.'

8.30 am	St Briavels	BCP Communion
10.00 am	St Briavels School	Food for Thought
6.00pm	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Joint service at Moravian Church

### KEEPING YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

## Resolve

is a 4-week course, exploring what it means to enact Positive Changes in your life

#### Topics Covered include:

- Looking after your body
- Strengthening your mind
- Inspiring your soul
- Deepening your relationships

Tuesday 9th - 30th January, 7.30pm - 9.00pm The Loft, The Village Shop, Brockweir.

#### Free to Join

To join or find out more contact Rev Robert Simpson 01594 560202, [robert.simpson02@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.simpson02@btinternet.com) or look at [www.resolve.org](http://www.resolve.org)

## **BROCKWEIR AND HEWELSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

*Summary Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2017 in The Café, Village Shop, Brockweir.*

**Present:** Cllr. Fox, Cllr. Harris, Cllr. Bowen, Cllr. Endersby, Cllr. Sinfield, Cllr. Haythornthwaite and the Parish Clerk. Two members of the public were present.

**Declaration of Acceptance of Office** - Following a show of hands, councillors voted unanimously to co-opt Mr Ed Haythornthwaite on to the council. Mr Haythornthwaite was invited to sign a Declaration of Acceptance and was welcomed by the Chairman.

### **Finance**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Amount</b>
AEB Price	Strimming	£80.00
Village Shop	Meeting Rooms	£102.70
National Assoc Local Councils	Quality Award Registration	£60.00
Lynda Skuse	Clerk Salary & Expenses	£282.52
Citizens Advice Bureau	Donation	£50.00

### **Planning Applications**

P1861/17/FUL – Udars Veldt Barn, Poolfield, Hewelsfield. Erection of a two-storey porch and covered balcony to entrance elevation. Councillors had no comment to make on this application.

Licensing Act 2003 – Application for a Premises Licence. F/17/00774/PRMA Cowshill Farm Shop Hewelsfield. Councillors had no comment to make on this application.

**Public Rights of Way/Parish Improvement Group** - Mr George Peterken of Parish Grasslands to give a brief presentation at the January meeting. Cllr. Bowen would organise a talk, in the new year, on stone walling.

**Achieving Quality Status for the Parish Council** - Registration had been completed and details received by the Clerk. Progressed at January meeting.

**Regular Clearing/Maintenance of The Quay** - AONB had sent an email outlining the steps to be taken before volunteers are committed to help clean the Quay, which could happen in February/early March 2018. Cllr. Endersby to contact AONB and agree to terms. It was agreed that an Invitation to Tender/Contract be drawn up to cover all the areas of grass cutting/trimming to include the Quay.

**Winter Maintenance** - Cllrs. Bowen and Haythornthwaite to be wardens and Mr Simmon to continue as the Snow Plough Operator.

**Dementia Friendly Communities** - A request for a meeting with this group had been received. They would be invited to make a short presentation in February.

**Creation of a Parish Archive** - There is an abundance of historical information about the parish, held by parishioners, which could be collated and digitised as a resource for the parish. It was agreed to form a working group with help from a professional to create the archive. Lise Sinfield had offered help and it was agreed that she should be approached to take the lead in the project.

Full Minutes available on the website. The next meeting is Tuesday 2nd January, 2018.

## **BROCKWEIR AND HEWELSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

*Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th November 2017 at The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir. This meeting was called to discuss the planning appeal for Gregory Farm.*

Present: Cllrs. Fox, Harris, Bowen, Endersby, Sinfield, District Cllr. Molyneux, Parish Clerk. 14 members of the public.

**Consideration of Planning Appeal** - APP/P1615/W/17/3177951- P1102/16/FUL- Gregory Farm

The Chairman outlined the time line for the Appeal and gave brief background information. The appeal will be handled by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol and will be a paper representation. Advice had been received from a senior member of the Planning Inspectorate that an extension of time should be sought. It was also noted that a letter rescinding previous objections to any potential flooding issues, had been sent by David Graham, Lead Local Flood Authority based in GCCC. Details leading to this decision had not been made available to the parish council. Councillors had studied the appeal document and identified several errors, including the fact that significant reports commissioned by the council for the last planning application had not been sent to the Inspectorate. These documents have since been sent. The Chairman urged members of the public to make submissions. All submissions should be sent to Daniel Cardy at the Bristol office – details on the Parish Council website - [www.hewelsfieldandbrockweirpc.org](http://www.hewelsfieldandbrockweirpc.org)

District Councillor Patrick Molyneux confirmed his support for forthcoming meetings and sourcing information from FODDC. A parishioner offered to draw up a petition to be signed by as many parishioners as possible and forward to the Inspectorate. This was welcomed. Another parishioner stated that he had commissioned an experienced Planning Consultant and a Solicitor to look into the Appeal Statement, and confirmed that he will share their findings with the council when received. The council expressed their thanks and welcomed this offer.

A draft formal response would be drawn up by Cllr. Sinfield for review at the December meeting. Councillor Endersby agreed to seek a meeting with Steven Colegate at FODDC to gain further information, particularly the reasons for the letter from David Graham concerning flooding at the site

Councillor Endersby also agreed to seek an extension on the deadline for submissions to the Inspectorate and to stress to the Inspectorate that the Brockweir Character Assessment had in fact been adopted by FODDC, as this was an important and influential document in any planning considerations.

Councillor Bowen agreed to contact Hydrogeo (who had produced the original report on the site) to request them to examine the Appeal Statement and provide advice on any new information that had been introduced. Cllr. Bowen was given consent to agree to a fee up to £1000.00 but anything over this sum would need to be approved at the next full meeting.

## ST. BRIAVELS PARISH COUNCIL – WELCOMING IN THE NEW YEAR

As we say “goodbye” to 2017 and “welcome” in 2018, the Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard in and around the Parish during the year to make St. Briavels the fantastic community it is.

**Looking back over the calendar year**, we have welcomed three new Councillors and a new Chairman in May; considered 27 planning applications, awarded £3,058 in grants and saw an increase in attendance at the Annual Get-Together from 12 in 2016 to 44 in 2017!

**Looking forward to 2018 .....**

**Grant Applications** to support local groups/charities are welcomed by the Parish Council. We have given grants to Citizens Advice Bureau, Forest of Dean who meet in the Assembly Rooms, and the new, local cricket club. Applying for a grant is straightforward: please get in touch with the Clerk to request an application form.

**Parish Council Stand at Farmers’ Market** – each month, starting February, 2018, the PC will have a stand at this event with a different theme, manned by a Lead Councillor. This will be a good opportunity to stop by the stand and have a chat with one of the Councillors and pass on any feedback/support/comments/concerns.

**Highways/Road Safety Issues** continue to be a priority and it is expected that the good progress made in 2017 will come to fruition in 2018. Several road safety projects (speeding and parking) are in the process of being assessed in conjunction with Highways. £5,000 has been earmarked to contribute towards traffic calming measures on the B4228. You have likely already seen the 20's Plenty and extra 30 mph signs.

**Whittington Close** – it will be great to see the new homes handed over to families early in 2018.

**Next meeting** – Monday, 8th January, 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in the Assembly Rooms, with planning applications available to view from 6.30 p.m. and Councillors available for you to raise any issues you feel the PC may be able to resolve. Full minutes are available on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council meets every month (except August and December) on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Assembly Rooms at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to the meetings and your input is encouraged.

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

## VILLAGE NEWS COMMUNITY GRANTS

Thanks to the support of our readers, Village News is currently achieving a surplus of income over costs each year. As we have capital in the bank against future needs, we have decided that we will use surplus income to fund grants to community groups for particular projects. The exact sum available will be confirmed each year 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 15 January 2018. Awards will be made by 28 February 2018. If you would like to apply, [email\\_editors@villagemag.co.uk](mailto:email_editors@villagemag.co.uk) for further details and application guidelines.

The Editorial Committee



## New Season Winter/Spring 2018 Tintern Film Nights Big-screen movies close to home



Friday 12th January

### The Limehouse Golem

Victorian London is gripped with fear in this old-school murder horror with a brilliant cast including Bill Nighy, Eddie Marsan, Douglas Booth, and Olivia Cooke

Friday 9th February

### Goodbye Christopher Robin

“If you go down to 100 Acre Wood today you’re in for a wonderful surprise. This terrific film explores how A A Milne came to create his lovable bear, Winnie-the-Pooh.” *Christopher Honeysett, Mirror*

Friday 9th March

### Victoria and Abdul

The extraordinary true story of an unexpected friendship in the later years of Queen Victoria’s (Judi Dench) remarkable rule when Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal), a young clerk, travels from India to participate in the Queen’s Golden Jubilee.

Friday 13th April

### Murder on the Orient Express

What starts out as a lavish train ride through Europe quickly unfolds into one of the most stylish, suspenseful and thrilling mysteries ever told. “Delicious whodunnit fun.” *Observer*

If you would like to join our email list, please send a request email to [andrew.reid@huntermillerreid.co.uk](mailto:andrew.reid@huntermillerreid.co.uk)



## BEST - CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A big thank you to all those who joined us for the Christmas Lunch on 9th December and contributed to such an enjoyable afternoon. Huge thanks also go to the Youth Club, and all those who came together to help on the day. Special thanks are also due to the local venues and businesses who donated such generous raffle prizes. We are very grateful for all your support.

Many favourable comments have been received so far and we continue to listen to your suggestions. Look forward to seeing you again next year!

The BEST team

## WELL DONE YOUTH CLUB CHILDREN

**At the Mackenzie Hall Christmas Market**, members of Brockweir Youth Club made the great amount of £65.00, by selling boxes of sweets and decorations they had made. The proceeds have all gone to help the homeless of Monmouth, especially to provide bedding and clothing needed in the cold weather.

**At the Village Christmas lunch** the children, aged from 7 to 17, were once again superb waiters and also performed a short entertainment. They really are an exceptional group of young people, reliable and committed and always willing to do things for others.

Barbara French

## CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY – A SUGGESTION

I would like to share an idea for caring for all members of our community. It is non-interfering and simple and could save lives.

Get into the habit of keeping your front curtains closed when you go to bed. If you should notice that for some reason a neighbour's are not reopened by 10:30, perhaps knock on the door to see if everything is alright.

Mary Perryman

## MANY THANKS TO THE BEST TEAM

We would like to say how much we enjoyed the Christmas lunch at the Mackenzie Hall on 9 December. The food was superb, the waiters and waitresses – who also provided us with entertainment – were excellent and the decorations in the Hall were lovely. Thanks also to Hewelsfield Church for all the hand-made angels! It is so encouraging to think this event, which has now become a tradition, is being continued.

Some grateful "oldsters"

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

### POLENTA CRISPS WITH AVOCADO & YOGHURT DIPPING SAUCE

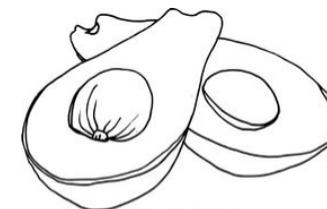
#### Dipping sauce

- 2 small avocados – flesh scooped out
- 100gm Greek yoghurt
- 1½ tsp lime juice
- 1 tsp olive oil

Place ingredients in a food processor and blend until smooth

#### Polenta crisps

- 750ml vegetable stock
- 160gm quick cook polenta
- 10gm chives
- 30gm parmesan cheese
- 100gm coarse semolina
- Sunflower oil for frying



Place stock in a saucepan and bring to the boil.

Add the polenta and cook for 5 minutes stirring all the time until thick. Add chives and parmesan and stir. Transfer mixture onto a large chopping board and spread thinly. Leave to set (approx 20 minutes). Use a palette knife to break the polenta into odd shapes. Dip in the semolina until covered on both sides and fry in the oil until brown and the edges are crispy. Remove, drain and transfer to a bowl lined with kitchen paper. Serve with dipping sauce. Enjoy!

Mary Perryman

## AN INTRODUCTION TO MINDFULNESS PRACTICE

*Let's take some time for what really matters.....*

**Mindfulness is a way of being, which intertwines the Mind, Heart and Body - a simple but powerful route for getting ourselves unstuck, back in touch with our own wisdom and vitality. It is a way to take charge of the direction and quality of our own lives.**

*Join us, Sharon and Diana, for the day, to experience the joy of Mindfulness in a calm, safe and restful environment*

**When: Saturday 3rd February 2018, 10-4pm**

**Where: Assembly Rooms, St Briavels**

**Contact: Diana on 07952 548040 to book a place. [mindfulnessforestandwye.co.uk](http://mindfulnessforestandwye.co.uk)**

**£20 per person. Light refreshments available throughout the day, allergies catered for. Please bring your lunch, mat to sit on, cushions, blanket... and an open heart and mind!**

**DO YOU ENJOY MAKING & CREATING?**

I really enjoy making and creating, and for several years I organised the Brockweir Knit and Stitch Group. As well as making our own individual items, we also took part in several community projects, such as making bunting, decorating the Brockweir shop at Xmas and creating the Brockweir Wall Hanging which hangs in the café. We stopped when some of our members moved away but, as there are several new people in the village, I wondered if there were like-minded people in the area who would be interested in setting up a group to meet on some kind of regular basis to share ideas and skills on any type of craft. If you are such a person, please email me at [chrissybirch@ymail](mailto:chrissybirch@ymail). I look forward to hearing from you.

Chrissy Birch

**ST. BRIAVELS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB – NO JANUARY MEETING**

Members please note that there will be no club meeting on Tuesday 16th January 2018

Sheila Brown

**NOSH & NATTER**

The Ugly Duckling gave us a warm welcome for our Nosh & Natter Christmas meal. Forty-one of us (sadly 3 could not join us due to ill health) enjoyed a great atmosphere and a lovely meal to start our Christmas celebrations. There was lots of chat and laughter and I remember seeing a paper dart flying its way between tables! Thank you to those who came, those who provided raffle prizes and those who guided me through my first attempt at organising the Nosh & Natter Christmas meal! And a big thank you to the Ugly Duckling for coping with a large group in such an organised and professional way.

Our February meeting will take place at Judy Craven's, Harthill Cottage, Sandy Lane, Hewelsfield, GL15 6TU on Tuesday 13th February. This will be our annual Curry Lunch from 12.30 to 2pm which is always much anticipated. All ladies are welcome. And don't forget our January meeting at the Brockweir Village Shop on the 23rd from 3.30 -5pm. If you would like to host a Nosh

& Natter on April 10th/11th or June 12th/13th please let me know. If you are new to Nosh & Natter and would like more information, please contact me at [siddonspauline@aol.com](mailto:siddonspauline@aol.com) or phone 01594 530524.

Pauline Siddons

**ST BRIAVELS PEOPLE'S CHOIR**

Our first rehearsal in the new year will be on Sunday 7th January, from 7pm to 9pm at the Assembly Rooms. We are working towards a Spring concert on March 10th. We are a friendly, welcoming group and all are welcome. We meet on Sundays at 7pm in the Assembly Rooms.

Martin Pagnamenta

**COMMUNITY CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAMME**

When the first Apollo astronauts looked back at Earth from their lunar orbit, they were humbled to see the fragility of such a small blue speck in the infinite darkness of space. Their astronaut perspective, captured in photos we now know well, showed as never before that we all exist on a singular, finite planet. There's nowhere else. And with unashamed hubris, we call this world 'ours'.

I try to retain this astronaut perspective in my daily life: to comprehend that I share the future of this wonderful existence with others, human and non human; to understand that to share means to limit my wants that others may have what they need. I know that when people, communities, even nations work together they can be a most powerful force for good. Building on what we hold in common, what we cherish and what we now know about the impacts of our lifestyles, we can change ourselves to enable a wiser world to emerge.

I look forward to learning with others about the Community Carbon Reduction Programme beginning this month\*; my chance to take responsibility, to help look after and share this fragile blue dot of a home in the immensity of space and time.

\* For more information, contact Jen Cothier (01594) 530348

Chris McFarling

**FANCY A WALK?**

There is a small group of people who meet on an occasional Thursday for a walk based on St. Briavels. Starting at 1pm, the walk lasts for approximately 2 hours, which then gives time to use the facilities of the Courtyard Café in the Assembly Rooms (and that's why the walk is on a Thursday afternoon!) The present walkers are all regulars on the Tuesday 'Walking for Health' walks, who felt that they would like to 'spread their wings' outside of the Walking for Health guidelines (except that there are still no dogs, please!). Stiles and steep muddy paths are now the norm...

Please come and join us! The walks will be monthly, with each walk organised by a different person, so you will have an opportunity to lead us on your favourite

★★★★★	<b>Film Night</b>	★★★★★
Bring your own wine, drinks & snacks.	<b>Friday 12th January</b> Bill Nighy • Eddie Marsan • Olivia Cooke	Information: Andrew Reid andrew.reid@huntermillerreid.co.uk or phone 07774 726860
Teas, coffees & ice cream on sale.	<b>THE LIMEHOUSE GOLEM</b> Old-school London murder horror with a brilliant cast.	★★★★★
★★★★★	<b>Tintern Village Hall 7.45pm</b>	★★★★★
	Tickets £4.00 15s & under £2.50	

walks, if you would like to do so. They are designed to complement the 'Walk and Talk' group at Hewelsfield and will be on the first or second Thursday of the month so as not to coincide with that walk (you can come on both!)

The next St. Briavels walk will be on the 11th January, starting at 1pm from outside the Church. There's no booking and it's free - just turn up with appropriate footwear and a smile - you'll be very welcome. You can phone me if you'd like any more information.

John Hurley 01594 530890

### **TINTERN WINE TASTING**

Another fun tasting evening was held on Monday 4 Dec hosted by Stan. Thank you, Stan - parking on your drive was quite exciting. To add to the success of the evening, we welcomed four new members. We tasted four Ports: a White Port from Ramos Pinto; Waitrose Ruby and Cockburns Special Reserve, both from Symingtons Family Estates; and Late Bottled Vintage (LBV) 2011 from Taylors. It was agreed that the White Port was unusual, but very interesting. The three ruby ports showed clearly that prices matched quality and enjoyment, with the general consensus being that the LBV was twice as enjoyable as the Fine Ruby.

The January Tasting will take place on Monday 15 January at Andrew's house, when we shall be tasting a selection of Italian Red Wines for which the average price will be £10.00. For more information please email me [alan.hillard@gmail.com](mailto:alan.hillard@gmail.com).

Alan Hillard

### **ST BRIAVELS LUNCH CLUB, THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY 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 24 and are always pleased to see a new face. If you are new to the village and would like to join us, please contact either Mary (01594 530505) or Anne (01594 530504) for more information. The three-course meal, sherry and coffee costs £5.50. There is also a raffle.

Mary Perryman

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK & DROP IN PARTY**

The Friends of St Briavels Church, and the St Briavels Walking Group, led by John Hurley, will together be at home at the Assembly Rooms on New Year's Day, Monday January 1st, from 12 noon to 4pm, and all are most welcome.

John will lead an optional, short, circular walk of about an hour, mainly along lanes (specialist walking boots not required) leaving the Assembly Rooms at 12.30 pm.

We will put out tables and chairs. It would be great, also, if you could bring some contribution of food and/or drink - left overs 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 the Assembly Rooms for allowing this event to take place .

It will be a Trump-free, Brexit/Remainer-free, local controversy-free zone/period. It will be 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

### **THE FRIENDLY ART GROUP**

New year, new challenges! Why not join The Friendly Art Group in our village Assembly Rooms, St Briavels, most Wednesdays, between 10.00am and 1.00pm?

We are a group of individuals of differing ages and talents, some beginners, some more experienced artists. All you require is a need for time for YOU to develop your artistic side! We do not have tuition but we do benefit from sharing each other's ideas. Bring any equipment you may have with you. For individual sessions, we ask for £5.00 to cover the cost of the hire of the hall. Others can always help out with equipment and advice if needed. Occasionally, we invite a professional artist to talk to us, but a warm welcome awaits you! Do call in and see us one Wednesday?

Contact Ann Kilminster on 07980 978348 or Angela Rimmer on 01594 531103 for more information.

### **SOFT (Sharing our Faiths Together) Meeting**

Our regular SOFT meetings will be held on Wednesdays 3rd & 17 January and 7th & 21st February in The Loft above the Brockweir Village Shop.

SOFT is a small group of people from a variety of faith or no faith backgrounds. We welcome people of all views to join us, as we widen our understanding and appreciation of each other in our communities. Usually our meetings take the form of a discussion around a topic chosen by one of our members. We have some very interesting conversations as the topics cover a wide and diverse range of subjects!

At our 3rd January meeting, we will be watching the film 'The Shack', based on the best-selling inspirational book by WM Paul Young. Even if you have never been to a SOFT meeting before you are invited to come and watch this film with us. Refreshments are provided and there is no admission fee, though a contribution towards costs is always welcome.

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

## **ACTION4OURCARE UPDATE – DECEMBER 2017**

Since our last update, we can confirm that officials from NHS England and the Welsh Government have met to discuss the replacement of the Cross Border Protocol 2014 which defined how 21,000 English cross border residents with Welsh Registered GPs and how 15,000 Welsh residents with English registered GPs will be treated.

We understand that, following these meetings, a draft replacement document has been prepared and discussed in detail by the Cross Border Network Group last week. This Group is made up of Welsh NHS Local Health Boards, English Clinical Commissioning Groups and representatives from Healthwatch and NHS England and NHS Wales along the whole border, the objective being to get this replacement document agreed and in place by April 2018.

Action4OurCare have made very clear to NHS England that any future agreement with NHS Wales must ensure that:

- The rights of all English resident patients to be treated under the NHS England Constitution must be explicitly guaranteed and on a permanent basis
- No patient's treatment can be delayed while various bodies argue about who pays
- There must be a clear and quick complaints procedure if English cross-border patients' constitutional rights are breached or if they receive poor care

As you know, a Referral Assessment Service (RAS) has operated since July 2016 for circa 10,000 patients whose GP surgeries volunteered to take part in its pilot. The pilot has been very successful, both for the patients and for the GPs, who have seen their administration decrease, and in allowing English resident patients to choose access to NHS Wales under Welsh waiting times or to choose 3 hospitals in NHS England on English waiting times.

The RAS is now being rolled out to the remaining Welsh registered GP surgeries along the border, with the encouragement of NHS Wales, to get as many English patients as possible into this service. (It is likely that all of Gloucestershire cross-border patients will gain access shortly.)

However, the following problems remain to be resolved and are still under discussion:

- Some Welsh registered GP practices may not go into the RAS for some time and some may not go in at all where there are very small numbers of English resident patients
- If this is the case, our view is that those non-RAS patients who don't want to remain in the NHS Wales system must have access to the choice of an English registered GP (under the NHS England Constitution, you are allowed a choice of GP practice)
- NHS Wales must allow us the same access as the rest of England to private providers (which are used to reduce waiting times by NHS England), to NHS England specialist care and to mental health provision.

We have asked our MP, Mark Harper, to meet with ministers to ensure that the constitutional rights of English resident cross-border patients are not compromised by any future agreement between NHS England and NHS Wales.

Finally, we thank you for your support and wish you a Merry Christmas!!

Pam Plummer, Chair

### **LOW CARBON FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAMME**

**Starts** Saturday 20th January 2018 St Briavels 10.00am – 12.30pm

The programme, which is free, comprises a series of 7 sessions, complete with handbook (£10 deposit) and games, designed to give you:

- Information and ideas about what you could do to improve your carbon footprint in the areas of home energy, waste, water, consumerism, food and transport
- A chance to explore your feelings about climate change
- Decide what changes make sense for you, and what you can gain from them
- The opportunity to come up with plans and targets for reducing your carbon footprint
- A community of like-minded people to enjoy time with

**Do you want to reduce your carbon footprint?  
Get together with other people and support each other to do it**

Others who have completed the programme commented:

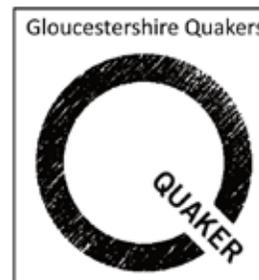
“The most helpful thing I found was the way the group made what could seem an impossible challenge into a recognition of the importance of small, practical and easily achieved goals.”

“This was not a sea change, or even a wave, but ripples of change extending gently but effectively.”

**For more information and to sign up contact:**

**Jen Cothier on 01594 530348 or email [jencothier@btinternet.com](mailto:jencothier@btinternet.com)**

*Low Carbon Forest of Dean is supported by:*



## DIARY DATES - weekly/regular activities

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

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

### Wednesdays

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

### Thursdays

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

### Fridays

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

### Saturdays

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

### Sundays

ST BRIAVELS PEOPLE'S CHOIR: Rehearsals at 7.00-9:00pm-St Briavels Assembly Rooms, please ring 01594 531151 for more information.



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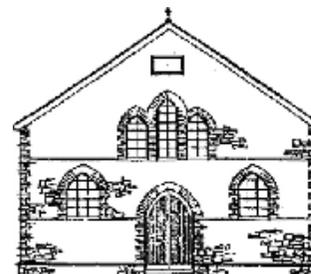
**Telephone 01600 717097 Email [info@treesandgrounds.co.uk](mailto:info@treesandgrounds.co.uk)  
[www.treesandgrounds.co.uk](http://www.treesandgrounds.co.uk)**

## DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

Walking for Health every Tuesday – meet at the Assembly Rooms, 2pm			
1 Mon	New Year's Day Walk & Drop-in Party	12noon-4pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
2 Tues	Brockweir & Hewelsfield PC meeting	7pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
3 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
4 Thurs	Charity Lunch	12noon	Moravian Sunday School Hall
4 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
7 Sun	St Briavels People's Choir rehearsals begin	7-9pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
8 Mon	St Briavels PC meeting (planning applications and councillors available from 6.30pm)	7pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
11 Thurs	St Briavels Walking Group: first meeting	1pm	Meet at St Briavels Church
13 Sat	NOTE DATE - Produce Market	10am-12.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
13 Sat	Wye Valley Chamber Music Festival - Opening Concert	3pm	St Briavels Church
15 Mon	Tintern Wine Tasting	7.30pm	<a href="mailto:alan.hillard@gmail.com">alan.hillard@gmail.com</a>
17 Weds	St Briavels WI meeting	7.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
17 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
18 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
19 Fri	Garden Society: An Interview with Anne Wareham	7.30pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
20 Sat	Community Carbon Reduction Programme meeting	10am-12.30pm	01594 530348 <a href="mailto:jencoathier@btinternet.com">jencoathier@btinternet.com</a>
23 Tues	Nosh & Natter – Afternoon Tea	3.30-5pm	Brockweir Village Shop
25 Thurs	St Briavels Lunch Club	11.45am	St Briavels Pavilion
27 Sat	Burns Night Celebration	7pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir

## ADVANCE DATES

1 Feb	Charity Lunch	12noon	Moravian Sunday School Hall
7 Feb	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
10 Feb	Wye Valley Music Concert	3pm	St Briavels Church.
13 Feb	Nosh & Natter - Curry Lunch	Noon–2pm	Harthill Cottage
21 Feb	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
23 Feb	Brockweir Events: Katherine Roberts & Sean Lakeman	7.30 for 8pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
Mariana-Art Gallery CLOSED for Winter to 1 March			
9 Mar	Brockweir Events: Gren Bartley Trio	7.30 for 8pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
10 Mar	St Briavels People's Choir: Spring Concert	7.30pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels



### 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.*

### JANUARY

<b>THUR 18, 25</b>	<b>SILVER JEWELLERY 1.00 - 4.00</b>	<b>Ann Skehel</b>
<b>10 x Thursday classes</b> Special price of £230 for 10 sessions (Silver is not included.)		
<b>Fri 26</b>	<b>SCULPTURE WORKSHOP CLAY</b>	<b>Val Welham</b>
9-30 - 4.00 £50.00 for the day's workshop		

### FEBRUARY

<b>THUR 1, 8, 15, 22</b>	<b>SILVER JEWELLERY 1.00 - 4.00</b>	<b>Ann Skehel</b>
<b>10 x Thursday classes</b> Special price of £230 for 10 sessions (Silver is not included.)		
<b>FRI 2, 9, 16, 23</b>	<b>PAINTING AND DRAWING</b>	<b>Ann Hulme</b>
<b>10 x Friday classes</b> 9.30 - 12.30 and/or 1.00 - 4.00		
Special price of £220 for 10 x 3hr sessions, am or pm, OR £440 for both am and pm sessions		
<b>SAT 17</b>	<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b> A morning with David Broadbent	<b>David Broadbent</b>
9.30 - 12.30 - £25.00 for 3 hr session		

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



## Wyedean School Adult Community Learning Courses

SPRING TERM 2018

St Briavels Assembly Rooms + The Pavilion, St Briavels

### At The Assembly Rooms, East St, St Briavels (GL15 6TG)

**Brush Up Your Basic French** - This course is suitable for those who wish to learn French and consider themselves as beginners or very 'rusty'.

**Starts:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January **Time:** 10-11.30 **Cost:** £75

**Watercolour & Acrylic Painting** - Suitable for beginners to advanced. Starting with some basic drawing, you will move on to develop your watercolour and acrylic painting techniques. (You will need to bring your own materials and advice will be given at the first class about this if you don't have any. Otherwise, bring what materials you have to the first class).

**Starts:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January **Time:** 2-4 **Cost:** £70

**Watercolour & Acrylic Painting Day** - You know what it's like, just as you get going, it's almost time to stop! This is a chance to settle in and enjoy a concentrated day of painting and drawing – and work outdoors if the weather is fine. Suitable for intermediate to advanced students. Bring lunch. Drinks are available. Bring your own materials. **Starts:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

**Time:** 10-2 **Cost:** £25

### At St Briavels Pavilion, Coleford Road, St Briavels

**Italian: Intermediate (Year 3)** - This course is suitable for students who have studied Italian for at least 3 years or have a previous qualification such as GCSE and AS. 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. **Starts:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January **Time:** 10-11.30 **Cost:** £60

#### For further information:

Download the Spring Term ACL Brochure + enrolment form (from 27 Nov) [www.wyedean.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.wyedean.gloucs.sch.uk) (Go to 'Community', then 'Adult Learning' then 'Courses available') Or, contact the School Office on 01291 625340 (answerphone during School Hols. Please leave a message/contact number).

Post off your enrolment form and payment, with your email or SAE to Wyedean School & Sixth Form Centre, Beachley Road, Sedbury, Chepstow, Glos NP16 7AA



## WYE VALLEY MUSIC (ST BRIAVELS MUSIC SOCIETY)

2017 WENT OUT IN STYLE

The Autumn programme has been a great success. After two large audiences in September and October at St Briavels Church, we hosted two treats at the Bridges Centre in Monmouth. November's concert by the **Eusebius String Quartet** was of an exceptionally high standard;

this ensemble will go far. The December Christmas celebration was unusual: the return of **Bella Tromba**, an all-female trumpet quartet with music from several ages, including seasonal pieces. With the accompaniment of mulled wine and mince pies, this was another excellent evening.

#### It's Festival Time

Our friends at the Wye Valley Chamber Music Festival return in January for, almost unbelievably, the 19th year of this Festival. The opening concert will be held at St Briavels Church on Saturday 13th January at 3.00 pm and will feature **Beethoven's Violin Sonata in A minor Op 23**, with the Festival founder and director, pianist **Dan Tong** and violinist **Sara Trickey**, followed by the wonderful **Kungsbacka Trio** playing **Beethoven's Piano Trio in D Op 70 No 1 (the famous "Ghost" trio)** and concluding with **Schumann's**

**Piano Trio in G minor Op 110**, played by **Domonkos Csaby (piano), Mathilde Milwidsky (violin) and Kate Gould (cello)**. Admission is £16 for adults and £5 for students. In addition, there are three further concerts (at **Hereford, Treowen and Monmouth**) and the traditional **Discovery Day at Treowen**, which this year explores **Mendelssohn** and his inspirations. Full details of the Festival can be found at [www.wyevalleyfestival.com](http://www.wyevalleyfestival.com). This is chamber music of the highest order and is highly recommended.

#### Advance Notice

In February, the Society's concerts resume with the visit of two multi award winning rising stars, the **New Zealand born violinist, Alexandra Lomeiko**

**and the Latvian pianist, Antonina Suhanova**, at St Briavels Church on 10th February at 3.00 pm. More on this next time, but make a note in your diary!

Keith Norman. 01594 530419

#### BURNS NIGHT DINNER AND CEILIDH - SAT 27TH JANUARY

Come and join us for our Burns Night Dinner and Dance with Ceilidh Band, Mad Jig Wolf.

Sat 27th Jan 2018, 7.00 pm at the Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir.

*The evening promises to include all the traditional food and celebrations and we will also be providing a bar this year.*

Tickets at £20 per person will go on sale at the Brockweir Village Shop at 9.00am on Sat 6th Jan and due to popular demand will be limited to 4 tickets per person.

**See you there! - The BEST team**



## NEWS FROM THE BROCKWEIR VILLAGE SHOP

Dear All

A huge thanks to all the volunteers in the community, whatever their capacity, but especially to the volunteers and staff in the shop who make it such a special place.

### T'WAS THE MONTH AFTER CHRISTMAS

*A Christmas Poem by Author Unknown*

T'was the month after Christmas and all through the house  
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibbled, the whisky I'd taste,  
All the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!  
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).

I'd remember the marvellous meals I'd prepared;  
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese  
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt  
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt -

I said to myself, as I only can  
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So - away with the last of the sour cream dip,  
Get rid of the fruitcake, every cracker and chip

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished  
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie - not even a lick.  
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have brownies, or croissants, or pie,  
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore -  
But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.  
Happy New Year to all, and to all a good diet!

If like me you feel you have over indulged then watch out for our healthy eating stand in the shop and the healthy options in the café. I hope to see you all in 2018.

Alison

## ART IN THE CAFÉ

### Happy New Year from the Café Walls committee & exhibitors!

An exciting year ahead is planned, with a diverse range of changing Café exhibitions, including painting, original printmaking, textiles, illustration and photography. In addition to what's on the Café walls, we hope to run a series of short, one day workshops in The Loft, employing the skills and originality of our exhibitors. Ruth Barnes Richards, exhibiting until 16th January has already offered a course to us during 2018.

To give us an idea of what might interest you, we shall post a potential list of course suggestions on the 'Notice-board Pillar' in the shop in January/February and suggest that those interested will respond. Hopefully, 4 x One Day Courses over the spring/summer would be an excellent start. So watch that space and sign up!

To open the year, Annie Charlton-Webb covers the first exhibition, starting 15th January: Jacqui Tregfarne

### Kenneth Locke Brown MBE. 15th January – 26th February 2018

Ken will be our first exhibitor of 2018. We understand that he received his MBE for services to the textile industry, and also that, although he modestly does not mention it, the Legion of Honour Medal for Bravery, whilst serving in Bomber Command during the Second World War. He describes his work and interest in art in his own words as follows: "Finishing my schooling with a distinction in Art, instead of Art College I was taken into the RAF Bomber Command for the rest of the War. On release, I married and had family commitments so took work in the textile industry where I remained until my retirement. Only then was I able to enjoy my artistic inclinations. I joined numerous art societies and groups, in due course exhibiting widely as an amateur. Because

of my late entry into the art world, I have experimented in a wide range of media - oils, pastels, watercolour, line & wash, pencil and pen, and ink - and have been just as diverse in my subject matter. This exhibition shows a range of what you may call traditional art, not surprising as I am in my mid nineties!"

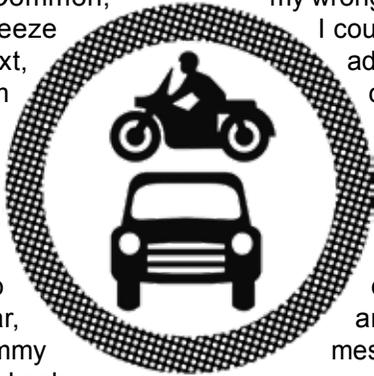
Ken lives in Monmouth and is President of the Wye Valley Art Society. He has regularly drawn and painted with a small band of fellow amateurs who meet in the studio of, and are guided by, professional Monmouth artist, Richard Wills. The collection of work shown here is from his own walls, as he wants to downsize his art collection, with the proceeds from any sales being donated to charity.

Annie Charlton-Webb

ORGANIC FRUIT & VEG * FRENCH BREAD & PATISSERIE * ORGANIC LAMB *		
* RARE BREED PEDIGREE BEEF & PORK * FREE RANGE POULTRY & GAME * CHEESE		
CHUTNEY * OLIVES * NUTS * CIDER * *EGGS * DELI * HERBS *	<b>ST BRIAVELS LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET</b>	* SAUSAGES * PASTIES * HONEY * * BUTTER * FRUIT JUICE * CAKES * RESERVES*
INNOVATIVE VEGETARIAN & VEGAN FOOD * FUDGE * PLANTS * REFRESHMENTS*	<b>Saturday 13th January</b>	
SWEET & SAVOURY PIES * AUTHENTIC FRESHLY MADE CURRIES & INDIAN SNACKS	<b>The Pavilion 10-12.30 pm</b>	

**Lane Rage or ... Moucher Eats Crow (or do I mean Rook?)**

I've got a Restricted Byway. It's been giving me gip for quite a time. The first sign of trouble was a car parked across the entrance to my favourite short cut across the Common, forcing me to just squeeze past a dry built wall. Next, a huge pile of spoil from a badger sett forced my vehicle into 45 degree cross-country mode. I brushed this aside and pressed on toward the far road junction, only to find another parked car, forcing me either to shimmy between bollards or turn back.



Speechless with rage, I decided to have it out with the car owners and tell them just what I think of people who close down my rights of way. Since no one answered the door, I assumed that the occupants had seen my contorted features and were covering behind the sofa till I went away, but a nagging doubt about the justice of my cause reminded me that, locally, we now have a "footpath Czar" to whom I should refer for advice. He patiently explained that during the past two decades Glos. Highways have twice re-designated our network of tracks. Apparently, I have for years been driving a coach and many horses through innumerable byelaws. Curses! If only I'd known!

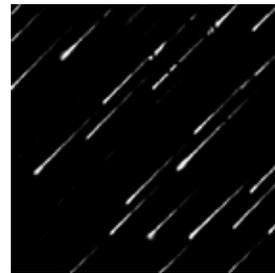
Smitten with remorse at my uncharitable thoughts about my fellow man, I owned up to those involved and signed up for a penitential shift with the "Czar's Volunteers", a sturdy body of men/women who, armed with saws, loppers

and thermoses, spend occasional Saturday mornings clearing a green lane very close to the scene of my misdeeds. I am now reconciled with my wronged householder and, I could just persuade her to add one ingredient to the contents of her flask, I might even admit that Community Service can be fun. Gentle reader, it can! All are welcome, and to any dog walker/rider with an interest I have one message. Follow that Czar!

It's all about Signs. If I see a sign depicting a lighted cigarette with a black line through it I think "No Smoking", but when faced by a similar sign on which a motorcycle leapfrogs a limousine I naturally assume I am about to meet Evil Knieval and possibly my Maker. A few years ago, preparing for my third Driving Test, I resorted to the Highway Code for inspiration. I was very taken with the diagrams showing correct whip signals to be used when driving a horse drawn vehicle. A roller coaster half hour in the Monmouth area ended in triumph and universal thanksgiving. Today, Wyesham mothers still quell unruly offspring by mentioning my name.

Today, for the Meaningless Signage wing of Glos Highways I say: call our rat runs anything you like, be it Restricted Byway or Strangulated Hernia. To us commoners they will forever remain "Charlie Young's Lane", "The Antelope Walk" .... you name it!

**We get started each year with the Quadrantid meteor shower.**



In 1825, Antonio Brucalassi in Italy reported seeing a series of shooting stars radiating from the constellation of Quadrans Muralis.

However, in 1922, the International Astronomical Union created its modern list of 88 constellations and it did not include Quadrans Muralis. As such, the meteor shower retains the name Quadrantids, for the original but now obsolete constellation of Quadrans Muralis.

The meteor shower is active from the 1st to the 6th of January. The meteors will radiate from a point in the northern sky beneath the handle of the plough but if you can't locate the exact spot then don't worry as they will travel a wide area of sky. The unfortunate news is that, this year, they coincide with the closest and largest full moon of the year. Assuming interference

from the moonlight is not too bad, the best times to watch are likely to be before dawn on the 3rd, and after nightfall as meteors trace long paths from N to S across the sky.

This month is also a good time to look out for the other planets of the Solar System. In particular, Jupiter is rising in the east earlier and earlier and by the end of the month will be up before midnight. It should be easy to spot due to its brightness. As always, I highly recommend taking a photo of it from a tripod mounted camera and then zooming in on the image to try and spot some of its moons. You'll be surprised how easy it is to capture them.

**To all our contributors...**

**The deadline for the February 2018 edition of the Village News is midday, Tuesday 16th January**

**As always, the email address to send your contributions to is [editors@villagemag.co.uk](mailto:editors@villagemag.co.uk)**



**SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT TO START THE NEW YEAR – AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNE WAREHAM**

On 19 January, we welcome Anne Wareham who, with her husband, the photographer, Charles Hawes, began making the garden at Veddw (near Devauden) over 25 years ago. She has written several books, including *The Bad Tempered Gardener*, *The Deckchair Gardener* and *Outwitting Squirrels* and has an award-winning website, *thinkinGardens* ([thinkinggardens.co.uk](http://thinkinggardens.co.uk)) Members visited Veddw after her talk to us in 2012, just before the NGS removed the garden from its list, following her controversial criticism of the average NGS garden!

Anne doesn't do talks anymore:

"...having realised how stressful I found the whole thing. But what I have enjoyed, and which has been well received, has been an interview with someone from the society. There is a lot to ask me about and I've found it tends to open up discussion, which I do like so much better than a lecture and questions."

There will also be images of the garden, running as a slide show in the background: "...just in case people look bored." That seems most unlikely!

Come, listen and join in the discussion! It will be a lively start to our 2018 programme.

Friday, 19 January - 7.30pm at Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir. Visitors welcome - £5

**THE GARDEN AT ROSE COTTAGE**

It always feels really strange the first time I write the new year number into anything - it really brings home the turn of the year and the passage of time. As for all gardeners, the quieter times offer a chance to reflect and plan. One big step forward for us is the improved vegetable deep bed, which, by the spring, should be at optimum fill and optimum fertility for the planned crop of all manner of salads. Our self-seeded squash sort of took the place over into the 2017 autumn and, although tasty, the big ones are reasonably priced in the shops. For this reason, we'll concentrate on salads, as well as roots, which we'll harvest early as sweet, tasty, baby veg.

One wildlife job that cannot be put off any longer though, is a good pond clearance. A very nice looking small reed seems to have got hold and now needs to be removed. So established is it that the only thing for it is to lift it and cut the



root bed into squares! I'm sure it'll be impossible to get it all out but this will be the first time it's needed serious surgery since it was planted several years ago. The pond is a great resource throughout the winter. Not just for the resident aquatic life but for all the garden birds that rely on the ready, safe water supply.

One of the other things that we will start doing in 2018 is a little bit nerdy – we are going to make a species list of everything we see that makes its home here. The theory is that, if we know what's here, maybe we can help out even more by creating better habitats. Oh, and inspired by the best example I have ever seen - I'll be trying to make a stylish bug hotel!

David Broadbent

*This is David's last update from Rose Cottage. The Garden Society Committee would like to express its warm appreciation and gratitude for the contribution he has made to these pages over the last two years.*

**WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH**

I'm gazing out at a snowscape as I write, one we have not seen for several winters! In early January, this December snow may be a distant memory - or have been outdone by freezing winds, ice and everything else that winter can throw at us! Alternatively, we may have reverted to the mild weather of last winter, panic over. At least this week's weather will have dealt the bugs a blow, as well as finally stopping weeds in their tracks! The snow may well have damaged some shrubs in your garden, especially evergreens, and you will need to give them some TLC. (It's too early for general pruning of evergreens, cherries or plum trees, though.) Whatever the weather, the shortest day has passed - time to plan and prepare for the growing season!

- Plan your vegetable growing, and order seeds (Garden Society members can take advantage of a 50% discount from Dobies.)
- Get ready for seed sowing - check and clean your propagator, pots and seed trays
- You can prune dormant trees and shrubs
- You can still plant bareroot shrubs and roses, if the soil is not waterlogged
- Check stored Dahlia and Begonia tubers regularly, and keep overwintered geraniums (pelargoniums) barely moist
- Prune open ground pear and apple trees
- Recycle your Christmas tree – if you have a shredder, you could offer to do your neighbours' trees too and produce a satisfying mound of mulch.

Find detailed advice, full reports and more on our website [www.wyegarden.com](http://www.wyegarden.com)

Christine Haines

**We had a good turnout for Flying Bridge Theatre and Seabright Productions' Not About Heroes, in early November, with audience members coming from Newport, Cardiff and Monmouth, but relatively few from the immediate area.**

The story was about the relationship between Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen and the reaction by the poets to the suffering of war. The acting performances from Daniel Llewellyn Williams and Iestyn Arwel were world-class and were warmly received by those who attended. In 2018, the company go on tour around the country and later to Europe. The attendance at the concert held by Red Shoes later in November was less than hoped, but with audience numbers made up from people from Chepstow and Monmouth, and one or two die hard fans from the



Midlands, we managed to cover our costs. Attendance numbers by local people are generally down this year on previous years, which is a shame as the calibre of the artists booked is of the highest quality we can afford, and we aim to keep ticket prices at an affordable level. We realise there is competition for your custom and welcome input from individuals as to how we might improve attendances for next year. We have an exciting programme for the Spring Season, below, but have yet to appoint acts for the Autumn Season and welcome suggestions and recommendations, which we will follow up.

**KATHRYN ROBERTS AND SEAN LAKEMAN\*. Friday 23rd February. 7.30 for 8.00. [www.midnightmango.co.uk](http://www.midnightmango.co.uk)**

Kathryn and Sean have long established themselves as one of the UK folk scene's enduring partnerships. The couple's

intimacy and strength of passion, Kathryn's voice and Sean's musicianship have won them many fans.

**GREN BARTLEY TRIO. Friday 9th March. 7.30 for 8.00. [www.grenbartley.com](http://www.grenbartley.com)**

Gren Bartley is a prolific singer/ songwriter who has produced several albums. His live work captures his guitar playing & poetry driven lyrics, backed up by beautiful vocal harmonies and fiddle and cello



arrangements from band members Kath Ord & Sarah Smout. The drive of the music and orchestral flourishes subtly embellish the songs.

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

Young multi award-winning folk duo from Dorset that demonstrate an innovative and captivating take on the folk tradition. Combining breathtaking vocal harmonies

and traditional melodies, they deliver finely crafted songs and stories inspired by the landscape and history of the British Isles.

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

\* Supported by Air in G

Adrian Birch

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**TAI CHI:** Sunday 21 January - 10.30am-12noon in Mackenzie Hall. Everyone welcome. Cost £8. Enquiries to: Roy Wilson: 07979 843223 [www.longrivertaichieng.org](http://www.longrivertaichieng.org) Email: [roywgreenwich@aol.com](mailto:roywgreenwich@aol.com)

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

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