

Dear Friends

Well, May is a busy month for Churchgoers, as we have Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity to celebrate. May is also a special month as it is now three years this month since I started serving Brockweir Moravian Church.

Time seems to have gone so quickly but it is still a pleasure to serve a church in such a beautiful setting. So much of our world is in a hurry, and does not notice this beautiful world around us. We may walk with our head down, not focusing on the beauty of nature.

When we look around us, we can't help but notice God's amazing creative abilities in the smell of a rose or birdsong early in the morning. Life is too precious to rush through without slowing down and noticing this amazing world we live in.

Jesus was never in a hurry when He was on earth, and God is absolutely not in a hurry now. Ecclesiastes 3v1 states, "To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven." We should let each thing in our lives have its season, and realize we can enjoy that season without rushing into the next.

God has given life to us as a gift, and we should stop rushing through each day not noticing that hand of God in the beautiful world around us.

God bless, Patsy

BROCKWEIR MORAVIAN CHURCH

Church Services for April 2018

Sun	6 May	6.00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth (<i>Holy Communion</i>)
Thur	10 May	7:00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth (<i>Ascension Day Service</i>)
Sun	13 May	3:00 pm	Western District Rally & Tytherton Anniversary (<i>No Service at Brockweir</i>)
Sun	20 May	6.00 pm	Rev Patsy Holdsworth (<i>Pentecost</i>)
Sun	27 May	6.00 pm	Ken Prosser (<i>Trinity Sunday</i>)

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 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 3rd May – In aid of Christian Aid.

Thurs 7th June – In aid of Brockweir Church Gift Day

Book Group

Please contact Heather Armstrong (01291 689326) for details.

Brockweir & Hewelsfield History Group

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

Food Bank Collection

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

Ecumenical Welcome

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

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



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

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

Church Committee

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

ST BRIAVELS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

We're a group of ordinary people, united by our belief in Jesus Christ and with a desire to follow him.

Our services are at 10am and 6pm. Our morning service is a family service when we have a "Sunday Club" for young children.

In our evening services we're examining what John, a friend of Jesus and one of his biographers, thinks you should know about the most influential figure in history. Why not investigate?

We meet for Bible study and prayer every Thursday (8pm, venue changes) and Tuesday (10:15am in the chapel).

Coffee Morning on Tuesday, May 1st (10-12) We raise funds for charities that we support and also provide a great chance to meet up for a chat. Everyone is welcome.

Coffee Morning Tuesday 1st May, 10am to 12 noon

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

Matt Rees, Pastor



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 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.

May is a month of Celebration. Within it we have the Ascension, reminding us of Christ's Kingly reign and his commission to the Church to live, show and share this, making known the power of Jesus forgiving and transforming love. On **Sunday the 6th** we invite Parents and Godparents who have taken on this responsibility for their children to join in giving thanks for Baptism and to renew their promises. On the 13th we celebrate **Adele Owen** being installed as an honorary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral, a recognition of her work with refugees and asylum seekers through GARAS, showing and sharing the transforming power of Christ's love.

20th is Pentecost Sunday (Whitsun in old money). In Partnership with the PTA, there will be activities for all, including crafts, games, music, food and drink, in the Moat from 5.30pm. The Whittington Purse Open Air worship will begin at 7.00pm, where Bishop Robert will be the speaker. At 7.30pm the evening closes with the Bread and Cheese Distribution. These Festivals are 400 and 800 years old respectively and are unique to St Briavels. They are also practical example of Christ's transforming love. The month ends with the celebration of **Trinity Sunday**, God's self-revelation of his nature.

MAY SERVICES: PREACHERS AND THEMES:

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

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

8 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
9 th Weds	10.30am	Communion
10 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 13th - Easter 7: Made Holy by Truth. Walking with the Baptised. Robert

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

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

SUNDAY 20th - Pentecost: What Does this Mean? Robert

8.30am	St Briavels	BCP Communion
9.30am	St Briavels	All Age Eucharist
11.00am	Hewelsfield & Brockweir	Family Communion
7.00pm	St Briavels Outside Castle	Whittington Purse Service Bishop Robert

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

22 nd Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
23 rd Weds	10.30am	Communion
24 th Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 27th - Trinity: Cleansed, Cleared and Committed. David Treharne

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

29 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
31 st Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 3rd June - Trinity 1

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

MIDWEEK: St Briavels

5 th Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer
6 th Weds	10.30am	Communion
7 st Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer

ST. BRIAVELS PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Meeting held on Monday, 9th April, 2018 in the Assembly Rooms, St. Briavels

A Date for your Diary - St. Briavels Get-Together - Wednesday, 23rd May, 2018 at 6.30p.m. in the Pavilion. This event is an opportunity to hear from local organisations about what is happening in and around St. Briavels and there is a lot going on! It is an informal occasion with a delicious two course buffet provided. As well as hearing from local groups, the Parish Council will have on display a variety of projects that you are welcome to comment upon such as; the special celebrations planned for Remembrance Sunday, speeding and parking initiatives and plans for an area of unused ground adjacent to Whittington Close.

Charles Lord Denton Almshouses (AH)/St. Briavels Assembly Rooms (SBAR) Dispute. Councillors received a report following the final part of the mediation process; a joint meeting between both parties. It was noted that, disappointingly, no agreement has been reached and therefore the Parish Council is unable to provide further assistance to this process. However, a request by SBAR Trustees, made verbally at the meeting, for the Council's assistance would be responded to at a future meeting.

With a new financial year just started, **Grant Requests** from local groups/ organisations are welcomed by the Parish Council. A grant application form is available from the Clerk; contact details below.

End of Year Figures for 2017/18 were received by the Council. The budget was underspent by just over £12,000, this being the figure allocated from reserves to maintain the precept without change. Over the years, the reserves have been built up to cover the cost of potential cemetery drainage. With the need for this now lifted, following water sampling tests, the relevant earmarked reserves have now been transferred into general reserves. Moving forward in 2018/19, the Parish Council will focus on its five priorities of speeding, parking, youth activities, engaging with the public and supporting the elderly and those who are vulnerable.

Parking – a number of complaints have been received by the Parish Council regarding inconsiderate parking, as well as parking on the grassed areas in Smithville Close. It is recognised that parking is a long-standing issue and the Council is liaising with Two Rivers and Highways, who own the land, to try to resolve this.

Local Contractors – The Council is looking at improving Three Posts Lane, the footpath alongside the Tump, to make it easier to traverse. Local contractors are asked to contact the Council if they are able to help.

Next meeting – Monday, 14th May, 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in the Assembly Rooms, with planning applications available to view from 6.30 p.m. and Councillors available for you to raise any issues you feel the PC may be able to resolve. Full minutes are available on the Parish Council website.

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

BROCKWEIR AND HEWELSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

*Summary Minutes from the meeting on Tuesday 3rd April 2018.
Full Minutes available on website.*

Present: Cllrs. Fox, Bowen, Sinfield, Haythornthwaite, Clerk, more than 60 parishioners and Cllrs. Molyneux and McFarling.

Parishioners present were interested in planning application P0307/18/FUL – Land at Hewelsfield, Off Mill Hill, Brockweir NP16 7NW. Change of use of agricultural land to a tourism site comprising of 10 camping pods, reception building and shower/washroom. Alterations to vehicular access and associated works.

Of those present, only the two applicants were in favour of the application. Issues presented included: proximity to residential properties; noise and increased traffic on a very narrow road at one of the major passing points; road is one of only two routes across the valley and already takes a lot of traffic with few passing points; site is in an AONB and prone to flooding, causing water run off to cascade down the road and into private properties; safety on the developed site as no supervision permanently based on site; proposed as a family site but pods only accommodate one double bed; site would attract large groups of stag and hen parties; serious impact on the environment. A parishioner read out his letter of objection linking points to the FODDC Core Strategy. The applicants thanked people for their views, which were valued and enabled them to give further consideration to the application. Cllr. Molyneux stated he would recommend the application goes to planning committee.

Councillors were not in favour of the application and made the following additional points:

- Appreciation for the applicants attending the meeting and listening to concerns.
- Both the EIA and Forestry Commission had concerns including tree felling and disturbance of the badger sett.
- Approval could set a dangerous precedent for development of other agricultural sites in the parish.
- Proximity to field used for newly reinstated annual firework display would prevent this event in future years.
- Development outside settlement area for permanent structures for the parish.

Cheques signed by Councillors for:

Payee	Service	Amount
Lynda Skuse	Clerk Salary & Expenses	£309.23
Forest Equipment Services	Emptying Bins	£74.76
Forester Newspaper	Ad for Grass Cutting Tender	£71.04

Cllr. Molyneux advised that an additional £20,000 per annum was available for local highway maintenance. Three weeks of 'Lengthsman' work was being

scheduled in April. Clerk to write to Cllr. Molyneux raising the issue of run off water as a result of blocked drains and grips and the dangerous state of the road bridge surface. Cllr. Molyneux also advised of a £30,000 fund over next three years for Growing the Community.

A signed contract to purchase the telephone box in the village was returned with the fee of £1.00.

Environment Agency update on flooding. Funding should be finalised by June when a public meeting would be organised to inform owners of affected properties of possible options open to them

Council to thank Ollie Davies and Rob Simmonds for work clearing roads during recent snow storms and also to investigate the provision of a snow shovel from Highways.

The date of the next meeting is 1 May 2018 at 7pm, The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop.

HEWELSFIELD & BROCKWEIR PARISH COUNCIL

Grass Cutting and Litter Contract: Invitation to Tender, 2018-2020

Date of Invitation: 6th March 2018. Deadline for Tender: 30th May 2018

Services performed for: Hewelsfield & Brockweir Parish Council.

This is an invitation to tender for the grass cutting, litter management and maintenance in the Parish to ensure that the land administered by Hewelsfield and Brockweir Parish Council is safe and looks attractive to users of its public spaces.

The full Invitation to Tender document can be obtained from:

Lynda Skuse, Clerk to the Council, Manor Cottage, Brockweir, NP16 7NG, or by email at handbpc@outlook.com

If requesting by email please place in the subject line "Tender for Grass Cutting".

HEWELSFIELD & BROCKWEIR PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

22nd May 2018 at 7pm, The Loft, Village Shop

We hope to welcome as many parishioners as possible and our local societies and groups are invited to present at this meeting. It is a great opportunity for parishioners to express hopes and concerns for the parish for the coming year.

Please come along and have your say.

Light refreshments will be served from 6.30pm

Further information can be obtained from the Clerk on 01291 680053 or email at handbpc@outlook.com



A Coffee Morning and Plant Sale

in aid of the Moravian Church Buildings Repair Fund will be held on Thursday 17th May from 10.30 -12.30 at Orchard Cottage, Underhill, Brockweir

Please come along & enjoy home-made cake & chat & pick up some interesting plants!

If you have any plants you would like to donate, please contact Hilary on 01291 689326

Parking is very limited – please walk up from the village if possible



Mindfulness in the Forest and Wye offers a 6-week course in

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION 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.

Starts: Monday 14th May 10-11.30am

Where: The Loft, Brockweir & Hewelsfield Community Shop

Contact: Diana on 07952 548040 to book a place. mindfulnessforestandwye.co.uk

£150 per person. Please bring mat to sit on, cushions, blanket... and an open heart and mind!



A VERY BIG THANK YOU

I would like to say a very big thank you to all our friends in St Briavels and Brockweir for their kindness whilst I was incapacitated recently. Helen and I were overwhelmed by the visits, phone calls, gifts of fruit and chocolates, as well as DVDs, flowers, magazines and loan of equipment that we received.....and I had only broken my leg!

What a wonderful caring community we live in. Helen and I would not want to live anywhere else on earth. Thank you, dear friends.

Mike Downey

BANK HOLIDAY COFFEE MORNING

Once again we were amazed at the support on Easter Bank Holiday Monday. We raised over £1100. which we divided between The Great Oaks Hospice and Heart of the Forest School, both local charities which need our support.

We could not do this without help and donations, so thank you to everyone. Dad would have been very proud and happy.

So we would love to see you all on August Bank Holiday Monday (August 27th) at The Pavilion, St Briavels. Thank you

Adele, Tessa and all of the Family

BADS BROCKWEIR – A HUGE THANK YOU!

BADS Brockweir would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in this year’s spring production of GOLDILOCKS. It was a huge success as always, with the audience in stitches of laughter (or should we say groans!) from our predictable puns and silly songs.

This year we were able to support 3 amazing charities, which were the Air Ambulance service, Sara and Forest Pulse. BADS would particularly like to thank CIC Brockweir who managed the bar for us this year, with all it involved, as well as the generosity of covering the cost of supplies from Kingstone Brewery.

We would love to see you all back next time but, until then, watch this space for more news and future events coming up later this year!

Kelly Painter

A QUESTION OF TIMING

We have all been under the weather of late, with winter’s cold and rain extending well into our springtime expectations. That this cold spell might signal a weakening gulf-stream, caused mainly by global warming, the result of the burning of fossil fuels, should be another wake-up call to all of us who value the natural world.

This change in the weather is adding pressure to an already declining biodiversity. Some plants and animals time their emergence to temperature or day length or both. Those life cycles governed by day length are finding that their timing is out of synch with those governed by changing temperatures. When the interdependencies of flowering, pollination, insect emergence, migration and the complexities of food chains are stretched, then an ability to adapt and change quickly is the only way to survive.

For populations already threatened from habitat loss or weakened by herbicides and pesticides, it should come as no surprise that the ability to adapt or resynchronise is lost and those rare species become locally, then nationally extinct - just a question of unfortunate timing.

Chris McFarling. chrismcfarling@phonecoop.coop

TABLE TOP SALE - WEEKEND EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday & Sunday 19th & 20th May

ST. BRIAVELS ASSEMBLY ROOMS: 10am – 4pm (setting up at 9am)

**WANT TO SELL, BUY OR SWAP ITEMS?
This is the weekend to do it!**



All surplus welcome, including: Household, garden and sports equipment - such as tools, furniture, plants, golf clubs, shoes, clothes, handbags, technology, toys, games, CDs, DVDs, Vinyl, books, jigsaws, ornaments, lamps, art, antiques, and curios. Perhaps you have hand-made craft / hobby items you have made to sell, such as preserves, cakes, jewellery, art, and collectables?

Or maybe you love to hunt for a bargain from a wide range of surplus items, whilst enjoying a natter over tea, coffee, cake, or hot snack, such as a bacon or egg roll from our licensed café?

£5 per table for one day, or £6.50 for both days. (Tables approx. 5ft x 2ft).

HAVE ITEM TO SELL BUT CAN'T BE THERE?

For an extra £3.00 a day, a volunteer will man your stall for you.

Bookings / Enquiries: Call Karen 01594 530950 / sale@st-briavels.com

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE MORAVIAN SCHOOL BUILDING

The Brockweir Moravian congregation is pleased to report, thanks to the funding received from the Village News, that the new LED lighting has been installed and favourably received by regular users of the Sunday school building. In addition, an independent electrical supply has been installed for the wall heaters, meaning the regular tripping of the main linebreaker during the monthly Soup Lunches will no longer disrupt this popular community event.

We are grateful also for the prompt service from Kevin Buffrey Installations in designing the scheme and completing its installation.

Philip Ashton

ST BRIAVELS WI - COMFORT CUSHIONS PROJECT

Eleven members of St Briavels WI met in the Congregational Church on April 11th at 10 am for a Working Party to produce Comfort Cushions for distribution to breast and abdominal cancer sufferers to relieve pressure on surgery scars. The chaos of materials, sewing machines and ironing board soon transformed into an orderly workshop of machinists, stuffers and pressers! With a break for a buffet lunch prepared by members, a total of 77 cushions were completed. One has already found a good, deserving home. Some will be kept at a member's home for use by patients in the local community and the rest will be sent on to hospital. Should you be or know of someone who could make use of one of these cushions following treatment, please contact a member of the WI.

Thanks are due to the Village News for their generous grant to purchase materials and to cover the cost of a donation to the Congregational Church. Thanks also to the Church for allowing us to use their lovely warm building.

Valerie Hooper

ST. BRIAVELS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB - AGM POSTPONED

Owing to the recent passing of one of our club members, we have had to postpone our AGM until 15th May, 12.30pm at the Orepool Inn, Sling. At this meeting we renew our club membership. We also have a two-course meal provided by the club. If any club members have not booked their menu choice with Sue Barnby, could they please do so by 10th May telephone no. 530845. Many thanks.

Sheila Brown

GARDENERS NEEDED

As the St Briavels Open Gardens event was so much admired last year, we hope to have another this year. However, that can't take place unless we have gardens for people to admire. Several people, including those on the Common, said they would be happy to show their gardens if it was repeated this year.

Please let me know if you are still willing to take part. The date is Sunday, 1st July from 11am to 5pm. Thank you in anticipation.

Jean Sheraton 01594 531096 or jandjsheraton@gmail.com.

NOSH AND NATTER

For April's meeting, we were invited to Rosie's house for morning coffee. Rosie and her co-host, Jo, delighted us with a variety of cakes to accompany tea and coffee. As soon as we arrived at Pear Tree Cottage, we were all keen to view Rosie's lovely new kitchen before settling down to our chats with friends and groups. Thank you Rosie and Jo.

Every meeting, we put donations into a box for charity and after a discussion at the coffee morning we decided that this year we would like this money to go to SARA and Forest Pulse.

We were also very pleased to say hello to a couple of new members. We are always happy to see new faces at our very informal meetings and welcome anyone who would like to attend, either every month or whenever they have the opportunity.

Our meeting in May is on Wednesday 9th, at Liz Fisher's: Penllyn, Brockweir, NP16 7PJ. We will be enjoying Afternoon Tea from 2.30 – 4.00pm. For more information, please contact me on 01594 530524 or email_siddonspauline@aol.com

Pauline Siddons

MEN WANTED!

About a dozen of us from St Briavels car share each Tuesday to go to sing with the Monmouth Choral Society. Are there any men out there who would like to join us? We have at least two spare car seats and can always make up another carload. The Monmouth Choral is currently short of tenors and basses. To balance the choir we need more men.

We sing a varied programme over the year and have an energetic and highly musical Conductor. Ability to read music is an advantage but not essential. A sense of pitch is useful, too! Most important is a love of singing with others. We are a friendly choir and enjoy singing with some excellent orchestral players at our concerts three times a year.

Anyone interested should contact me on 531096 or email jeanmsheraton@icloud.com. I can put you in touch with the St Briavels tenors and basses if you would like to ask them about joining the choir, or look at the Monmouth Choral Society website.

Jean Sheraton

SOFT (Sharing our Faiths Together) Meeting

Our regular SOFT meetings will be held on Wednesdays 2nd & 16th May and 6th & 20th June in The Loft above the Village Shop.

People of any or no faith are welcome to join us for a time of discussion. 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

CRAFT FAIR

The annual Craft Fair held in St Briavels Church will be on Saturday 3rd November, this year. It is a happy event, so put the date in your diary.

We would like some more exhibitors. If you make craft of any kind or anything which people may like to buy, especially as Christmas won't be that far away, please don't be shy - people love to see the variety of things which are on display. There is a lot of talent out there. Come and join us for a pleasant day. Refreshments and soup will be available if you don't want to bring your own sandwiches.

Contact me on 531096 or email jandjsheraton@gmail.com for more information.

Jean Sheraton

MUSIC AND DRAMA AT THE MORAVIAN CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

Saturday 14th July 2018 will see another enjoyable afternoon of music and drama, with the aim to raise some much needed funds for repairs on the church. As before, there will be a mixture of music and song interspersed with dramatical performances and a poem or two. This year, weather permitting, we will all be on the lawn at the Moravian School Rooms in Brockweir.

If you are interested in joining in on the stage, entertaining your fellow villagers and friends, please contact me on mistral180482@hotmail.com or 07518 282220. Thank you very much.

Renske Bouwens

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND- BROCKWEIR BOUTIQUE LADIES' FUN CHARITY EVENT

Following the great success of last year's Charity Event, the Brockweir Book Club is organising another Charity Event especially for ladies on Thursday 7th June 2018. The event will be a fun evening and tickets can be purchased on the door. The cost is £5 per person and this includes a glass of Pimms or Fizz or Soft drink and nibbles. This is a great chance to refresh your wardrobe at very reasonable prices, with some local products also on sale.

All proceeds will go to 2 local community charities (to be announced shortly).

As well as your support on the evening, we need donations of good quality (as new) clothing and accessories. You can bring them to the Brockweir Village Shop, where they will be collected or Lyn Skuse is happy to accept donations which can be left in the front porch of her house, Manor Cottage, Quayside, Brockweir. If you would like to arrange collection either contact Lyn on 01291 680053 or me on 01291 689382. If you would like to help on the evening please contact me.

The event starts at 7.30 pm at Mackenzie Hall - doors will open at 7.30 pm sharp - so come on time for the best bargains!! There will be a variety of 'tables' with local hand made produce and also there will be some hair and beauty demonstrations and much more. The theme will be a fun evening for women, an ideal opportunity to socialise which I am sure you will enjoy and we hope to see you then.

Patricia Boden

ST BRIAVELS CARNIVAL - SATURDAY JUNE 9th

This year's Carnival will be held on the Playing Fields on Saturday 9th June. The committee is already working hard to organise this special day in our village calendar and there will be plenty to see and do.

Would you like to get involved? Can you help out on the day or perhaps you would like to help run a stall or help on the gate? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Tessa on 530650 or Jill on 530035..

Tessa Charley

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

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

Friends of St Briavels Church "

ST BRIAVELS SCHOOL MUSHET GARDEN PROJECT

Every year at the Royal Horticultural Society Spring Festival schools are invited to design and create a special garden on a given theme, and this year St Briavels School is thrilled to be entering the competition! The children, staff and parents have worked with members of the wider community to create something really special that celebrates our area's important contribution to the industrial revolution. Our design celebrates the natural beauty found in the Forest of Dean, and also our proud local history and its impact on Great Britain as a whole, with a garden commemorating the 150th anniversary of Robert Forester Mushet's discovery of Mushet's Special Steel. Some of you may know that this was the steel that built the first railway lines in Britain, so definitely something to be very proud of! And the design, driven by the pupils themselves, includes woodland wildlife, created using upcycled metal, native planting, a stone arch leading to Mushet's Foundry and even a railway line running through it! So wish us luck as we take our garden to Malvern to be seen by the thousands of visitors to the RHS Spring Festival (10 -13 May) and if you're going yourself, do come along to see us there! We will be showcasing some of the garden at the St Briavels Celebration on 20th May too, in case you can't get to Malvern.

Alexia Naylor, St Briavels Mushet Garden Project Leader

Brockweir & Hewelsfield Local History Group

This month the History Group will be meeting on **Wednesday 9th May** when we will explore

The History of our "Village News" Magazine,
(or "Parish Mag" as some of us still call it!)

When did it start, why did it start and how is it put together and distributed?

If you have been involved with the Village News in any way over the years or simply enjoy reading it, please come along and join in our evening.

As usual everyone is welcome. We will be meeting in the Moravian Schoolrooms at 7.30 pm. on **Wednesday May 9th.**

Please note the break with tradition: this meeting is on Wednesday this month not Thursday.

John Norman

ST BRIAVELS LUNCH CLUB THURSDAY 24TH OF MAY

We all meet at 11.45 for a glass of sherry and a three course lunch at 12 o'clock in St Briavels Pavilion. We are a happy group of about 22 people and are always pleased to see a new face. If you are new to the village and would like to join us please contact Mary (530505) for more information. The three course meal, sherry and coffee costs £5.50. There is also a raffle. We look forward to meeting you.

Mary Perryman



BROCKWEIR COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY



Following a successful second year of events, and in the spirit of openness and transparency, we would like to publicise the finances of the CIC for all to see:

Income:		
Soapbox	Entrants	£2,772.13
Soapbox	Sponsorship	£650.00
Soapbox	Traders	£200.00
Soapbox	Donations	£159.85
Soapbox	Event	£3,942.87
Soapbox	Advertising	£435.00
Fireworks	Quiz Proceeds (to 25/10/17)	£1,033.84
Fireworks	Ticket Sales	£1,369.14
Fireworks	Event	£1,712.04
Fireworks	Donations	£340.00
General	Quiz Proceeds (from 25/10/17 - 31/12/17)	£268.00
General	Donations	£60.00
TOTAL INCOME		£12,942.87

Expenses:		
General	Admin	£138.73
General	Equipment	£273.88
Soapbox	Insurance	£991.12
Soapbox	Advertising	£1,276.73
Soapbox	Event	£3,902.34
Soapbox	Promotional Goods	£1,504.12
Fireworks	Insurance	£472.00
Fireworks	Event	£1,424.81
Fireworks	Advertising	£63.72
TOTAL EXPENSES		£10,047.45
TOTAL PROFIT		£2,895.42

(Please do note that these figures are based on the last 12 calendar months. Full finances are also available for viewing at Companies House)

In light of the success of the events, we are also pleased to announce that we shall be opening up for applications from local groups and events for funding or other support. Further information and application forms are available on our website, or failing that, contact us and we can send some over to you.

One final note, we are still looking for volunteers to help! If you are interested in helping for a couple of hours, or to join us on a more formal basis, please do get in touch. Thanks!

Brockweir CIC. Email: hq@brockweirsoapboxderby.co.uk

COMMUNITY CARBON REDUCTION – FOLLOWING THE FOOTPATHS PROGRAMME

A small group of us met regularly in St Briavels from the mid January until the beginning of April covering the seven-session Footpaths programme to help us reduce our carbon footprint. We worked our way through each structured session covering the topics of climate change, home energy, water & waste, food, consumerism and transport. Using an informative handbook, we did activities, exercises and games, which brought the topics to life and allowed us to relate the information to our own lives. They often surprised us and sometimes shocked us.

We took electricity, gas and water meter readings weekly, had great discussions comparing usage and how we each heat our homes; we learned from each other, reassured by similar experiences – Sue and I have almost identical weekly usage of electricity, despite heating our homes quite differently – and were challenged together as a group. One game had facts and figures about the use of small electrical appliances and was great fun to play but surprised us – ‘a real eye opener’ said Cristina. No more leaving things on stand-by and lots more switching off at the wall for us!!

We enjoyed the session about food, feeling pretty well informed but realising we could do more to reduce our individual impact. Chris has been eating a vegan diet once a week, a couple of us cut out some dairy products and several people are reducing red meat and processed food. I didn’t realise that buying frozen fish carried such a high carbon footprint. Jacky reflected that ‘it’s easy to assume you are doing all you can.’ We are taking the opportunity to rethink and change some of our habits.

We have all taken small steps to reduce our carbon footprints further. Chris said the programme ‘gives you the chance to do the things you can do’ – really important if like me you are good at thinking you will do something but not getting started! Some of the other changes by the group have been switching to a renewable energy supplier; using a pressure cooker more often; changing to plastic free bar soap & shampoo; refilling detergents for washing up/laundry; buying fewer books/using the library and preparing to grow more food.

We have all planned things we hope to do to reduce our carbon footprints – use public transport more, reduce flying, work from home, share tools and equipment, set up an alternative to avoid use of a tumble dryer, holiday only in the UK, become a vegetarian or grow more of our own food – I do believe that we have greater chance of succeeding because we came together as a group and followed the programme that gave us impetus and direction.

One of the best things about Footpaths was discussing things as a group, sharing ideas and sharing the journey together – if you are interested to find out more or to participate in a group, please get in touch, jencoathier@btinternet.com or call me on 01594 530348

Jen Cothier

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

SAVOY CABBAGE AND HAM AU GRATIN – FOR TWO PEOPLE

Try to use the best cooked ham. If using from a packet, select the one that states ‘no added water’.

- ½ small savoy cabbage – shredded
- 4oz cooked ham, cut into strips.
- 1oz butter
- ½ small onion
- 1oz flour and ½ pint milk
- 3tbsp grated parmesan
- Grated nutmeg and seasoning.



Drop cabbage into a pan of salted water, bring to the boil and simmer for 1 minute. Drain quickly under a cold tap. Melt the butter and add the onion, cook until soft then add the flour- cook without browning. Gradually add the milk to make a white sauce. Simmer gently for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add cabbage, ham half of the parmesan, nutmeg and salt and pepper to taste. Spread out into a gratin dish, sprinkle with the remaining cheese and perhaps some breadcrumbs.

Cook in a medium oven for 20 minutes or under a hot grill until nicely brown. Serve with nice bread.

Mary Perryman

FEST ST BRIAVELS ST BRIAVELS ST BRIAVELS ST BRIAVELS IIVAL ST BRIAVELS ST BRIAVELS

HAVING FUN CELEBRATING ST BRIAVELS HERITAGE TOGETHER

SUNDAY 20TH MAY, CASTLE MOAT 5.30pm – 7.30 pm

With entertainment including

The Bella Mamas, Parkend Silver Band,

The Beaujoladies, Village Maypole.

BBQ, Bar, Cake, Wye Forest Ice Cream, Crafts,

Second hand uniform stall, and

School's RHS Spring Festival Mushet Garden, too!

7.00pm Whittington Purse Service, including Open the Book and Sermon with Bishop Robert of Tewksbury followed at 7.30pm by the traditional

Bread and Cheese distribution!

Organised by the St Briavels School PTA and the Parish Church

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
GET CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, from 7.30 until 9.00pm at the Loft, Brockweir Village Shop. chrissybirch@ymail.com
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. Last meeting 30 May. Meetings resume in early September. For more information email Trevor Williams. fishthw@gmail.com
BROCKWEIR YOUTH CLUB - the club meets during term time. For further information please ring 01291 689 327 or visit: www.brockweiryouthclub.co.uk.
SOFT MEETING. On two Weds each month. 7.30pm. The Loft above Village Shop.

Thursdays

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.
ZUMBA WITH JO, 'Zumba Strong', St Briavels School Hall, 8.15pm - 9.15pm
ST BRIAVELS WALKING GROUP - monthly walks. John Hurley 01594 530890

Fridays

TEA AND TOTS: 9:00-10.30am - term time only, Assembly Rooms, St Briavels. For more information please visit our Facebook page: St Briavels Tea and Tots.
IYENGAR YOGA: 10.30-12pm. Mackenzie Hall, All welcome. Wildwoodyoga.co.uk 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
ZUMBA WITH JO, 'Toning', St Briavels School Hall, 9.00 - 10am.

Sundays

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



**Based in the Wye Valley,
Your Local Choice for
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Access Platform available for hire.**

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www.treesandgrounds.co.uk**

DIARY DATES FOR MAY

Walking for Health every Tuesday – meet at the Assembly Rooms, 2pm			
1 Tues	May Day Coffee Morning	10.30am – 12 noon	Poolfield Court Cottage
1 Tues	Coffee Morning	10am	Congregational Church, St Briavels
1 Tues	Brockweir & Hewelsfield PC meeting	7pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
2 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
3 Thurs	Charity Lunch	12noon	Moravian Sunday School Hall
3 Thurs	St Briavels Walking Group	1pm	Meet at St Briavels Church
3 Thurs	Friends of St Briavels Church - AGM & Reception	8pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
5 Sat	Produce Market	10am-12.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
9 Weds	Nosh & Natter: Afternoon Tea	2.30-4.00pm	Penllyn, Brockweir
9 Weds	History Group: 'Village News'	7.30pm	Moravian Schoolroom
10 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
12 Sat	Moat Society Working Party - All welcome	10am to 12noon	Castle Moat.
13 Sun	Guided Walk & Cream Tea	2.30pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
14 Mon	St Briavels PC meeting (planning applications and councillors available from 6.30pm)	7pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
15 Tues	St Briavels Senior Citizens Club: AGM & Lunch	12.30pm	Orepool, Sling
16 Weds	SOFT meeting	7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
16 Weds	St Briavels WI meeting: Work of the Soil Association	7.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
17 Thurs	Coffee Morning & Plant Sale	10.30am-12.30pm	Orchard Cottage, Underhill, Brockweir

18 Fri	Garden Society: A new Take on Bedding	7.30pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
19/20 Sat/Sun	Table Top Sale (open from 9:00 for setting up)	10.00am – 4.00pm	Assembly Rooms, St Briavels
20 Sun	St Briavels Heritage Celebration	5.30pm	Castle Moat
20 Sun	Whittington Purse Sermon & Bread & Cheese distribution	7/7.30pm	
22 Tues	Brockweir & Hewelsfield PC: Annual Meeting & Parish Meeting	7/7.30pm	The Loft, Brockweir Village Shop
22 Tues	WI Carnival Float – second planning meeting	7.30 to 8.30pm	The George, St Briavels
23 Weds	St. Briavels Get-Together	6.30pm	St Briavels Pavilion
24 Thurs	St Briavels Lunch Club	11.45am	St Briavels Pavilion
24 Thurs	Walk & Talk Group	2pm	Meet at Hewelsfield Church
26 Sat	Wye Valley Music Concert	7.30 pm	St Briavels Church
31 Thurs	Mackenzie Hall AGM	7.00pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir

ADVANCE DATES

7 June	Charity Lunch	12noon	Moravian Sunday School Hall
7 June	Brockweir Boutique Ladies' Fun Charity Event	7.30pm	Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir
9 June	St Briavels Carnival		
1 July	St Briavels Open Gardens		11am – 5pm
6 - 8 July	Flower Festival 'Song & Dance'	11am - 5pm	Hewelsfield Church
14 July	Music & Drama at the Moravian Church		
14 July	Sevenoaks Shakespeare Co. 'The Tempest'	Evening	St Briavels Castle
15 July	Sevenoaks Shakespeare Co. 'The Tempest'	Matinee	St Briavels Castle
21 July	Friends of St Briavels Church: Hog Roast	from 5pm	Church Farm, St Briavels
27 Aug	Bank Holiday Coffee Morning		St Briavels Pavilion



NEWS FROM THE BROCKWEIR VILLAGE SHOP

You may notice we have been doing a spring clean of the shop, improving the appearance of the shop both inside and outside.

As the building is now more than 14 years old, there are always maintenance and repair jobs. If you are handy with a drill, a duster, a paintbrush or a screwdriver I would love to hear from you.

We are also setting up an eco group to look at how we can make the shop even more ecologically friendly. If you are passionate on this subject please get in touch and join our informal team looking at everything from small changes to the bigger ideas.

The shop has a wide variety of products that can save you travelling further afield from Eggs to Ice cream, Toilet

Rolls to Aspirin, Baked Beans to Quinoa and lots of local products that come in regularly, including Fresh Milk and Cream on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday we can also supply milk in glass bottles. We bake bread daily and we get a delivery from Wigmores, Monday to Saturday including T Cakes. We bake our delicious croissants at weekends but if you have a special event we can bake during the week provided you let us know the day before. By the way - watch out for the new Pain Au Chocolat as a real treat. If you are more of a savoury person, in the café we have some lovely cheese and spring onion muffins.

Some great reasons for shopping locally include:

- Meet friends and neighbours
- Save time travelling into town
- Save petrol and parking money
- Support local producers
- Keep money in the local economy
- Find quirky or usual products, like handmade crafts
- Build community spirit
- Know the origin of your food
- Catch up on all the latest news
- Get good and personalised deals/services by requesting products

We look forward to seeing you
Alison

ART IN THE CAFÉ

Katie Benge: 9th April – 21st May

Katie is the current local artist exhibiting her work in the Café. Katie studied Art and Media at Middlesex, and Humberside Universities. For the past 15 years she has won awards for her work as a Graphic Designer for major advertising agencies, also for brand and design and direct marketing companies. This has been both in the UK and in New Zealand. She likes working in a broad range of media and has a wide portfolio, which includes painting, illustration, photography and

graphic pieces.

Freelancing for the last seven years, Katie has had recent local exhibitions: 'Things with Wings' at the New Leaf Art Gallery, Monmouth, and 'The Names of the Hare' at New Brewery Arts, in Cirencester.

Since the commencement of this, her most recent exhibition, there has been great interest expressed in her work, much of which is already sold. The exhibition is thus proving highly successful, and should not be missed.

Ann Baxter Wright: 21st May – 2nd July

Katie's art will be followed by that of Ann Baxter Wright on the 21st May, and again we have a delight in store. A selection of her gouache and oil paintings is to be exhibited.

This is an advance notice, and more information will be provided in the next edition of this magazine.

Annie Charlton

GUIDED WALK & CREAM TEA

SUNDAY 13TH MAY

**Setting off from St. Briavels Assembly Rooms
at 2.30pm**

Earn a guilt free cream tea as you enjoy a 1.5 hours (approx) gentle to medium ramble, through our wonderful local environment. There will be a small number of stiles, and some fun clue hunting en route!

Wear walking boots or strong shoes and if you bring the dogs, please remember the poo bags! There will be a dog bar (drink and doggie treat!) in the courtyard after the walk

£5 including cream tea, and doggie bar. Other refreshments and snacks available.

Enquiries / Booking: John 530890 / walk@st-briavels.com





NEWS FROM THE CASTLE

A big thank you to everyone who came through our gates for the History In Action Event we held over the weekend of 14th and 15th April.

We were joined once again by a lovely group of volunteers who dressed up as soldiers from different time periods (although the arrival of some was sadly curtailed by car breakdowns so we regrettably were without our Medieval Longbowmen and Redcoats) and helped us end each day with a BANG. We were even visited on the Saturday by a strange yellow disk in the sky which I hope by now has become a more permanent resident over the village! All in all, over 400 visitors came to the Castle over the two days and your amazing donations helped us to raised a little over £320 for the YHA Breaks 4 Kids Charity to help make a difference to disadvantaged young people.

On Sunday, 20th May, the Whittington Purse sermon and Bread and Cheese ceremony will take place outside the castle and church, and there will be a Community Event in the moat from approximately 5 – 8pm. As always, we welcome you to pop in to use the facilities within the Castle during this event.

Tickets will be shortly available for our annual Shakespeare Weekend. This year we are once again welcoming the Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society back and their tour of "The Tempest". There will be an evening performance on Saturday 14th July and a matinee performance on Sunday 15th July. As always, until the end of June we will be offering an early bird booking discount to £10.00 per adult ticket and all tickets for young people aged under-26 will remain at £5.00 per person.

We are now using Facebook to advertise all our Banquets open to non-residents as well as all our special events so please do "Like" us and keep up to date with what is happening through the big wooden gates!

Linda Harrison, Manager

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

ST BRIAVELS LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET

Saturday 5th May

The Pavilion 10-12.30 pm



WYE VALLEY MUSIC (ST BRIAVELS MUSIC SOCIETY)

An Extraordinary Multi-keyboard Experience

The Society's concert this month will take place in St Briavels Church on Saturday 26th May at 7.30 pm and will feature the return of **Charles Matthews**. Charles first visited the Society some 20 years ago to give a piano recital, then a few years later in a fascinating three-instrument evening, and most recently with **Robert Osborne** in a piano/clarinet recital. Charles will present what he calls "an international musical treasure-hunt" and again will be playing not one, not two, but three keyboards: the Society's piano, the church organ and his own harpsichord.

Charles Matthews studied at the Royal College of Music, London, and was an organ scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge. He has won numerous awards, most notably first prize in the 1999 Franz Liszt Organ Interpretation Competition in Budapest. Charles performs as a soloist and in duo recitals with flute, recorder, violin, 'cello and voice, in the UK and in Spain, and he is happy to rehearse in French, Spanish or German. He has performed for productions by the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet, and recorded music used in various theatres in Spain. In total, he has made more than a dozen recordings and is a published composer.

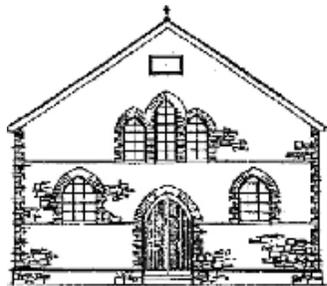
Charles is organist of St Catharine's

Church, Chipping Campden and also contributes to the Spire organ and electronics project. He works extensively with young people, acts as piano accompanist and organ tutor at the Birmingham Conservatoire and works as conductor and contemporary music coach for the annual Curso Internacional Matisse at San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain, where he runs the Ensemble Postante. He sums up his goal as, "I guess that every performing musician seeks to reach and maintain a point of contact in the common ground between themselves, the listener and the piece of music in question. So I try to give out, or open up, whatever I can of myself. At the same time I hope to provide a historically and analytically informed re-creation of each piece." Audience reactions have been striking: "Rarely has there been such a buzz following a recital." "A mountain-top experience." It was like you were playing it just for me."

Charles' programme at St Briavels will include Mozart, Alain, Peeters and Bach on the organ, Bull and Bach on the harpsichord and Debussy, Ireland, Liszt and Beethoven on the piano, all brought to life by Charles' wonderful explanations of themes and connections which he has woven into the programme.

Keith Norman 01594 530419

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



WYE VALLEY ARTS CENTRE, LLANDOGO

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

MAY

THUR 3, 10, 17, 24 SILVER JEWELLERY (cont) 1.00 - 4.00 Ann Skehel
 10 x Thursday classes Special price of £230 for 10x 3hr sessions (Silver is not included.)

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

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

SAT 19 PAINTING & DRAWING - 1 DAY WORKSHOP Ann Hulme
 9.30 am - 5 pm Cost - £50

JUNE

THUR 7, 14, 21, 28 SILVER JEWELLERY (cont) 1.00 - 4.00 Ann Skehel

SAT 16 PAINTING & DRAWING - 1 DAY WORKSHOP Ann Hulme
 9.30 am - 5 pm Cost - £50

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

All shows start at 7.45pm Tickets £4.00 at the door		Summer Season 2018 Tintern Film Nights Big-screen movies close to home	Tintern Village Hall
Friday 8th June Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri Tragicomedy with Frances McDormand "A modern classic"	Friday 11th May Finding Your Feet Romantic comedy with Staunton, Imrie, Spall, Lumley "Tremendous"		
Friday 13th July The Post Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Stephen Spielberg together for the first time	Friday 10th August Paddington 2 "A beautifully constructed, deliciously acted joy."		



PARISH GRASSLANDS PROJECT

www.parishgrasslandsproject.org.uk

OUR LOCAL WILD FLORA SURVEY – YEAR 2

Despite the prolonged winter weather, the plants are growing and some are thriving - in fact, this seems to be a big year for Primroses, which have been in flower all winter in some places. So the second year of the PGP's assessment of the local wild flora is also under way, and any help that residents can give will be welcome.

In 2017, we collected sightings of eight easily recognised species and compared what we found with records from the 1990s and the general description of the frequency and habitats in a local Flora published in 1920. All eight were common 100 years ago, but none is common now. Five had held their own since the 1990s (e.g. Cowslip) but there was reasonably clear evidence that three had decreased since then (e.g. Harebell.)

Since this pointed to a long-term and continuing decline in the diversity of our local flora, the PGP is following-up with a parish-wide search for missing species. In round terms, there were about 500 species in the two parishes in 1920, but slightly less than 300 have been seen in the last 25 years. A few new discoveries have been made, and some introduced species have gone wild (think Japanese Knotweed), but broadly we may have lost 40% of our wild species in the last century. Which is surprising, since we still have much the same landscape as we had in 1920.

In 2018 we want to check whether this apparent decline could possibly be real by searching for the missing

species. We treat this as a challenge. The object is to try to disprove the apparent alarming scale of losses. If, after searching diligently, we still have a long list of missing species, then we can be reasonably sure that there has indeed been a decline. It will then be worth asking why, does it matter, and if it does, whether we can do anything about it.



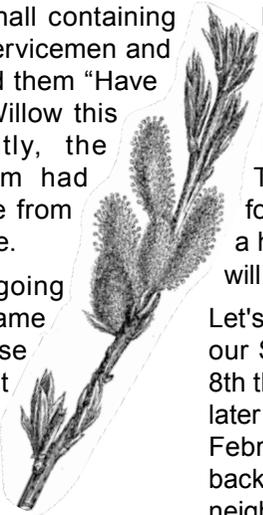
To help this along, we have placed a list of the "missing" species on our website, together with some notes about where they grew 100 years ago. If anyone finds any one of these "missing" species, we would like to know: you can either send a message to the PGP website or directly to gfpeterken@tiscali.co.uk. Thus far, we have located nine species, which is an encouraging start. Several of the species could be found as garden weeds. If you need help with identification, try the internet (Google the Latin name and look at the images) or acquire *Keble Martin, The Concise British Flora in Colour*, a hugely popular book of paintings illustrating most wild plants in Britain, published in 1965 by a retired Devon clergyman. Committed botanists use it too!

George Peterken

Rustle of Spring?

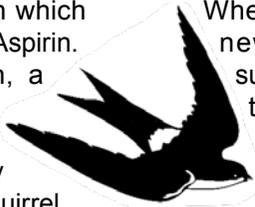
When I first started forestry lecturing at Cirencester, a kindly “old hand” took me on one side and warned me against making the same mistake as my immediate predecessor, who had walked into a lecture hall containing 90 farmers' sons, ex-servicemen and landowners, and asked them “Have you seen the Pussy Willow this morning?”. Apparently, the ensuing pandemonium had made for a bumpy ride from the lecturing perspective.

However, I am now going to ask you that very same question today, because the said Willow is almost the only native flowering tree to have shown form this year, and, if you have noticed it, you might wish to know a bit about it. Some people call it “Palm” because it often flowers on Palm Sunday – it didn't this year - but most call it Sallow or Sally. I first met it in Derbyshire where they call it Goat Willow, possibly a nod to its botanical cataloguing as *Salix caprea*, and it is the “Salix” connection which links it, loosely, to pain relief via Aspirin. Willow bark contains Salicin, a substance historically famed for its anti-inflammatory properties, which is possibly the reason why cattle, horses, deer and Grey Squirrel attack it with teeth and antlers in the growing season. Now, if a GS is busy stripping my worthless Willow, there's a chance he will leave my young Oaks alone, and this is why I always include Sallow in a planting programme.



Perry Urban, my beekeeping buddy, looks for Sallow to provide some of the earliest nectar flow for her overwintered hives, while ecologists rate it highly as a food source for interesting insects. The larvae of one of these, the giant Goat Moth, tunnels through the timber of the tree, leaving a cavity big enough to take a fountain pen. It can make reasonable firewood. Try to burn it green and it will fizzle for half an hour before exploding like a hand grenade, but a seasoned log will burn brightly without misbehaving.

Let's look at the Spring positives. Well, our Swallows have returned. At April 8th that comes in at nearly two months later than my best ever sighting in mid February in Radnorshire some years back. Annoyingly, it was my friend and neighbour who pointed out OUR bird on HER telephone wires but I managed to conceal my irritation and tottered off to Tweed Hall with the glad tidings (and just a hint of triumphalism). Speedy had spent the morning lovingly buffing up the Asti - Spumante roadster in readiness for a summer of highway hostilities.



When I announced my good news his response was surprising. Without a word he turned and tore up the track to his open garage, there to swiftly throw a dust sheet over the gleaming monster.

It seems as though Swallow poo grabs different punters different ways. To some it is manna from above, while to others it is merely Guano.



This month the planet Jupiter is very well placed for observation. On 8th May, an alignment occurs that makes Jupiter appear at its largest and brightest. It will be visible in Libra between about 9.30pm to 4.30am but will reach its highest point above the southern horizon around midnight.

Why is Jupiter especially large and bright tonight? The first reason is that Jupiter is directly opposite the Sun in the sky from our perspective and its full face is illuminated - this is called “opposition”. The second reason is that Jupiter's orbit is making its closest approach to Earth - this is called “perigee”. Simply put, the Sun, the Earth, and Jupiter are all in a line.

Jupiter should be easy to spot in Libra because the constellation is a sign of the Zodiac and so follows the familiar path of our Sun across the sky. Libra also sits between two bright and conspicuous stars, Spica and Antares. Given those guides and the movement from southeast to southwest during the night you should be able to pick it out with ease.

Jupiter is a gas giant and is the largest planet in our Solar System. If we squashed all the other planets into one big ball then it would still be 2.5 times smaller than Jupiter. The planet is about a 10th of the size of the Sun and similarly structured being composed mainly of Hydrogen and Helium. Don't worry though, it would need to be much more massive in order for gravity to commence nuclear fusion of the hydrogen to become a new star.

Despite being at its closest it is still much further out from the Sun than the Earth (an orbit over 5 times larger than the Earth) so to the naked eye it never appears more than a bright star-like point of light. If you have a good pair of binoculars then you should be able to reveal it as a disk of light with an accompanying system of moons that appear as bright dots. If you are fortunate enough to have a telescope you should be able to make out some of the details in Jupiter's cloud bands including the famous red spot.

You might also want to try your hand at some astrophotography, simply place a camera on a tripod looking up at the southern sky and try some different length exposures then zoom in to see if you can spot the disk of Jupiter and its moons. If you take subsequent photos on different nights you'll see that moons have moved which I always find really cool!

A NEW TAKE ON BEDDING

Laura and Jack Willgos started Wildegoose Nursery in 2011, as specialist growers of hardy perennial and scented violas. Violas remain at the heart of their business but their passion for plants has always extended beyond this to encompass a diverse range of flowering perennials and grasses for sale alongside the violas in their nursery.

On Friday 18 May, 7.30pm at Mackenzie Hall, Brockweir, we welcome Laura to talk to us about new ideas for bedding schemes which move away from the traditional municipal ones. She will show us a modern way to use annuals, biennials, tender perennials and bulbs in the garden for vibrant borders throughout the season. After the distinctly un-vibrant winter we've had, we - and our gardens - will certainly welcome some vibrancy!

There will be plants for sale. All welcome. Visitors £5.

IN MY GARDEN

Every year, the garden comes back to life as if born anew and, like every living thing in its youth, the spring garden grows and changes so rapidly that we can almost see it happening. Flower buds swell, leaves unfurl and a haze of fresh green creeps along the hedgerow until the whole thing is suddenly in leaf.

Of course it wouldn't be normal if the couch grass and nettles didn't shoot up faster and with more vigour than everything else but they are just part of the living world urgently responding to the season and those lovely long hours of daylight.



Between the showers, there's enough warmth in the sun now to enjoy being out there with the full choir of birds singing their hearts out, fat furry bumble bees on a mission and pond skaters back on the pond, skimming the surface of the water above the tadpoles, now hatched, free swimming and grazing on algae in the shallows.

I've always liked to photograph my garden and its wildlife, there's nothing better in the depths of winter to look back over the changing seasons snug and comfortable by the fire, but I've never progressed further than a very basic 'point and press' camera. This year though I'm determined to master the manual setting of a far superior SLR camera my son gave me - and what better excuse to get out every day and record the sheer exuberance of spring as it speeds its way through my garden.

Cheryl Cummings

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

With the copy deadline for Village News falling around the middle of the previous month, it's usually the case that whatever the current weather, it will have changed by the time the magazine arrives in readers' letter boxes. This has been particularly true this winter! So I hesitate to pronounce Spring's arrival. However, as Cheryl notes above, things are growing fast, despite the cold and wet that at times has seemed as if it will never end. In the shelter of my unheated greenhouse, plants are racing away. Outside, we are two or three weeks behind last year - including the ground elder! Having lost so much gardening time in March, there is even more to do than usual this month. But don't forget to make time to enjoy your garden as well!

- Keep your greenhouse well ventilated and don't let the soil dry out
- Don't be in a hurry to plant greenhouse crops in their final positions. Wait until their roots fully fill their pots – treat them a little mean to get the best flowering (and fruit.)
- Harden off young plants intended for outside gradually. Keep a watch on the forecast so you can protect them from frost
- When flowering is over, allow the leaves of bulbs to die down naturally. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps
- Refresh or replace the soil in outdoor pots and add a slow release feed before you plant up your summer displays
- Prune shrubs if necessary when they finish flowering (but don't do major pruning where birds may be nesting)
- Keep blades high when you mow - or treat your lawn as a meadow, save time and energy and wait until late July before you mow

Find detailed monthly guidance on our website www.wyegarden.com

Christine Haines

★★★★★	Film Night	★★★★★
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Teas, coffees & ice cream on sale.	Murder on the Orient Express One of the most stylish, suspenseful and thrilling murder mysteries ever told.	★★★★★
★★★★★	Tintern Village Hall 7.45pm	★★★★★
	Tickets £4.00 15s & under £2.50	



BROCKWEIR EVENTS AT MACKENZIE HALL



Review: Ninebarrow - 13th April

Another well-attended event, highlighting the talents of this versatile young duo singing and harmonising about their native Dorset using traditional songs and their own compositions to great effect. Warmly received by an appreciative audience.

Many thanks to all of you who have come along over the last six months to support live music and theatre

Your support is vital. We are taking a break now until Saturday 20th October when we will be highlighting the talents of another well-established young duo - **Jimmy Aldridge and Sid Goldsmith** www.jimmyandsidduo.com, who will be making the journey across the water from Bristol to play their own blend of traditional and self-penned songs.

We are putting together a programme for the autumn and next spring and all suggestions are welcome and will be followed up. We are attending the Air in G annual get together in early May and will display the list of possible acts in the Brockweir Village Shop for your consideration.

We are hoping to sign up a versatile young blues player from

Plymouth, **Thomas Ford**, if we can find a slot and possibly **Anne Marie Sanderson**, another young singer songwriter with a touch of the Joni Mitchells about her. We are also hopeful of signing the **Drystones**, a young local duo nominated for the Newcomer award in the 2018 BBC2 Folk Awards

Remember you saw them here before they became famous! Previous acts who have performed at the Mac Hall - The Urban Folk Quartet, Gigspanner, Sam Lee, Lady Maisery, Gilmore and Roberts, Greg Russell and Ciaran Algar, Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman are all headlining festivals this summer.

Adrian Birch



Mackenzie Hall AGM

Our AGM will be held in the Mackenzie Hall on Thursday 31st May at 7.00pm.

A very warm welcome is extended to anyone in the village who would like to contribute to, or just attend, the meeting. Please join us.

Barbara French

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