



Broughton Gifford
July 2020

Village Magazine

HELLO!

We are aware that there are uncertain times ahead and for some this will cause some practical problems. We are a group who can help those who are isolating because they have the virus or because they need to avoid the virus. We can offer practical help for free (except the cost of shopping).

Stay Safe

The Broughton Gifford Coronavirus Support Team

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- Collecting Prescriptions

Please call or text your **Area Contact** in the first instance who can then either help you directly or put you in contact with a village volunteer. If your local contact isn't available, please call the next nearest.

Coronavirus is contagious, please take every precaution to ensure you are only spreading kindness. Avoid physical contact (2-meter distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

| Area Contacts | |
|--|----------------------------|
| The Common | Henry Lumley 07720558982 |
| The Street Top (Corner of Mill Lane up to the common) | Claire Johnson 07900994848 |
| The Street Bottom (Corner of Mill Lane to Holt junction) | Kathryn Hogg 07883020884 |
| Newleaze Park | Claire Francis 07971636414 |
| Curtis Orchard | Suzi Shingler 07540192651 |
| Mill Lane | Sarah Chandler 07761747961 |
| Norrington Common | Paul Johnson 07798 625342 |

Editorial

Well what a difference from last time I was editor back in February! Each member of the editorial team has now had a go at producing an edition of the magazine and I hope you agree with me that they've done an excellent job.

A wild flower/weed has decided to take up residence in the gravel by the wall of our garage. It's not in the way so we left it to its own devices (all right, I couldn't be bothered to hoik it out). If you look on the front cover of this edition you will see its beautiful seed head and, of course, immediately recognise it as *tragopogon pratensis* or meadow salsify. Its hawkbit-like yellow flowers open early in the morning and close up at around midday, hence its other, and rather delightful, common name of 'Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon'.

I'm sure our garden is unremarkable but we are gratified to see that blue tits and blackbirds have successfully raised their respective families. On the down side they have also prepared the odd meal for the sparrow hawk that frequents the area; no doubt she is also raising young.

A pair of Jackdaws decided that one of our disused chimneys would make a good nesting site, dropping endless twigs down the hole before finally laying eggs. Much noisy parental to-ing and fro-ing followed and even the odd uninvited non-family corvid (no, not covid!) decided to break the social distancing rule and cause even more of a ruckus. All is relatively quiet up there now but whether the nestlings managed to get out of the awkward space is uncertain. We can but hope. There's a job for the chimney sweep later on.

The sharp-eyed amongst you may have noticed new copies of regulations posted on Broughton Common, Norrington Green and Norrington Common. Here I have to hold my hand up and confess that I did once use a metal detector on The Common. In my defense I had been asked to locate an underground tap that was said to be somewhere on the cricket outfield. Just be aware that you shouldn't try and stage a version of Ben Hur, or go camping on the commons. Otherwise we can continue to enjoy them as we always have.

As always, many thanks to all our contributors for making this month's edition an interesting one. We would be delighted to receive any contributions by anyone in the village so if you have any articles, poems, stories or art that you would like to be included please contact us on bgvillagemagazine@gmail.com.

With best wishes from all of the editorial team. We hope you are keeping safe and in good health.

Tony Cooper - Editor for July

OUTSIDE-IN

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Village Show 2020

Due to the uncertainty in the wake of the current pandemic we have regretfully decided to cancel this year's Annual Village & Produce Show that was to be held on Saturday 5th September. Nevertheless we hope for your support for next year's show, which we plan to include several more classes, non-competing exhibition space and activities for the children as well as the old favourites.

To all you proud first-time and experienced growers who are producing exhibition-worthy fare, I feel your frustration and can only offer my apologies.

Trouble at 't' Garden

Right now it's like walking on marbles on our lawn! The June drop started in late May this year and has gained pace. Nevertheless after a disappointing showing last autumn it looks like we're in for a bumper apple crop this year.

For a couple of years now whole branches of our aucuba or spotted laurel have been turning black in dry weather but after cutting them out the shrub has looked a lot better (if a little smaller).



I'm hoping this has been due to the stresses of waterlogging in wet winters and drought in summers rather than the dreaded *Phytophthora* fungus. Whatever it is it's now an ex-shrub and much discussion has gone into what to replace it with. Watch that space.

A few days ago I noticed what I took to be the manky remains of an old apple lodged on the trunk of our one and only eating apple tree. It was a rather fetching orangey-brown colour going mottled on top and paler underneath. Upon closer inspection it turned out to be a substantial fungal growth. A couple of days later I was shocked to see it had grown about twice the size and a couple of days later it

turned into a classic bracket fungus shape. Of course I wanted to know what it was but how do you Google the appearance of a fungus? Anyway I found myself in the middle of a lively disagreement between mycological groups but eventually I concluded it is a *Phellinus Pomaceus*. This is said not to be aggressively pathogenic but we will see how the tree fares in the future.

Last month I mentioned netting our tayberry. It now looks like a goth bride with its heavy black veil but at least it's producing some fruit and we are getting to eat it! *Hurrah!*

I look forward to being able to meet up again but in the meantime take care of yourselves and each other.

Tony Cooper—Chairman

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St. Mary's School between 1968 and 1976

[From the Village Magazine archives 1967-1980]

An excellent account of the village school can be found in "A History of St Mary's School Broughton Gifford" written by Julia Rees, and produced by the Friends of St Mary's Primary School in 2011. A look through the Village Magazine archives, however, revealed additional items of interest, and these are included below for your interest and amusement.

A review of the school year, published in September 1967, stated: "*Though nothing wildly exciting or revolutionary has occurred, it has been in many small ways quite an eventful year for St. Mary's School*". A wide range of visits was made, to: Devizes Museum, Mr. Harding's Saw Mill, Rode Bird Gardens, the Roman Baths, the Science Museum and the Royal Tournament. A significant development did occur, though: a piece of land for the provision of a playing field was provided at the back of the school. More than two years later, in January 1970, it was reported that: "*the playing field has at last been levelled and the big hole filled in so that next term we shall be able to have a proper football pitch set out*".

In April 1968 Mrs. Phelps made a wonderful contribution to the magazine. She explained that, in late C19th and early C20th, children who came late to school were made to stand in front of the Master's desk while the others had to sing:

*To be in good time is a necessary rule
And none should be found late coming to Broughton School
Birds awake in time, every morn they sing
None are weary then, when the woods they ring
So when morning comes this must be the rule
Never to be late at Broughton School*

In February 1968 Jack Mortimer recalled '*the day Broughton School went on strike*'. While he didn't give a date, he stated that the Schoolmaster was Moses Thomas [he was the Schoolmaster between 1888 and 1922] but no more can be gleaned about when the rebellion happened.

Apparently, a group of schoolchildren, boys and girls, was outside the Fox and Hounds one 'dinner-time', when the demand for 'no school on a Wednesday afternoon' became their objective and cry. As a group, they wandered down The Street, with Miss Lesley (one of the teachers) behind them - she had been forced to dismount from her bicycle as she couldn't get past the children until they reached the school. The children went past Moses Thomas, who was in the playground exhorting them to come in for afternoon school, then across 'Hundle's fields' to the road that leads to Melksham. On they went to Lowbourn School in Melksham, where, at the time they arrived, the children there were out to play. However, the Broughton Gifford schoolchildren were unable to persuade those from Lowbourn School to join in their rebellion. So, they simply turned heel and marched back home. The next day, they attended school as normal, and there was no punishment apparently.

In May 1970 tribute was made to Ellen 'Nellie' Townsend, then aged 74, who started at Broughton Gifford School at the age of 3 and left at the age of 14. For the past 42 years [so from around 1928] and "*hardly missing a day*", she was a cleaner at the school, which work included scrubbing the floors and polishing the desks. Comment was made that, until the electric heating was installed [and then only recently] she also had the stoves burning for the start of school in the winter.

The school roll varied considerably from year to year. In January 1970 it was reported that the school had 74 children in three classrooms [infant, middle, and top classes]. However, only just over a year and a half later, in August 1971, the infant roll had increased from 28 to 40 during the year, while the middle and top classes were largely unchanged at 24 and 29 respectively. The peak number of pupils was 98! If this number had been maintained, a further classroom and teacher would have been the result. However, the

current roll meant that *"it is still pretty uncomfortable, and inconvenient in the cramped quarters"*. However, this was to change...

In June 1972 a significant enlargement to the school premises was proposed, and a year later the Parish Council gave approval for a mobile classroom to be placed on the site *"opposite the school"* while building work was being carried out. Not everything proceeded smoothly, though. In December 1973 the Parish Council expressed *"great concern"* [resulting in a letter of protest to the Chief Education Officer] over the new extension to the school. Their complaint was that *"the stone being used does not match the existing building in colour or texture, and the outer wall with no windows does not enhance the building"* [I trust these were not the same builders that were involved in the controversial extension to the British Museum in London in 1999 where a *"startling mismatch in colour"* of the stone used became big national news!]. Criticism was not isolated to the Parish Council - in July 1974 the headmaster, Mr. Nield-Siddall, reported to the Village Magazine as follows: *"It is regrettable that the architects and planners should have found it necessary to present the new school's worst aspect to the passing world (its backside, in fact, since that ghastly new wall conceals toilets!) for otherwise a very good job has been done"*.

Finally, in May 1976, it was reported that the old school bell, now restored, had been replaced in its little tower on the school roof. Opinions varied as to when the bell went out of use: some thought WWI, others WWII, and the matter did not seem to be settled! The bell itself was rung at the following times: 8.50-8.55 am, and then 8.59-9.00 am, and: 1.20-1.25 pm, and then 1.29-1.30 pm.




Bertie

P.S. in the January 1970 edition of the Village Magazine, the winners of the Christmas draw were announced. The list of prizes was particularly intriguing, and included:

1lb pork shoulder; 3 bottles of Manns Brown Ale; 1 cwt coal; a meat voucher for 1 guinea; a box of apples; 60 Players cigarettes.

However, for me, the piece de resistance was *"a barrow load donkey dung"*! The lucky winner was D. Mortimer.



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Here and There.

What have I noticed particularly during lockdown? Firstly birdsong has been much more evident, but this may be partly due to the fact that an extended family of blackbirds has taken advantage of the fruit on our cherry tree. It might also be because there has been less competition from planes from Bristol airport.

Secondly, we all appear to have been talking to each other much more, whilst maintaining our social distance. I have had quite long conversations with people, with whom previously I have exchanged no more than a polite "Hello." Thirdly, the traffic on The Street has been less, but has been much faster. I think that a lot of this is due to the number of mail-order delivery vehicles, with drivers on zero hour contracts and challenging targets for the number of deliveries they must make. Whilst I accept that a 30 mph limit is adequate for The Common, is it not time for us to have a 20 mph limit for the length of The Street?

The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has now taken possession of the Mill Farm field, but the only evidence for this, so far, appears to be notices asking us to keep our dogs on a lead, because there may be nesting skylarks. Coincidentally, as soon as these notices were put up, the farmer mowed a broad swathe right around the field, which scarcely can have encouraged any birds to nest. The field has also been planted, so as to obliterate the public footpath, which goes across it to the bridge across the brook near Jasmine Cottage. Our footpaths are a precious inheritance which we must do our utmost to maintain.

At the bottom of the same field, Wessex Water has been excavating deeply and apparently installing new pipeline to the sewage treatment plant. On the other side of the stream, they have been carrying out dredging work and have uprooted a number of trees. Presumably, this is to help alleviate flooding at The Green.

Our revered leader has said that there will be no putting off the date when we finally sever our relationship with the European Union. It is good therefore to see that the sign for the new offices at Church Farm, show that they were created with the help of an EU grant. No-one can say that we have gained nothing from being a member!

Drivers in the village were bemused when they found that for more than forty-eight hours, they were diverted from The Street down Mill Lane if they wanted to get to Holt. Those brave enough to ignore the signs found that there was no obstruction on the road at all. Is it too much to ask that those who carry out road works remove their diversionary signs when they have finished?

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QUIZ

With thanks to Lesley Holdway and the WI we present a quiz to tickle the little grey cells over a cup of coffee (or several). Can you find the names of places in Wiltshire from the cryptic clues, below?

1. Sheep interred
2. Lift the Celtic river
3. Where you baptise the baby on this mound
4. Wide utensil that teachers might use
5. Scarlet group set out to hang him
6. Direction of this large copse
7. Jack's home
8. Could Windsor be in a small valley?
9. Stiff neck from setting the table
10. This place sounds like pieces of mechanical equipment
11. Bad tempered woman weighs a lot
12. Season carried these peers
13. Country of the all blacks
14. Bernard with Henry met Mr Forsyth
15. Sewing an item to keep hair tidy
16. Tool for the teacher at Oxford
17. Seats in church whilst eating pig
18. You'll need this to make the boat move
19. What you get walking on the beach by this country road
20. Henry VIII's weight with M & S's label before 2000
21. Conflict at this church
22. No balls hit in this over with actor Mr Cooper
23. Agitated
24. Greed within the adder
25. Mrs Patmore is here without the abbey
26. US slang for a woman in an urban setting
27. Black's opposite in this small administrative church district
28. Open Grassy area
29. Romeo to Juliet or Lady Hamilton to Nelson
30. Is a bird sitting here?
31. The rose is planted here by the seabird
32. Naughty child is very weighty!!
33. Does edible seaweed make good gravy?
34. Vaughan Williams's bird on a raised area
35. Vixen chasing the pork
36. Kanye feeling cold and depressed
37. Contraction of the hand
38. You might wear this when cold
39. Otters home
40. Not your hot drink!!

Answers on page 21.



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Andrew writes.....

We are putting some imaginative services on YouTube that you might like to check out. You will find them if you search for 'St Katharine's and Gateway' on YouTube. Lots of local places are featured.



In our service for 21st June you will find the packhorse bridge at the edge of Broughton Gifford parish is featured and Heaven's Gate overlooking Longleat House. Each of these views is used to illustrate a thought in the service.

In our recorded service for Pentecost Sunday, it starts with me filming a piece with Bradford bridge in the background. I am now the proud owner of a selfie stick – something I never thought I'd own! The point of filming there was to make the comparison of being locked up in the gaol on the bridge and our current lockdown. Those who were incarcerated in the prison were said to be below the fish (there being a golden gudgeon above the building) and above the water – a confusing place to be! We too are in a confusing place in lockdown which is causing us to reassess many of our priorities.

The start of our service for 17th May was filmed on Ham Green in Holt, when I took the opportunity to reflect on John Wesley's visit to Holt and the opposition he encountered from the then vicar of Holt! John Wesley who did a great deal of good for this country, and who arguably prevented us having something akin to a 'French revolution', was dishonoured by the then incumbent of the village. The service then goes on explore how whether or not we honour people has a very big impact on what we receive from them.

Each of the services includes members of our three village congregations, saying in their own words how they have seen God at work in their experience of lockdown.

We are trying to use photography in each service, focussing on one of the three villages in our Benefice – Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield and Holt and you'll be able to recognise views that you see on your walks.

These services have a good following on YouTube, and each week's service is eagerly anticipated by many people.

Come to church online – you can come incognito! Nobody else need know!!

With Every Blessing

Canon Andrew Evan

Welcome to St Mary's



We are now open for private prayer at the following times (subject to change):

Sunday mornings 10:00am

Wednesday mornings 11:00am

To keep everyone safe please abide by the following guidelines:

If you have a high temperature or any symptoms, we kindly ask that you do not come in to church

Please use the hand sanitiser as you enter the church and again when you leave

Please maintain a physical distance of 2 metres between you and other people

There are no prayer books or bibles available in the church at this time so please bring your own

For details of our online services please email united.benefice@outlook.com

Contact details: Church warden Anthony Matthew 782082, Sarah Chandler 7822451,

Rev Ann Fielden 782509

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Poetry Corner...

Adlestrop

Some of you may recollect the funny little wooden (or mainly wooden) automata that I have exhibited at past village shows. Well after a few years break I am now slowly creating another. This one is set in the mid-century waiting room of some middle-of-nowhere branch line station (called “Fettlebank”). No trains will feature, just some people waiting for one, a porter trundling a trolley of stuff back and forth along the platform outside, a hermit-like ticket clerk opening his hatch for as little time as he can manage, a farmer and his dog, a woman with some chickens and a bell that rings—spooking the chickens and signalling a train that never arrives. Consider it a sort of *Waiting for Godot* in a railway station. Perhaps if someone turns the handle for long enough a train will come.

What I’m aiming for is the waiting room version of the atmosphere so brilliantly conjured up in Edward Thomas’ poem, *Adlestrop*. It’s a masterly exercise in the portrayal of nothing happening.

I never fail to be touched by the thought that this gentle poem relates to a train journey that Thomas made in June 1914—a hot, still, peaceful afternoon less than a month before all would be shattered by war.

Yes. I remember Adlestrop—
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.
No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop—only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No whit less still and lonely fair
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

Tony Cooper

Afterthought— Even then there were delays and nobody told you what was going on but it seemed to be accepted as part of the nature of rail travel. TC

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Village History - Unruly West Wiltshire (Part II)

From last month: *On Tuesday 28 November, '... a great number of weavers assembled and marched on Melksham.' They were heading for Coulthurst's house, from which he and his family had fled. The rioters broke into the Clothier's house destroying windows and household goods, ransacking the cellar, and throwing into the river quantities of wool and clothing utensils.*

During the subsequent trial a witness said that John Crabb was seen going over the bridge in Melksham with colours (a blue skein of wool) on a stick. When he came within a little distance of Coulthurst's house he climbed onto a dung-heap and said '*... about 30 or 40 of you stay on the bridge, the rest follow me.*' And then waving his colours around said '*Come on brave boys: damn it, are ye come hither and left your hearts behind you?*' He then struck the door with a chain attached to a stick but was unable to break in. He turned to the windows, breaking these in, and entering the house with about 20 others.



Once inside, the rioters beat down the lath and plaster walls and ripped out the wainscot [unlike today, these invariably covered half the wall]. A witness said that she had heard Crabb yell that if he caught Coulthurst, he would quarter him, and fry his heart on a gridiron.

In another incident Alice Chandler gave evidence on oath about John Mitchell a labourer living in Melksham. She had seen Mitchell enter the cellar of Henry Coulthurst and repeatedly draw off beer into his hat and then carry this out to the rest of the rioters. Mitchell was charged with felonious rioting.

Later the weavers then went to the King's Arms and demanded, and received, an assurance from all the Melksham Clothiers that they would pay 15d per yard for woven cloth. The rioters also demanded (in court referred to 'extorted') a £1000 bond to ensure adherence to the agreement.

While most of the protesters then returned to their homes, John Crabb and others who had been leading the riot, returned to Coulthurst's manufacturing shop to '*... carry off some finished cloth that they had seen earlier in the day.*' Some of Coulthurst's neighbours heard them and intervened. While most got away, Crabb, now the worse for drink, was captured, taken before the magistrates at Chippenham, and committed to Fisherton Gaol, in Salisbury.

The next day, incensed by the imprisonment of John Crabb, a mob of 1500 marched again on Melksham, demanding the release of Crabb or they would destroy the rest of Coulthurst's houses and '*... do further mischief in Melksham.*' The worried Clothiers wrote to the magistrates begging them to release Crabb. When this did not work, the Clothiers offered the rioters whatever drink and food they wished for – hoping that full bellies and fuddled heads would stem the violence.

Rob Cumming

Did it work, and what was the outcome? More next month.

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Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is creating a new care farm on land at Mill Farm in Broughton Gifford



A new Wiltshire Wildlife Trust care farm is to be established on 70-acres of land at Broughton Gifford near Melksham.

The farm will be modelled on the Trust's hugely successful Lakeside Care Farm at Oaksey in north Wiltshire.

Mill Farm in Broughton Gifford has been generously donated to the Trust by previous owners Linda Siddall and Henry Litton.

Mr Litton, 86, is a retired Hong Kong judge, and his wife Linda Siddall is a former founder and director of Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Ltd, of which Mr Litton was a patron.

The couple were inspired by the growing need to provide services for students with additional needs, social and communication difficulties, as well as those in need of emotional support.

The new care farm, to be called The Willows, will also provide local children at Broughton Gifford Primary School with weekly forest school activities.

Damian Haasjes, head of education at the Trust, said: "This fantastic facility is only possible through the generosity of Linda and Henry and of the many people donating and funding the conversion.

"We are excited to be launching a new Care Farm and are aware of the significant impact this will have

on young lives for years to come.

"We have been impacted by COVID-19 and still have some £60,000 left to find but we are hopeful to be able to accept our first students in the autumn term."

Mr Haasjes said The Willows care farm site and an existing stable block are ready for conversion but before the students arrive there is much to do and with planning permission already granted the Trust hopes to get work started shortly.

Mill Farm in Broughton Gifford has been generously donated to the Trust by previous owners Linda Siddall and Henry Litton.

Mr Litton, 86, is a retired Hong Kong judge, and his wife Linda Siddall is a former founder and director of Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Ltd, of which Mr Litton was a patron.

The couple were inspired by the growing need to provide services for students with additional needs, social and communication difficulties, as well as those in need of emotional support.

The new care farm, to be called The Willows, will also provide local children at Broughton Gifford

Primary School with weekly forest school activities.

Damian Haasjes, head of education at the Trust, said: “This fantastic facility is only possible through the generosity of Linda and Henry and of the many people donating and funding the conversion.

“We are excited to be launching a new Care Farm and are aware of the significant impact this will have on young lives for years to come.

“We have been impacted by COVID-19 and still have some £60,000 left to find but we are hopeful to be able to accept our first students in the autumn term.”

Mr Haasjes said The Willows care farm site and an existing stable block are ready for conversion but before the students arrive there is much to do and with planning permission already granted the Trust hopes to get work started shortly.

He added: “With the closure of two special schools in Wiltshire and a centralisation of provision, local support has become a priority for parents and special needs children who struggle to manage the long journey to school.

“Waiting lists have already increased across all of the Trust’s special needs provision, so once established,

The Willows Care Farm will become a vital support for students in west Wiltshire.”

The existing stable block is due to be converted to create a warm and usable set of classrooms, kitchen and changing area. Additionally, the site will feature a ‘growing area’ with poly-tunnels, raised beds, an orchard and pond, animal pens and wooden shelters.

Students will be involved in developing the new site and building some of the infrastructure needed, giving a genuine sense of ownership and teaching them new skills.

The Trust has secured nearly £100,000 towards the conversion costs but with major fundraising events cancelled in the wake of COVID 19, is still seeking funding to complete the project.

To donate, go to www.wiltshirewildlife.org/Appeal/willows-care-farm or email Dugald McNaughtan on dugaldm@wiltshirewildlife.org.

To find out more about the Care Farm, call Damian Haasjes on 01380 736096 or email damianh@wiltshirewildlife.org.

This article has been reproduced here courtesy of Wiltshire Times

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Broughton Gifford Parish Council

There are no minutes from BGPC this month as the June meeting was cancelled due to inactivity.

July's meeting will go ahead as scheduled via MS Teams. If you would like to attend virtually please get in touch with the clerk or one of the councillors for details.

Broughton Gifford Village Hall

Registered Charity 305477

200 CLUB

Due to the pandemic the village hall committee have not been meeting, we apologise for the delay in the 200 club. We have made a special draw and the winners are as follows:

April (£10 prizes)

No. 46 Dizzy Way
No. 64 Claire Johnson
No. 61 Tom Gerrish
No. 97 Sandra Fairclough

May (£10 prize)

No.51 Solomon Mortimer
No.11 Leslie Marshman
No.47 Karen Whalley
No.16 Chris Lowe

June (£10 prize)

No.108 Margaret Lomas
No. 172 Metta Lowe
No.73 Jo Anstey
No.45 Paul Lewis

Summer draw

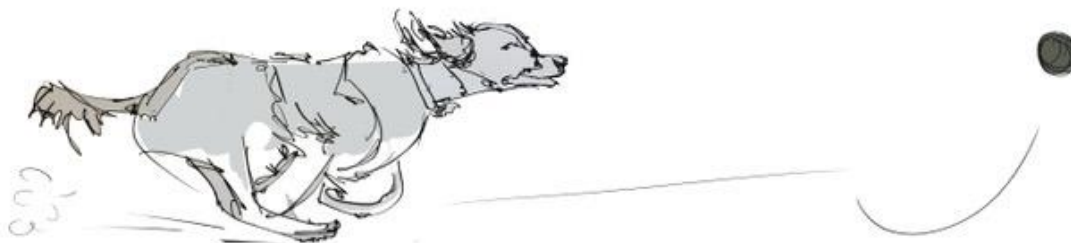
£40 No.172 Malcolm Paines
£80 No.93 Andrea Dell
£150 No.102 John Lomas

If winners would prefer rather than please email bgvhfinance@gmail.com

prefer bank trans-cash or a cheque

If we do not receive an email within two weeks cash/cheque will be issued.

For all 200 Club enquiries please contact Simon Childe on 07855 531150



Dear Dog Walkers,

As you will probably know the PC has arranged for dog poo bags to be available from a number of dispensers throughout the village. If you see that a dispenser needs replenishing would you please drop a text message indicating which dispenser to 07812 466064.

Help a Hog—Build your own Hedgehog House

We've all heard that hedgehogs are in trouble so I thought, apart from food and water, what better way to welcome them into our gardens but to provide first class accommodation?

Here's a home-made house that features an entrance hallway on the right and a bedroom on the left. The central partition provides some protection from the elements and predators.

The roof (shown below, right) is a simple inverted rectangular "tray" that slots on top of the main structure. It slopes slightly from left to right for drainage and a slot under the eaves of the bedroom provides ventilation that cannot accidentally be blocked.

The materials were just what was to hand; some pallet timber, tongued and grooved cladding planks, a few feet of "one-by-one" and an offcut of roofing felt.

None of the dimensions or materials are particularly critical. However, the things to bear in mind are:

- Choose timber that has not been treated with preservative or paint
- Make the doorway about 5" (13cm) wide and tall (i.e. hedgehog sized)
- Make the roof difficult for badgers to remove but that you can remove it for cleaning





Here are the basic bits laid out.

And where to erect your edifice? Place it in a quiet part of your garden where there is cover and it will not flood. Orientate it with the door facing south or west.

Some people suggest putting some bedding of dry leaves in to give the prospective resident the idea that it's worth a go. Others say that furnishing the nesting material is an important part of the making the home their own and should be left to the individual hog.

Good luck with the project and let's hope some itinerant hog will be very happy in residence.



Answers to the quiz on page 11

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|--------------------|
| 40. | Minety | 20. | Kington St Michel |
| 39. | Holt | 19. | Sandy Lane |
| 38. | Coate | 18. | Oare |
| 37. | Clench | 17. | Pewsham |
| 36. | West Winterslow | 16. | Chiseldon |
| 35. | Foxham | 15. | Stitchcombe |
| 34. | Larkhill | 14. | Manningford Bruce |
| 33. | Laverstock | 13. | New Zealand |
| 32. | Bratton | 12. | Winterbourne Earls |
| 31. | Potterne | 11. | Shrewton |
| 30. | Neston | 10. | Devizes |
| 29. | Lover | 9. | Cricklade |
| 28. | Lea | 8. | Castle Combe |
| 27. | Whiteparish | 7. | Box |
| 26. | Broad Town | 6. | Westwood |
| 25. | Downton | 5. | Redlynch |
| 24. | Savernake | 4. | Broad Chalke |
| 23. | Antsy | 3. | Fonthill |
| 22. | Malden Bradley | 2. | Upavon |
| 21. | Warmminster | 1. | Ramsbury |

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Broughton Gifford Parish Council | Clerk - Georgina Berry Chairman - Martin Hooper | 782423 |
| St Mary's Church | Rector - Rev Andrew Evans Rev Ann Fielden | 782289 782509 |
| Broughton Gifford Gardening Society | Chairman - Tony Cooper | 782711 |
| Village Hall | Bookings - Vince & Sylvia Davis | 783332 |
| Women's Institute | President - Lesley Holdway Secretary - Sheila Cleverley | 782092 704849 |
| St Mary's Primary School | Head Teacher—Pauline Orchard | 782223 |
| Broughton Gifford Pre-School | Play Leader—Bev Grylls | 782638 |
| Broughton Gifford Baby and Toddler Group Village Hall (Thurs 9.30-11.30) | Rebecca Findley Charlotte Godsiffe | 07702 214005 07927 016916 |
| 1st Broughton Gifford & Holt Scout Group | Group Scout Leader - Anne Cranham | 704638 |
| Broughton Gifford Bowls Club | Secretary - Suzanne Holmes | 519303 |
| Broughton Gifford Cricket Club | Tom Gerrish | 07450 994355 |
| Piecemakers | Vicki Dory | 07734 320548 |
| The Friendship Club | Chris Pitura | 782179 |
| BG Village Magazine | Bert Adams (Ed. for Sept.) Distribution / Delivery - Sian Hamilton | bgvillagemagazine@gmail.com 783561 |

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Wiltshire Police - Non Emergency Number | 101 |
| Environment Agency (Free) - Incident Hotline (24 hours) | 0800 807 060 |
| Environment Agency (Local) - Floodline (24 hours) | 0845 9881188 |
| Wessex Water (Free) - Leakstoppers (24 hours) | 0800 692 0692 |
| Wiltshire Council - Switchboard & General Enquiries | 0300 456 0100 |
| Wiltshire Council regarding problems with Recycling and waste collections | 0300 456 0102 |
| roads / drains / streetlights / highway / flooding | 0300 456 0105 |

VILLAGE CALENDAR

JULY

TBC

Parish Council Meeting (location TBC)

AUGUST

TBC

Parish Council Meeting (location TBC)

SEPTEMBER

TBC

Parish Council Meeting (location TBC)

In light of the current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, please check with organisations when events are planned to resume. Thank you!

As usual there will be no August edition of the magazine. The deadline for the September issue is therefore 19th of August. Articles and one-line entries for the calendar should be emailed to: bgvillagemagazine@gmail.com



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