

**CRADLEY**

**MATHON**

**STORRIDGE**

# NEWSLETTER



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**December 2024**

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### NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE DATES

Advertisements/notices: 12<sup>th</sup> of the month  
(Except December: 9<sup>th</sup> of the month)

Articles: 16<sup>th</sup> of the month  
(Except December: 12<sup>th</sup> of the month)



# Cradley Mathon Storridge



## Newsletter



£10.00 for 12 issues (or £1.25 per single copy)

DECEMBER 2024

### WHAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS?

**As the year draws to an end, millions of people around the world look forward to sparkling decorations, colourful lights, delicious food, jolly music and exciting gifts. Yup... because Christmas is coming!**

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas? I must admit that I'm fed up already with the Christmas TV ads already telling us how we should be celebrating Christmas – expensive presents, food to feed an 'army' etc etc.

But what is the true meaning of Christmas? I found the following definition of the "the true meaning of Christmas," in *The American* magazine, volume 28 from 1889:

**"To give up one's very self - to think only of others - how to bring the greatest happiness to others - that is the true meaning of Christmas."**

The poem *A Visit From St. Nicholas* (1822) helped popularize the tradition of exchanging gifts, and seasonal Christmas shopping began to assume economic importance. Sure, the giving of gifts gives us joy, but this should only be a small part of the meaning we find in Christmas.

The true meaning of Christmas is love.

The real Christmas story is the story of God sending his only Son – Jesus Christ. Why did God do this? Because He loves us! Why was Christmas necessary? Because we needed a Saviour! Why does God love us so much? Because He is love itself (1 John 4:8). Why do we celebrate Christmas each year? Out of gratitude for what God did for us, we remember His birth by giving each other gifts, worshipping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate.

God provided a way - the only Way - for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that gift of love.

With this in mind, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Sure, enjoy the season but remember to rejoice as well! After all, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of God's ultimate gift: the birth of Jesus, the Christ child.

JANE MACFARLANE  
Local Lay Minister



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**Edition Editor:** Antonia Musgrove, telephone 07785 294232

**Rector:** The Revd Robert Ward, telephone 01886 880438

**Treasurer:** Emily Hodkin, telephone 07811 905492

**Advertising:** Jan Dampney, telephone 01886 880316





## Church Services in December 2024

Please check our pew sheets and parish websites to confirm details of live-streamed services nearer the time of each, in case details change.



<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>1 December 2024</b> <b>Advent 1</b>	9:30 a.m. Parish Communion (BCP) 9:30 a.m. Live-streamed Service (Lay led) 10:45 a.m. Church 4 All 6:00 p.m. Evensong with Advent Carols	Mathon Benefice Cradley Storrige
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>4 December 2024</b>	10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer - Live-streamed from The Rectory	Cradley Benefice
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>8 December 2024</b> <b>Advent 2</b>	9:30 a.m. Mattins 10:45 a.m. Family Communion and Blessing of the Cribs - Live-streamed. 6:00 p.m. Evensong	Storrige Cradley Mathon
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>11 December 2024</b>	10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer - Live-streamed from The Rectory	Cradley Benefice
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>15 December 2024</b> <b>Advent 3</b>	9:30 a.m. Mattins (Lay led) 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. Morning Service (Lay led) 11:00 a.m. Morning Service Live-streamed	Mathon Storrige Cradley Benefice
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>17 December 2024</b>	6:00 p.m. Storrige Carol Service	Storrige
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>18 December 2024</b>	10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer Live-streamed (Lay led) 6:30 p.m. Cradley/Bosbury Carol Service	Cradley Benefice Cradley
<b>Thursday</b> <b>19 December 2024</b>	6:30 p.m. Cradley School Carol Service	Cradley
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>22 December 2024</b> <b>Advent 4</b>	9:30 a.m. Mattins (Lay led) 9:30 a.m. Mattins Live-streamed (Lay led) 10:45 a.m. Benefice Communion with Bishop Richard 6:00 p.m. Mathon Carols by Candlelight	Storrige Benefice Cradley Mathon
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>24 December 2024</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	4:00 p.m. Christingle Service 11:30 p.m. Midnight Mass (also Live-streamed)	Cradley Cradley
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>25 December 2024</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	9:30 a.m. Mattins for Christmas Morning Live-streamed (Lay led) 9:30 a.m. * (Services of Carols and Readings, 9:30 a.m. * (followed by an opportunity to receive Communion 11:00 a.m. * (for those who wish to stay.	Benefice Storrige Mathon Cradley
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>29 December 2024</b> <b>Christmas 2</b> <b>St John the Evangelist</b>	9:30 a.m. Mattins Live-streamed (Lay led) 10:00 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion for the people of all three parishes	Benefice Storrige

## Church Services in January 2025

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>5 January 2025</b> <b>Epiphany Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m. Service Live-streamed (Lay-led) 9:30 a.m. Parish Communion (BCP) 9:30 a.m. Morning Service (Lay led) 10:45 a.m. Church 4 All	Benefice Mathon Storrige Cradley
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## From The Registers

<b>Funerals</b>		
28 October	Maurice Rankin Ginger	The Vale Crematorium, Pershore
4 November	Clive Daw	Mathon
6 November	Ian Hyson	Worcester Crematorium



## CRADLEY CHAPEL

(Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion)



Services each Sunday at  
10.30 a.m.

~~~~~  
Communion Service  
on the first Sunday of each month

~~~~~  
*A very warm welcome awaits you.*



## MATHON CHURCH MATTERS

Our Remembrance Day Service held on Sunday, 10 November focussed on past wars. Prayers were also offered for current conflicts.

The service of Christmas Carols by Candlelight is to be held on Sunday, 22 December at 6.00 p.m. followed by mulled wine and mince pies. We hope to see as many of you as possible at this very enjoyable service.

Our Christmas Day Family Service will be held at 9.30 a.m. There will be Carols and Readings, followed by communion for those who wish to stay.

SP

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## STORRIDGE CHURCH FLOWERS

December

Advent Ring



**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Cradley PCC is in the process of making an application for an Eco Church award. There are three levels; bronze, silver and gold. We're aiming for, and hoping to get, silver!

Eco Church is an inter-denominational organisation, and a branch of A Rocha, which is an international network of mainly Christian conservation organisations.

We at St James believe that we should do more to preserve and enhance our natural environment, treating it with wisdom and moderation. Many people in poorer parts of the world are adversely affected by climate change, mostly caused by industrialised Western nations: this has become a moral issue, and we need to do everything we can to help.

As part of this ongoing application, we intend to publish a series of short articles over the coming months which we hope will be of interest to the community, and perhaps encourage people to make changes in their lives, where they can. We will also publish articles, on the church website, and display information in the church, where there are information leaflets – please do take one.

JOHN PARSONS

# Merry Christmas

# TRUMPET PLOUGHING MATCH REPORT



WEST MERCIA  
POLICE



## OP. DARK NIGHT

### All road users urged to share the road responsibly

Reducing the harm caused on our roads is a key commitment for West Mercia Police, as set out in the Police and Crime Commissioner's police and crime plan. In line with this and to support the year round operational activity already undertaken, we have been supporting 'Operation Dark Night' (28 October to 10 November), a national police led operation focusing on keeping cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders safe during the darker months.



The Trumpet and District Agricultural Society's Annual Ploughing Match on Thursday 3 October 2024 was a truly memorable day. Held at Sintons End Farm, Acton Beauchamp, by kind permission of A.S.Green & Co, the site was accessed by a hard track ensuring that we could go ahead as planned when other matches had to be cancelled due to the wet weather. The 72 tractors and 4 horse teams ploughing made a spectacle set against the backdrop of the view to May Hill on a glorious autumn day - a rarity for this year!

The Domestic Section which included classes for Floral Art and Cut Flowers, Eggs, Vegetables, Cakes and Pastries, Jams and Chutneys, Wines and Cordials, Handicraft, Photography and Art attracted over 600 entries. Commercial classes were on offer for Hops, Apples, Wheat, Barley, Oats, Beans, Oil Seed Rape and new for this year - a tray of eggs.

Due to the mid-week date the Match was attended by groups of school children, with three schools entering work in the Domestic Section. A major attraction for both competitors and public alike was the catering provided by Elaine's Farmhouse Kitchen. Elaine cooked a roast lunch which included pork, turkey and beef cooked to perfection - not to mention pudding - how does she do that in the middle of a field in Herefordshire?

The Sunday prior to the Match saw the Trumpet Annual Plough Service being held at St.Giles Church, Acton Beauchamp followed by a meal at The Wheatsheaf, Fromes Hill. The service was conducted by Chris Evans from Whitbourne and included the blessing of the plough. Well done to Trumpet members for getting the plough across the bridge and up the hill to the Church!



*Pictured at the Trumpet and District Agricultural Society Plough Service held at St.Giles Church, Acton Beauchamp:*

*Mike Phillips (Vice Chairman), Sue McGuffie (Chairman of the Ladies Committee), Celebrant Chris Evans, June Green (Society Secretary), David Watts (Chairman)*

*The Trumpet are holding their Christmas Tractor Run on Saturday 14 December 2024 which will again start from Baddymarsh Farm, Lower Eggleton passing through Bishops Frome and surrounding villages. Last year the Christmas Tractor Run raised £1,000 for St.Michael's Hospice and £1,000 for Midlands Air Ambulance, let's see if we can do it again this year!*

CHARLOTTE GIBB

Everyone has the right to use the roads safely whether choosing to do this via cycle, horse or foot. Over the winter months motorists are being urged to look carefully for other road users, unfortunately collisions have occurred where vehicles have failed to see the presence of another road user when undertaking manoeuvres, overtaking or at junctions. Cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders are also being encouraged to think about how visible they are. As part of the operation we will also be highlighting motorists' legal obligation to ensure their vision is roadworthy every time they get behind the wheel. Apart from the risk of causing a collision, being caught driving with uncorrected defective eyesight is punishable with a fine of up to £1,000, three penalty points and possible disqualification.



## Newsletter Advertising

The *Newsletter* Advertising process is multi-faceted, and we are looking for someone to help.

If you have some knowledge of desktop publishing, then advert design may appeal to you.

Another aspect involves getting in touch with existing advertisers about their renewals and sending out invoices.

Or, if you are good with people and creative, then you might enjoy getting in touch with local businesses and finding ways of bringing them on board as new potential advertisers.

If any of these roles appeals to you, then please get in touch with us at: [editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk)

Thank you.

THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

**CRIB BLESSING, SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER  
at 10.45 a.m.**

You are invited to bring along your cribs, no matter how small or large, to be blessed during the Family Communion Service on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, which this year falls on 8th December.

As many of you will know, we decorate the church over Christmas, in alternate years, either with Christmas trees dressed by community groups from across Cradley, or with cribs brought in by Cradley parishioners. This year it is the turn of the crib and we would be delighted if you would like to leave your crib on display after the service for others to admire. Please be aware, the church is left unlocked during the day and so we would not recommend leaving an expensive family heirloom on display!

If you are unable to attend the service in person but would like your crib blessed and/or are happy for it to be displayed over Christmas, please contact Sue Warner on 01886 880 375 who will be pleased to collect and return your crib on request.







Cradley Wild

## 110 PLANTERS FOR POLLINATORS

Imagine if Cradley was a pollinators' paradise, with gardens brimming with flowers and humming with bees and other insects. This was the starting point of our meeting with Sue and Pam from Cradley WI who wanted to discuss a wildlife-friendly project to celebrate the organisation's 110th anniversary.

Our conversation led to an exciting plan being hatched: to work with community groups and residents to fill the village's gardens and public places with pollinator-friendly planters – 110 in fact. The planters could be any size from a flower pot to a skip, and either made from scratch, from recycled material or simply reusing old containers that are lying around. They would be filled with both wildflowers and garden flowers - any that are pollinator-friendly. Cradley Wild will provide a list of plants and general advice.

If there is enough interest, our aim is to bulk buy compost, wood and seed, and run workshops on seed sowing and planter making to get things going. Each container would be numbered so we can keep a record of how the campaign is going and record its progress. We hope to get local children involved with this. These are early ideas,

Or maybe you have surplus seed trays or seeds? Would your front garden or window box benefit from a planter? We would love to hear from you.

To get involved, email:

[plantersforpollinators@gmail.com](mailto:plantersforpollinators@gmail.com).

### Preparing the garden for a wildlife-friendly winter

The winter months are a chance for gardeners to have a well-deserved rest and to retreat indoors as darkness falls. Before you put down your secateurs though, there are a couple of easy wins that will help wildlife through the colder months.

### Chop and drop

If you haven't yet cut down annuals, perennials and grasses, rather than cart them off to the compost heap, chop them up and leave them on the soil around the plant. This makes a nutrient-rich mulch which will give the plant a boost in spring, keeps weeds at bay and creates a beneficial habitat for micro-organisms, insects, earthworms and beetles.

### Leave things standing

Rather than cut everything back, leave a few plants standing. Grasses especially will hold their shape and look attractive until February. They also provide somewhere for spiders to weave their webs and other insects to shelter. Plants with seeds, such as teasels and sunflowers, are also a welcome pantry for birds.

### Make a log pile

If you have pruned a woody shrub or tree recently, rather than dispose of the wood or have it all chipped, save a few logs and heap them up in a corner of the garden. This will support a multitude of different insects, provide a safe harbour for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and encourage fungi, woodlice, beetle grubs and wood wasps. These in turn provide food for spiders, frogs, toads, hedgehogs and birds.

### Craft Making

Cradley Village Hall was a hive of activity on 14 November as members of Cradley Wild gathered to make craft items to sell at the Christmas Fair. In keeping with the aims of the group, Christmas stars and plant supports were made entirely from natural, biodegradable materials (hazel in this case, foraged from local hedgerows), and spectacular snowflakes were cut and fashioned from paper. It was a jolly, sociable affair with Christmas music and gingerbread supplied to keep morale buoyant. By the end of the evening, many attractive, seasonal items had been created. Look out for them (and buy several!) on the Cradley Wild stand at the Christmas Fair on 7 December.



Making: Stars,



Snowflakes,



and Plant Supports

CLARE GOGERTY

W: [claregogerty.co.uk](http://claregogerty.co.uk)

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# CRADLEY CHURCH CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday, 18 December 6.30 pm



Here is a chance to begin the 7-day run-up to Christmas itself in Cradley with the much-anticipated Annual Carol Service. Please come and join in with familiar carols and listen to the choir singing tunes you know and some you probably won't know, but we can guarantee beautiful and joyful songs for the season.

Readings will tell the Christmas story, and look out for one or two instrumental solo contributions from cello and violin, played by Cradley residents! In addition to this, our magnificent Nicholson organ, our glorious peal of tower bells, and our wonderful group of handbell ringers will all feature prominently.

The church choir has been expanded specially for this occasion with friends from the surrounding area – we have already been preparing hard, and we look forward to joining with you in glorious Christmas music. Please help us literally to fill the church, both with people and music!

Look forward to seeing you there.

After the service, all are welcome to refreshments  
at the back of the church.

Please contact either of us for more information.



WYNNE HARRIES

01886 880 976 - [wynneharries@gmail.com](mailto:wynneharries@gmail.com)

JULIA MACLAGAN

01886 880 402 - [julia.maclagan@btinternet.com](mailto:julia.maclagan@btinternet.com)

## CRADLEY SINGERS

We really enjoyed being part of the community event 'Off Broadway' at Cradley church last month, and were so impressed by how well the children of Cradley School Choir remembered the words to all their songs!

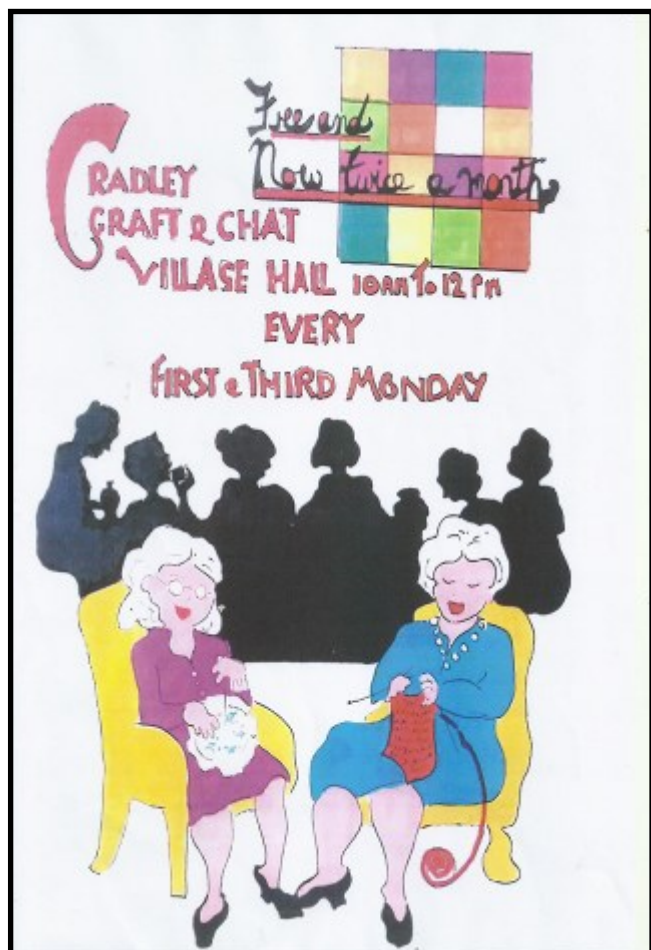
Rehearsals are well under way for our 'Music for Advent' on Saturday, 7 December at 3pm, at Bosbury Church (Holy Trinity).

Our performance features a varied selection of music, to include Bob Chilcott's "On Christmas Night" and many other enjoyable pieces from JS Bach to John Rutter. Our conductor is Kate Cheetham, and we'll be accompanied by Tim Sidford on violin and piano, and Roger Allen at the organ.

It's going to be a busy day for many of us, as our performance is on the same day as Cradley Village Christmas Fair. Fortunately, there is time after the Fair (and a bit of lunch!) to pop along to Bosbury for an easy-going afternoon with us from 3pm. Tickets are £12 on the door, or you can email [cradleysingers@gmail.com](mailto:cradleysingers@gmail.com) if you'd like to purchase tickets beforehand or as a gift. We are very much looking forward to singing and it'd be great to see you there.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas!

VICKY GATLEY  
Cradley Singers.



## HALL OF FAME INDUCTION FOR LOCAL CYCLIST

Local cyclist, Tracy Moseley has recently been inducted into British Cycling's "Hall of Fame".

It took place at a Gala Dinner in Manchester where she was honoured along with other cyclists including Olympians, Dame Laura Kenny, Sir Jason Kenny and Sir Bradley Wiggins.



Tracy said she was blown away but at the same time very proud to represent the mountain bike community.

Her career started almost thirty years ago, when she won her first national title. She then won countless titles in the disciplines of Downhill and Enduro. She went on to represent Great Britain in Cross Country, Team Relay, World Championships, Eliminator and recently in e-bike racing. She has been heavily involved in teaching skills, coaching and mentoring many young athletes besides running local cycling events and sitting on boards for Cycling Coaching Development Plans.



Tracy hopes to continue being involved with cycling and to encourage more people to find the passion and joy that she gets from life inspired by two wheels.

V ALLFREY

### PLANNING AN EVENT?

To avoid clashes of dates and venues, please remember to check the diary at the back of this *Newsletter*



## EVERGREENS

I can't believe it; the sun is shining!! So, we're making the most of it – going for a walk on the hills and lunch out, hooray! At last, we've got rid of those depressing, grey heavy skies so we're celebrating. Long may it last, but I think that's being a bit optimistic isn't it!

Anyway, down to business. On Monday, 28 October, we welcomed Jean Claude Foukes, a Frenchman who has lived in this country for the past 60 years and is one of our local residents. It was a real pleasure to meet such an interesting gentleman.

Jean Claude explained that he had a mixture of French, Italian and German in his make up and that, since he was a child, he had had an interest in fungi and spent a lot of time collecting and identifying fungi in northern Italy.

He explained that there are 100,000 species of fungi, which includes the good, the bad and the ugly. They have no chlorophyll, no stems and no leaves; they are parasitic and need organic substances to live on, with a tangled mass of underground mycelium, a foot and a body holding the spores. They are divided into two groups, the superior and the micro fungi, some edible and many poisonous.

Jean Claude, with his expertise, regularly picks edible varieties for consumption at home. He often goes to the Forest of Dean and the New Forest pursuing his passion.

We were shown many pictures of varieties of fungi, but it is not advisable to pick them unless you know what you are doing.

This was an extremely interesting talk; thank you, Jean Claude. A lovely tea was served by Jo and Lindsay, as usual, delicious sandwiches and cakes. Unfortunately, there were only 13 members present to enjoy them - disappointing attendance.

On Monday, 11 November there were more members present for our Christmas card and decoration making, and Louise Beard came to join us for the afternoon – a real ray of sunshine and a bundle of fun! There were 18 of us altogether, enjoying making Christmas cards, labels and Christmas tree adornments, with a real miscellany of materials provided. The men didn't seem that inspired to make things but quite enjoyed the conversation and laughter and enjoyed observing!

Glenys and Jacky provided a lovely tea with a selection of sandwiches and cakes. There was a really good selection of items on the raffle trolley, which Louise successfully navigated around the tables.

Arrangements were made and names taken for our visit to The Royal Oak at Broadwas, for our Christmas lunch on Monday, 25 November. This will be followed in two weeks' time by our Christmas Tea Party in the hall on Monday, 9 December.

Our love and very best wishes go to Janet, recovering from a recent operation, and John, who is still progressing well with his physio.

Can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very healthy, peaceful and happy Christmas time.

A little thought to finish on –

“Kindness costs nothing.

Choose happiness every day.

Believe in yourself.

Smile – it's contagious!”



Speak soon, take care, lots of love.

CHRIS ORFORD  
(CLUB LEADER)  
01886 880387



### DECEMBER COPY DEADLINE DATES

#### FOR INCLUSION IN THE JANUARY ISSUE

**Paid Advertisements:** Payment and advert to be received by 9th December

**Notices:** by 9th December

**Local Events:** by 9th December

**Articles:** by 12th December

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Call Kev 07725161178




**STORRIDGE, CRADLEY & MATHON**  
**TEENY TOTS PLAY GROUP**

☺ We are open to parents/carers with children aged 0-5 from all surrounding areas

☞ Come along for play, crafts and nature walks on Thursdays during term time  
10.30am - 12 noon

Only £2 per family, which includes a drink and a snack

Cradley Scout Hut, The Old Rectory Rooms,  
Churchfields Lane, Cradley, Herefordshire,  
WR13 5LL

Please see our Facebook group for regular updates and news or contact Rachel on 07790890183

Please note; Parents/carers are responsible for their own children at all times



**MATHON GET TOGETHER**

**Who is it for?** Anyone living in Mathon and the surrounding area.

**When is it?** Every Friday 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**Where is it held?** Mathon Parish Hall

This is open to everyone who fancies dropping in and enjoying a cup of tea or coffee with some biscuits and meeting friends old and new. It has been the venue for many a reunion.

**FREE**

**Just turn up and enjoy**



**3 VILLAGES VISITING GROUP**  
**OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO FEELS LONELY?**



The Visiting Group is made up of a small number of volunteers who offer visits to anyone who may appreciate some company, whether it be for a catch up and a chat or maybe to share reading a book or just sit, whilst a partner goes out

Or perhaps you would enjoy the opportunity to share time together, by playing scrabble, chess, cards, including a hand of cribbage or doing crossword puzzles or any other games

If you, or anyone you know, might appreciate a visit, please let us know



**Contact:**

**Sue Ronan** on 01886 884646

Email: sue@ronan.me.uk

**Jill Nicklin** on 01886 880920



## CRADLEY SURGERY NEWSLETTER

**Dr Peter Clegg**

**Dr Chris Spruce**

[www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk)



### Ordering Medications in time for Christmas

We would like to remind our patients that we are open as usual to dispense medication between Christmas and the New Year and are only closed for 25th and 26th December 2024 and 1st January 2025. However, it is, inevitably, a very busy time for us and we would like to advise you to order your medication in good time. There is no need to order excess medication ahead and it creates a heavy workload for us in December.

Due to the extra time required to source medication shortages, except for urgent illness, all medication requests now take THREE working days. It is good practice, and helps us, if you use the monthly ordering system in advance. Please ask at dispensary if you need information about this.

### Delivery Service

Our delivery driver will be making his last medication delivery before Christmas on the 19th of December and will re-start delivering on the 2nd January 2025. These are scheduled, but due to unforeseen circumstances may change!

The dispensary team advise it is good practice for all patients to have 5 days medication in hand to allow for any unforeseen circumstances.

### Online Consultations

A polite reminder to our patients who use our online consultation tool. These are actioned within 3 working days. Please do not use an online consult for anything urgent.

If you have a request for medications that are required WITHIN 7 days, online consultations are not an appropriate communication tool.

Please allow 7 days for medication requests to be actioned via this method.

The GP will read or respond to an online consult within 3 working days but it may take our dispensary an additional few days to be able to dispense it.

### New Year Resolutions

Christmas and the New Year are fast approaching and many of us will be thinking about turning over a new leaf in the coming year with losing weight or stop smoking being issues many of us will be determined to tackle. Even if you have tried before – try again!

We are here to help you. If you wish to stop smoking please make an appointment to see one of the doctors. To help us help you, come with information about why you have failed in the past and how you wish to overcome this and also decide on a date you wish to stop.

### Contact Information

Please supply us with up to date contact details, particularly E-mail addresses and mobile phone numbers.

We are increasingly using these to send out reminders and information about the surgery.

Writing letters is expensive and time consuming for us and not good for the planet!

### Enhanced Access (EA) Appointments

A reminder to patients that for one Saturday in every month we offer routine doctors' appointments at Cradley Surgery!

Please visit our website and Facebook page monthly for information on dates for our Saturday appointments and when to book.

Also on Monday evenings, we have some later appointments available. These are routine appointments, released 2 weeks in advance, which are held here at the Surgery with either Dr Spruce or Dr Clegg. These appointments are from 18:30 pm - 19:45pm and are available only on Mondays.

To book, simply ask a member of our reception team for an EA or evening appointment. (These are not available for urgent, on the day issues.)



**We would like to wish all our patients a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024!**

FROM THE CRADLEY SURGERY TEAM.





The November meeting of **Cradley WI** took place a day early owing to the Village Hall being used for our local by-election.

A change of day can be inconvenient for some members but there was a good turnout for an interesting talk, 'Carnival Around the World' presented by one of our members, Jill Salmons. Jill's passion for costumes started when she was a child, and she has travelled widely photographing carnivals and collecting costumes.

Jill treated us to a fascinating illustrated insight into the history of carnival which goes back a long way, with evidence of carnivals being held in Roman times. They are held in all parts of the world, often linked with religious festivals, sometimes being banned only to start up again many years later. She explained how costumes can take months to make and can cost thousands of pounds and her photographs showed examples that were both spectacular and frightening! We saw how the culture of the country is reflected in the costumes with differences between Switzerland and the Caribbean and between Bulgaria and South America. The common feature of all carnivals, however, is that everyone has fun!

Jill had brought some beautiful costumes and many varied masks for us to try on. The Hall may not have been big enough for a full parade, but we all experienced some of the fun. Maybe Cradley village needs a Carnival of its own?

Members have been enjoying the varied events during October - the Book Club reviewed No ordinary Day by Matt Johnson and John Murray - The truth about the death of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. The Lunch and Supper clubs continue to be popular as do the Coffee mornings and Nimble Fingers. Six members attended the Herefordshire Federation Annual Council meeting which provides a varied, interesting and informative programme with a chance to meet up with friends and new acquaintances from other WIs across the county.

We have a lot of forthcoming activities taking place during November and December, particularly our stall at the village Christmas Fair on 7 December. We will be selling our ever-popular cakes and bakes, preserves and chutneys, mincemeat and many Christmassy items, fun decorations and stocking fillers. We will have our raffle to win a Christmas Hamper and a new 'Guess the Weight of the Cake' competition too. Please come and visit us - look out for our banner near the gate as you come in.

Cradley WI is planning a project for 2025 to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the National Federation of Women's Institutes (not the Cradley branch, we're a mere 86 years old!). We look forward to working with Cradley Wild to create 'Planters for Pollinators' around the village - everyone will be welcome to join us in this venture. Have a look at Cradley Wild's article elsewhere in *The Newsletter* and look out for more information in the New Year.

As there is no formal meeting in December, our next meeting is at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 2 January 2025. Your first meeting is complementary. See you then.

For more information please contact:

[Cradley\\_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk](mailto:Cradley_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk)

PAM MOSS,  
Press Officer

LESLEY GREGORY,  
Correspondence Secretary

SUE HUMPHREYS,



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN  
**CRADLEY WI**  
Established 1938

**Cradley WI meets monthly in the Village Hall**  
on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm (except December)

We have a speaker or other activity, a short business meeting and plenty of time to catch up over refreshments

We also have many other activities and clubs to enjoy...

BOOK CLUB	LUNCH CLUB
SUPPER CLUB	NIMBLE FINGERS
COFFEE MORNINGS	GARDEN CLUB
CINEMA/THEATRE/CULTURE GROUP	

We take part in other activities and events too...

- Stalls at local Fairs
- Herefordshire Federation WI events
- Village community events
- Fund-raising for a charity of our choice

Do come along to our monthly meeting to see what we are all about. You will be assured of a warm welcome. First meeting is complementary.

If you would like to know more about Cradley WI please contact - [Cradley\\_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk](mailto:Cradley_WI@herefordshirewi.org.uk) or Sue Humphreys, President, 01886 880165



## A THOUGHTFUL HUSBAND?

Did you hear about the thoughtful husband who was setting out to the pub for a Christmas drink with his pals?

He turned to his wife as he was leaving and said "Margaret, put your hat and coat on, darling"

She replied "Aw Jack, that's nice, are you taking me to the pub with you?"

"Nay", replied Jack "I'm switching off the heating, while I'm out, and I'm worried you'll be getting cold".

Contributed by  
CHRIS ORFORD





**A SAUSAGE SUPPER**  
at  
**STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**Saturday, 11 January**

**7.00 for 7.30 p.m.**

**\*\***

**Sausage, Mash, Mixed Veg  
& Onion Gravy**

**(or vegetarian option)**

**Choice of homemade desserts**

**Cheese Board**

**Tea/Coffee and Mints**

**\*\***

**Bar/Raffle/Quiz**

**ALL FOR £10 PER HEAD — PAYMENT IN ADVANCE — BACS  
PREFERRED**

**Details from Chris Washbrook (01886 880628)  
or Jacky Pye (01886 832566)**

**\* Please inform Chris or Jacky of your menu choice and any dietary requirements at the time of booking**

**Any profits to Storrige Church and Storrige Village Hall**

## FOOTPATH VOLUNTEERS

Whether you're walking a dog, taking a ramble, or just simply out for a casual stroll you can help ensure the continuing enjoyment and natural beauty of our magnificent countryside by availing yourself of the free use of our Public Right of Way (PROW) network.



In order that these routes are properly looked after and maintained, for future use, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to assist with reporting any issues requiring attention on our numerous PROW's to Cradley & Storrige Parish Council.

You can accomplish this by emailing our Clerk concerning any problems appertaining to PROW, gates, styles, or bridge,

via the Clerk:

[cradleyandstorrige-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cradleyandstorrige-pc.gov.uk)

or by phone: 07966 172028

or by getting in touch with  
The Recreation and  
Environment Working Group  
lead: on 07842 694709

Thank you.



DEREK SCULLY

### CRADLEY SURGERY

#### Dispensary Hours

from 25 May 2023

01886 880207

#### Dispensary open:

Monday to Wednesday and Friday:

9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday:

3.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

#### Dispensary phone lines open:

Monday to Friday:

9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Please note the Dispensary opening hours and Dispensary phone line opening hours are different from those of the surgery.

(see separate notice for Surgery)

## WE NEED YOU!



That's right, Friends of Cradley School AKA FOCS call upon our neighbours and the community of Cradley to support the children of the village.

Cradley COE Primary School will be holding their annual "Pop-up-Shop" on 13th December.

This is a wonderful event which we hold to give the children the opportunity to purchase a Christmas gift for their loved ones. FOCS volunteers help the children pick a gift which is then wrapped up for them to give on Christmas day. I can see their little faces light up as they give their loved ones a gift, giving rather than receiving.

I hear that last year one lucky father was given the lovely gift of a sparkly mirror, which the child thought he would love to use for shaving. I am sure this will be remembered in their household for years to come.

For this event we are seeking donations such as wrapping paper, smellies, edibles, novelty gifts etc.

FOCS is also attending the Carol Concert at Cradley Church on 19th December; yes, we are a busy bunch. FOCS will be running a food and drink stall and are seeking donations of mulled wine and mince pies.

Both events are opportunities for FOCS to raise funds so we can continue to provide the children with memorable events such as school parties, fetes, fun days out. Importantly, the funds we raise also support necessities such as funding towards the playground resurfacing, transport for educational trips, funding school laptops and much much more.

If you could help with our quest in raising funds, you can drop donations to Windrush, Cradley, WR13 5LF or call/text 07821589751 to arrange collection. We hope you can help.

Thank you for your support, from FOCS team.

CHARLOTTE BOYCE

### NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESSES

Send articles and enquiries to

[Editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:Editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk)

Send advertisements and notices to

[Adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:Adverts@cmsnewsletter.org.uk)

## ON THIS DAY

**December 1<sup>st</sup> 1942:** The government unveiled the Beveridge Report which proposed a welfare state offering cradle-to-grave care for all. Everyone of working age would be expected to pay a weekly national insurance contribution. In return benefits would be paid to the sick, widowed, retired and the unemployed and there would also be an allowance for families. Research had indicated that provision for old age was one of the most pressing issues and the availability of medical care in the UK lagged behind that of many other countries. The Labour party's enthusiastic support for the plan is thought to have been a significant factor in its 1945 election victory.

**December 7<sup>th</sup> 1703:** The first Eddystone Lighthouse, which had been completed in 1698, was demolished by a violent storm. Henry Winstanley, a shipowner who had lost 2 ships to the Eddystone rocks off Plymouth Sound, used his own money to build a lighthouse to warn shipping of the danger of the rocks. On the day the lighthouse was first lit, with 60 candles, a storm arose which stranded Winstanley and his collaborators on the lighthouse for 5 weeks. Repairs were carried out to strengthen the base in 1699 and for a while all seemed well. Winstanley's next visit was ill-fated – the storm totally demolished the building and took his life along with his clerks and the 3 keepers.

**December 14<sup>th</sup> 1896:** The first trains ran on the Glasgow Underground, now known as the Clockwork Orange because of the colour of the carriages, but an accident which sent 4 people to hospital on the opening day prevented regular services from starting until January 1897. Glasgow was the third city in the world with an underground railway, after London and Budapest. The track is a circle with trains running in each direction serving 15 stations. It was originally operated by a system of winches and cables, powered by steam but in the 1930's electric traction took over.

**December 16<sup>th</sup> 1914:** Just after 8.00 a.m., 3 German warships opened fire on Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby. Under the cover of fog they came close to the coast and over the next 20 minutes fired about 500 shells. The damage in Scarborough was extensive with many buildings, including the castle, damaged or destroyed. In total 137 people including 78 women and children died in the attacks which later featured on a recruiting poster which asked "Men of Britain! Will you stand for this?"

**December 20<sup>th</sup> 1981:** With winds gusting to 90 mph and waves reaching a height of 60 ft, the Penlee lifeboat responded to a call for assistance from the cargo ship Union Star which had reported engine failure off the Cornish coast. The lifeboat, with a crew of 8 on board, had rescued 4 of the crew of the Union Star when contact was lost. A total of 16 lives were lost, the entire crew of each vessel, and some of the bodies were never recovered.

**December 25<sup>th</sup> 1711:** Parliament officially declared the construction of St Paul's Cathedral to be complete, although construction work continued for a number of years with the statues on the roof added in the 1720's. "Old St Paul's" had been damaged during the civil war and was then gutted by the Great Fire of London in 1666. In 1669 Christopher Wren, who had designed many churches to replace those lost in the fire, was commissioned to design a replacement. At 365 ft it was the tallest building in London, and remained so until the 1960's.

**December 28<sup>th</sup> 1980:** The Independent Broadcasting Authority gave the green light to breakfast television with TV-AM due to launch its programmes in 1983. Esther Rantzen, Anna Ford, Angela Rippon, Michael Parkinson and David Frost were amongst the leading lights but when the programme went on air it proved less popular than its BBC rival. Nick Owen and Anne Diamond were recruited to replace some of the big-name presenters but the channel continued to struggle until the introduction of furry puppet Roland Rat boosted its ratings.

**December 30<sup>th</sup> 1879:** Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* had its premiere with a single performance in Paignton in Devon – necessary to establish copyright under the law of the time - before its official launch in New York the following day. It was well received by both the audiences and the critics and, when it opened in London at the Opera Comique the following year, it ran for 363 performances. One of the leading characters is Major General Stanley – the "very model of a modern Major General".

IAN THOMPSON







**MALVERN  
FESTIVAL  
CHORUS**

Charity Number 506787

**Carols for All**

**Great Malvern Priory**

**Saturday 28 December 3pm**

Malvern Festival Chorus invite you to join them for a celebration of Christmas, with singing and readings, in the glorious setting of Great Malvern Priory.

Plenty of audience participation.

This year, our carol concert will be in aid of

**Acorns Children's Hospice**

Entry is just £3 with a closing collection for the charity

Everyone is welcome for this afternoon of Christmas music to round off the festive season.

More information from

Barbara Moss:

01684 564366



## **MALAWI**

We have just come back from five weeks in Malawi, a country which is the 10th poorest country in the world. We had an interesting visit and have many stories to tell.

We have booked the Village Hall for for a slide show on

**Sunday, 12 January**

We will provide tea and coffee.

Donations for a local charity and project in Malawi.

More details in the January newsletter.

DEREK AND ANN CARVER

## **CRADLEY SURGERY**

01886 880207

[www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.cradleysurgery.nhs.uk)

### **Surgery hours:**

Monday to Friday:  
8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Closed weekends and Bank Holidays

You can also ask a question online at <https://florey.accurx.com/p/M81600> which will be read by a team member within 48hrs.

This might be about an admin issue, eg. about sick notes, repeat prescriptions etc; about a medical issue eg new or ongoing symptoms; or advice and guidance concerning conditions, symptoms and treatments.

If your GP practice is closed and you need more urgent help, visit [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk) or call 111 In an emergency call 999.

(see separate notice for Dispensary)



## **FREE ROOM HIRE**

### **AT CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL**

**We are happy to announce that we will give free use of the Hall to anyone wishing to hold coffee mornings or charity fund raising events**

**We include full use of kitchen equipment and crockery and free electricity use**

**Available Mondays 9am- 1pm  
Thursdays 1pm-4pm**

**for details and booking call Jan 01886 880316  
or call into the Hall or phone 01886881046**

## PUMPKIN BONANZA!

So - it might have been a desperate year for garden produce, the weather throughout 2024 being what it was (ie abominable - see your correspondent's report on this year's Produce Show in the October issue), but for pumpkin growers - and entrants in the Cradley Village Hall Annual Grand Pumpkin-Growing Contest - it was just fine.

Pumpkins seem to need no purely seasonal weather to fatten up. 'Just keep watering the brutes!' is the urgent cry that goes up from the Old Lags - those super-obsessives who have been plodding determinedly down to the ends of their gardens every single day, year after year, from April to October, come sleet, snow or shine, simply to tend their fruits.

And never was a truer exhortation made. Pumpkins need water. Lots of water. Gallons and gallons and gallons of water. Regularly. Don't stint. Don't just leave it to the beneficent rain from Heaven washing the vegetative landscape with its kindly, nourishing dew. After all, it's not all that long ago that we used to get more droughts than deluges in an English summer. Unless, of course, you happen to be living in 2024 when rain, not at all beneficent, from April to October, seemed to be the only weather pattern there was.

Mind you, those same Old Lags will also mutter knowingly about 'secret formulas' to enlarge their fruits, whether some proprietary brand of fertiliser, or their own revolting mishmash mixed up from all those forgotten liquefactive leftovers and ghoulish ichors lurking at the back of the potting-shed. Or even (whisper it low) their own very personal and private waterings.

Luckily this six-month deluge (or that's what it felt like) just happened to coincide with a major seed-selling push by your Grand Pumpkin Contest Coordinating Committee - over 30 packets sold, which translates into a fair few quid for CVH funds (and don't forget, CVH is a Charity, so it's all in a good cause).

Very heartening to see not just how many first-time purchasers bought seeds earlier in the year, but how many of those same first-timers turned up on the Grand Weigh-In Day (Saturday, 26 October) with their bulging fruits. Even more heartening - verging on the astonishing - was the fact that 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes were all won by first-time pumpkin growers.

True, not all were whoppers! Many were by no means giant-size, but in the 2-9kg range. These included Mary Skinner (2.5kg), Antoinette Mulcahy (3kg), Jerry Thomas (3.5kg - O how the mighty are fallen; erstwhile CVH Chair Jerry Thomas in the past has been known to triumphantly win our little contest!), Bill Crouch (5kg), John Hyde (7kg), Scotford Lawrence (9kg), not to mention your correspondent's wife, who at least didn't win the Booby Egg-Cup with her 3.5kg (which she has done in the past, alas - no one can say the Judges favour family or friends). Weights began to get serious with A. Madsen, Esq, whose 12kg translates into a solid 26lbs (old money). Well done, that man -- rather better than a few of your recent efforts! But still nowhere near the winners.



Third prize was shared between John and Joy Perkins (sturdy veterans of this annual comp), and one of our youngest winners ever, 9-year-old Daisy Grafham from the Little Flower Farm up on the main road (brilliant effort, Daisy!). Their pumpkins both scaled in at 18kg (40lbs) each.

Next in line was Helen Fisher, with a 19kg (42lb) whopper. It will be recalled by those who take note of these things that she also nearly cleared the board of trophies at the CVH Produce Show. Come on, Mrs Fisher, any more greedy grabbing of village horticultural prizes and we're going to have to bar you!

However, 1st prize of £30 went to an absolute and incontrovertible super-whopper weighing in at 29kg. That's well over 60lbs in old money. It was truly, ludicrously gi-normous! So - hugely well done, Liz and Hugh Thomas.

The Egg-Cup went to Terry Robshaw for his 2kg fruit, and the first numbered seed-packet out of the hat for a bottle of half-way decent wine from your correspondent's dusty old broom-cupboard was held, and thus won, by Mary Skinner.....Cheers!

A few words were said for Ian Hyson, who had passed away, suddenly and tragically, a few days before. Ian was a long-standing and loyal supporter of the Pumpkin Contest, and his dry humour will be much missed by his many friends in the village.

Many thanks to Ken Nason, who was on hand with his camera, and to Joy and John Perkins, whose weighing contraption is so much better than the bathroom scales, and to your correspondent's helpmeet Gillian, without whom...

As for me, I'll be cruising round the village on my mobility scooter in March of next year, with entirely new packets of pumpkin seed. So be warned!

CL



## EXTRAORDINARY EXOPLANETS

**Briefly, before I look at exoplanets, here is some recent news:**

In mid-October, sun-grazing comet **C/2023 A3 Tsuchinshan-ATLAS** was visible with binoculars, after sunset, showing a long tail, but was mostly clouded out. I managed to take some nice images, as I did of the superb **aurora on 10 October**. The second sun-grazing comet burnt up when close to the Sun.

Headline-news was the video broadcast of the spectacular **SpaceX heavy-lift starship** first stage vertical return gantry-catch.

### Exoplanets

These were first discovered in the 1990s. The main detection instruments have been the Kepler space telescope and the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). Large exoplanets close to their stars (and consequently very hot) are the easiest to detect. Here are some of the weirdest ones....

**Exoplanet HD 189773b**, a so-called hot Jupiter, very closely orbits its star HD 189773a and is, 64 lightyears away. It has one side permanently facing its star (tidally locked) and so is very hot, at 1300 C. Its blue colour is the reflection of silicate grains in its hot atmosphere; winds of nearly 9000 km/h carry them from the hot side to the cold opposite side where they condense out as rains of glass!

**WASP-12b** is 600 lightyears away and is spiralling inwards towards its yellow dwarf host star. In 3 million years it will meet its fiery end. It is already so close to its star that it's wobbling and distorting in the star's gravitational field. The intense stellar radiation has made it swell up and it is breaking up.

**WASP-76b** orbits its star in 1.8 days and is tidally locked with its star-facing side at 2000°C. Its atmosphere is vapourised Iron which is carried by very high winds to its opposite space-facing cooler night side where it condenses as liquid Iron rain.

**TOI 849b** closely orbits its star with an 18-hour period, at 1530°C, but has no atmosphere. It is 40 times the mass of the Earth, like Neptune, but, unlike Neptune, it is dense and rocky.

**LHS 1140b** is close-orbiting its star in 24 days; it is 5.6 times the Earth's mass, but with an extraordinary super-hot pupil-like bulge, 1.7 times the size of Earth on its star-facing side.

**55 Cancri e** was the first super-Earth discovered around a main sequence star. It seems to have a volatile atmosphere that is probably rich in CO<sub>2</sub> or CO and could be outgassed by a magma ocean.

**TrES-2b** is 750 lightyears away. It is the darkest known exoplanet, reflecting less than 1% of any light. It's inexplicably darker than coal.

**KELT-9b** is another ultra-hot Jupiter-type exoplanet, hotter than many stars. It orbits its star in less than 1.5 days. It is so close to its star that its surface is a whopping 4,300°C, so hot on the planet's dayside that atomic iron and titanium in its atmosphere causes

molecules of hydrogen gas to tear apart, only to recombine when they flow to the cooler eternal nightside, before being torn apart once more when they move back to the hot side.

At the other extreme, **HR 5183b**, has a 74-year orbit period, similar to our outer planets. It has 3 times the mass of Jupiter, but unlike any in our solar system, it has an extremely elliptical orbit, and slingshots into the centre, just missing its host star before shooting out again.

**HAT-P-7b** is larger than Jupiter and has an orbital axis tilted 108° relative to the spin axis of its host star, so is in a near-polar orbit. It is so close to its star that it orbits in 3 days. During daytime the temperatures reach over 2,200°C. It is as dark as charcoal, absorbing over 97% of visible light.

**WASP-107b** is over 3/4 the volume of Jupiter and less than 1/10th the mass, it is puzzling as to why it has such very low density.

**K2-18b** exoplanet is twice the size of Earth, and 8 times the mass, which means it has similar density to the Earth, and so is rocky with a molten iron core. It is orbiting its star in the habitable zone, in which liquid water could be on its surface, just like the Earth. We now think it has a thick hydrogen atmosphere with oceans of hot water and steam, topped by clouds; impossible for biological life.

**Kepler-452b**, 1,400 lightyears away, is 60% larger than Earth and could be rocky. It orbits its Sun-like host star in 385-days with orbit radius correct for liquid water to be on its surface, but no evidence of that so far. Its star is 25% older than the Sun, but similar in temperature, about 20% brighter and 10% larger.

**Exoplanet GJ 367b** orbits its star every 7.7 hours. Its density is calculated to be near twice that of the Earth, so is almost entirely made of iron.

The star **HD110067a** has six Jupiter-type planets around it, in an undisturbed perfect orbital harmonic resonance (like those of Jupiter's main moons). The nearest planet (b) has an orbital period of 9.1 days. Planet c's period is 3/2 of planet b, planet d's period is 3/2 of planet c, planet f's period is 4/3 of planet d, and planet g's period is 4/3 of planet f.

Many exoplanets are ejected from their star systems and are wandering alone through the galaxy in frozen darkness. They are hard to find, having no host star to detect them with. If by chance the planet passes in front of a star (a transit), the star light appears to briefly dim. A massive planet can show a temporary increase in star brightness from its gravitational bending of the starlight to a bright focus (microlensing). JWST has recently found many wandering exoplanets.



*Next time:  
Extraordinary Stars*

CHRIS BADDILEY



# THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



## NEWS & EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2024

It's beginning to look a lot like CHRISTMAS!!!! There's lots of fun to be had at your local Legion club this month including bingo, comedy night and two party nights!!

### **BINGO! Saturday, 7 December 8pm start**



Grab your dabbers, it's BINGO time! Join Kath Munrowd for a final festive Bingo. Great prizes are on offer and a fun and sociable evening will be had by all.

### **CHRISTMAS COMEDY NIGHT Saturday, 14 December from 7:30pm**



Tickets now available, get yours before they sell out.... £15 including a delicious ploughman's supper. There'll be fantastic comedians, and an MC. Call us on 01886 880552 or 07929 225390, or pop in Monday - Saturday, to secure your tickets.

A great night not to be missed as some of your favourite acts return to the stage for a night of festive fun. We are thrilled to welcome back The Boys from The All Night Chemist, Ben Briggs, David Luck, and the fabulously funny MC Big D.

### **CAROLS ON THE CAR PARK! Saturday, 21 December from 5pm**



Join us for a fun night of Christmas festivities as we bring back our enjoyable carols on the car park. Baz and his students will perform Christmas Carols from 6:30pm for a jolly good sing along. There'll be mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and cookies served from 5pm, a great start to the Christmas holidays for all the family. The night will continue indoors with a festive shindig to keep the Christmas mood going all night long.

### **FANTASTIC FUN PARTY NIGHTS – EVERYONE WELCOME!**



#### **Monday, 23 December 8pm onwards. Christmas Eve-Eve Disco and Draw!**

Join us for a night of festive fun including our annual Christmas Draw, lots of prizes to be won!

#### **Tuesday, 31 December New Year's Eve Disco! Time to party from 7:30pm till 1:00am**

Don't forget if you're organising an event, take the headache out of bar planning and book our outside bar. For further details please pop in and chat with Trina or give us a call on 01886 880552. Alternatively, why not hire all or part of the club for your event.

To keep up to date with all our events, see future copies of *The Newsletter*, click on the village diary, or subscribe to our newsletter and find us on Facebook.

We look forward to welcoming you to all our events and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

JOANNE HICKLING  
Club Secretary / Treasurer

## NEWS FROM MATHON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

5 NOVEMBER 2024 At 7.30 p.m.

### Malvern Hills Trust

Mr D Baldwin reported to the meeting that a lot of press coverage had been generated regarding the proposed MHT governance changes. He said that a lot of misinformation had also been circulating around the area. The MHT had conducted a public consultation where all the main proposals had been talked about. MHT had employed an independent market research consultancy, followed by a working group, who had prepared all the reports and provided topics for discussion. All responses following the consultation had been considered. 27 November was the submission date for the changes/amendments to the governing Acts of Parliament. but it could take up to two years or more for it to come to fruition. David Baldwin confirmed that MHT was a charity, not a public body.

### CSO/Police Report

Nothing to report on the crime front in Mathon.

Herefordshire Ward Councillor - Ward Cllr Helen Heathfield reported she would be attending the Malvern Hills National Landscape JAC Meeting on 15th November. A new management plan was being proposed. She would also be going to a Drainage Board Meeting which covered both the Severn and Wye rivers. She confirmed that the C1117 in Mathon was going to be totally resurfaced in November.

### Footpaths

The Clerk had circulated details of the new PFO scheme which covered all aspects of the (voluntary) Footpath Officer's duties and responsibilities required by Herefordshire Council. Due to her full-time job, Cllr K Perkins felt unable to carry on as the official Footpaths Officer for the Council, but would continue to walk the footpaths and do some cutting back when she could. This means that Mathon Parish Council is looking for a Footpaths Officer. If you could be interested, please contact the Clerk – Diana Taylor – details at the end of this article.

### Finance

The Council approved the half year accounts to 30 September 2024.

### Highways

Potholes at Hackney Cross – this would now be covered by the resurfacing work (see above). Blocked culvert along West Malvern Road – still very silted up; this has been reported to the Land Drainage Team. Flooding across the road near to Brook House - this had been reported by the Clerk to Highways.

### Cliffe Arms

Nothing further to report at the moment.

DIANA TAYLOR (MRS)

Clerk to Mathon PC

Tel: 01684 569430

E-Mail: dtaylormathonclerk235@gmail.com

9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern, Worcs WR14 1NL

Website: mathonparishcouncil.co.uk



## SCRIPTURE CAKE

Scripture Cake recipes regularly appeared in such Victorian publications as 'Household News' vol 3' (1895), 'Christian Work', illustrated Family Newspaper, vol 63' (and 'Good Housekeeping, vol 26' (1897).

### Ingredients:

1. 200 gm Judges 5 v 25 (last clause)
2. 200 gm Jeremiah 6 v 20
3. 3 tbs 1 Samuel 14 v 25
4. 4 Jeremiah 17 v 11
5. 170gm Samuel 30 v 12 (2nd food)
6. 170 gm Nahum 3 v 12 (chopped)
7. 100 gm Numbers 17 v 8 (blanched & chopped)
8. 500 gm 1 Kings 4 v 22
9. 1 tsp 2 Chronicles 9 v 9
10. 1 tsp Leviticus 2 v 13
11. 2 tsp Amos 4 v 5
12. 5 tbs Judges 4 v 19 (last clause)



### Method:

1. Prepare a (suitable) cake tin, greased and lined with baking parchment.
2. In a large mixing bowl Beat 1,2 & 3 to a cream. Beat in 4 one at a time.
3. Beat in 5, 6, & 7 until everything is fully mixed
4. In another, larger mixing bowl, mix together 8,9, 10 & 11. Make a well in the centre and add the wet mixture.
5. Stir until a batter starts to form.
6. Mix in 12 so it becomes a 'dropping consistency'.
7. Bake in the centre of a slow oven (160 deg C) for 1 ½ to 2 hours until a wooden cocktail stick inserted into the centre comes out clean.

***"Follow Solomon's prescription for making a good boy, Proverbs 23 v 14 and you will make a very good cake". Anon.***

Contributed by  
PAULINE DIPLOCK





**Malvern Hills Trust**

**MALVERN HILLS TRUST SAYS  
THANK YOU  
AND PUTS BILL ON VIEW**

A decisive vote at the Malvern Hills Trust's public board meeting on 17 October means they will introduce a private bill to Parliament on 27 November. This is a proposal for a law affecting a single organisation like theirs and opens up the proposed governance changes to full public scrutiny. During the summer you had the opportunity to have your say on the proposals for taking the Trust into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Trustees carefully analysed nearly 500 pieces of feedback and have now published this and a report on changes to the Trust's proposals as a result [www.malvern hills.org.uk/governance-changes/consultation](http://www.malvern hills.org.uk/governance-changes/consultation)



*John Michael, Chair at Malvern Hills Trust.*

John Michael, Chair, said "I wish to thank all those members of the public and organisations who took the time to engage in the consultation process. This is all about modernising the Trust's governance so it can operate more effectively now and for generations to come." You'll be able to view a complete copy of the bill from 4 December on the Trust's website – see link below. For those who need it, a hard copy will also be available to view (or to purchase) at the Malvern Hills Trust offices on Grange Road, Malvern WR14 3EY between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday (except for Bank Holidays). More information about the proposals to future-proof the Trust for the benefit of the landscape and people is available at [www.malvern hills.org.uk/governance-changes](http://www.malvern hills.org.uk/governance-changes)

Warm regards,

**DEBORAH FOX**  
Chief Executive Officer  
T: 01684 892002

Manor House, Grange Road, Malvern, WR14 3EY



**FROM PEWS TO THE POLES**

**THE REV. JAMES GORDON HAYES OF  
STORRIDGE**

James Gordon Hayes (born c1878) was, amongst other things, vicar of Storrige. However, his interests extended far beyond the reach of our three parishes, as he had a deep interest in polar exploration.

He devoted much attention to a critical study of the records of polar exploration and was the author of four outstanding books on the subject.

In "Antarctica", published in 1928, he dealt with the natural features of the Antarctic continent and the journeys of explorers during the first quarter of the twentieth century. It was the result of a great amount of reading and gave an important comparison of the methods and results of modern explorers.

This was followed in 1932 by a more distinctively historical work "The Conquest of the South Pole", designed as a continuation of Dr. H. R. Mill's "Siege of the South Pole" and showing deeper appreciation of the personal qualities of explorers than was apparent in the earlier work.

The other two books, relating to north polar exploration, were "Robert Edwin Peary", an endeavor to show the improbability of that explorer having reached the pole, and "The Conquest of the North Pole", a well-balanced summary of Arctic exploration in the twentieth century.

Gordon Hayes also has a mountain named after him; Mount Hayes is a plateau-type mountain, 1,140 metres (3,740 ft), situated at the base of Cole Peninsula on the east coast of Graham Land, Antarctica. It was charted in 1947 by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (FIDS), who named it in honour of Rev. Gordon Hayes.

In the latter part of his life, it seems that his interests took another turn, and he was engaged on a work on Napoleon as a statesman at the time when the progress of his fatal illness put a stop to his labours. He was remembered as a tireless worker, an enthusiastic seeker after truth in all quarters, and a warm friend of all interested in, polar exploration. He is buried in Storrige churchyard.

Contributed by  
**PETER NEALE and REVD ROBERT WARD**





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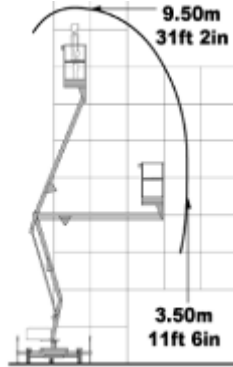
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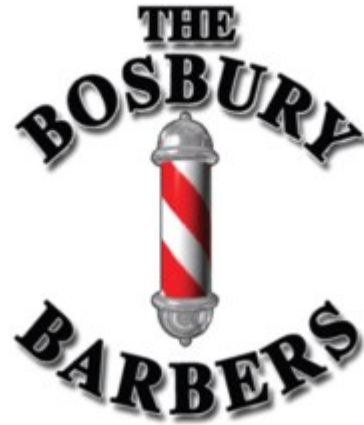


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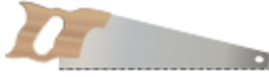
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9.20am	Pilates
10.30am and 3.00pm	Tap
11.30am	FitSteps
1.50pm and 7.00pm	Ballet

### Wednesdays

9.10am	Pilates
10.15am	Modern
11.20am and 1.45pm	Ballet
12.30pm	Flamenco
2.50pm	Pilates
6.45pm	Ballet

### Thursdays

10.00am	FitSteps
11.15am and 7.30pm	Ballet
2.15pm	Silver Swans Ballet
6.30pm	Zumba

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## THREE VILLAGES DIARY OF EVENTS 2024

### 2024 DECEMBER

Please let us know if you are planning an event or resuming your activities so we can include your date

Thurs	5	7.30 p.m.	Cradley WI Monthly meeting.
Sat	7	10.30 a.m.	Cradley Christmas Fair and Santa. Cradley Village Hall. Until 2.30 p.m.
Sun	8	10.45 a.m.	Blessing of the Cribs for Cradley Church Christmas display.
Sat	7	11.30 a.m.	Cradley Handbells – at the Cradley Christmas Fair in Cradley Village Hall. Until 12:30 p.m.
Sat	7	3.00 p.m.	Cradley Singers Music for Advent. Bosbury Church.
Sat	7	8.00 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Bingo Night
Mon	9		Evergreens Christmas Tea Party.
Weds	11	2.00 p.m.	Cradley, Mathon & StorrIDGE Art Group. StorrIDGE Village Hall. Until 4.00 p.m.
Thurs	12	7.30 p.m.	StorrIDGE WI. Christmas Party and Secret Santa
Fri	13		Cradley School annual ‘Pop-up-Shop’
Sat	14	7.30 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Christmas Comedy Night
Tues	17	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service in StorrIDGE Church
Weds	18	6.30 p.m.	Cradley Church Annual Carol Service
Thurs	19	10.30 a.m.	The Leys Coffee Stop, until 12.00 noon.
Thurs	19	6.30 p.m.	Cradley School Carol Service in Cradley Church
Sat	21	5.00 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Carols on the Car Park. Mince Pies and Mulled wine from 5 p.m.
Sat	21	6.30 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Carols on the Car Park with Baz and his students.
Sun	22	6.00 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight in Mathon Church
Tues	23	8.00 p.m.	Royal British Legion – Christmas Eve-Eve Disco and Draw.
Sat	28	3.00 p.m.	Carols for All – Malvern Festival Chorus. In Great Malvern Priory.
Tues	31	7.30 p.m.	Royal British Legion – New Year’s Eve Disco Until 1 p.m.

### ANNUAL CMS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE (Please complete form on p22 and give to your distributor)

### 2025 JANUARY

Thurs	2	7.30 p.m.	Cradley WI Monthly meeting.
Sat	11	7.00 p.m.	Sausage Supper at StorrIDGE Village Hall
Sun	12	TBA	Malawi Talk in Cradley Village Hall

.....

Please keep your articles, event notices, diary dates and reports coming in. Please, whenever possible, email your contributions to the editorial team at: [editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:editors@cmsnewsletter.org.uk).

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Editorial Team: Robert Colledge, Antonia Musgrove, Ian Thompson.  
The editor of the January issue will be Ian Thompson.  
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Nov 14 - Dec 12

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