

EARDISLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
THURSDAY 18 MAY 2017

PARISH REPORTS

Church of the Virgin Mary Parochial Church Council

In 2016/17 the church here in Eardisland has continued to bring regular worship and care to our beautiful church, St. Mary the Virgin. Julie Read our popular priest gives of her time and energy to help us to maintain a committed worshipping community and to be of assistance and help to any parishioner who feels they need her guidance. Julie and our Reader-in-Training, Katie Smith, lead a regular prayer group on Tuesday morning at 9 am in the church followed by a Pilgrim Course which meets in Dian Cope's house and which is almost as well attended as our Sunday services and greatly appreciated by many of us. We study the bible in more depth but also have plenty of time for coffee, invariably cake, together with open and frank discussion about many issues. You would be extremely welcome at either or both of these weekday meetings.

At the Annual Meetings Dian and myself were once again elected as Churchwardens. We both feel privileged to serve for another year. Peter Brown, after many years of faithful service, has resigned from the PCC and from his position as Treasurer. We are extremely grateful to him for all his past work. Mike Coleburn is now our Treasurer and Liz Lever our new PCC Secretary. Our thanks to them both for stepping up to fulfill these important roles in our church life.

Once again we held some extremely well attended events and services. We had a wonderful Maundy Thursday Meal and Harvest Service and Supper. Our money raising events were also successful particularly the Fete at Glan Arrow and the Craft Fair, which will be held again this year, which is jointly organised between the PCC and Phil and Margaret Milchard on behalf of Eardisland in Bloom. Thank you to all who attended these and other events. We really do get wonderful support from all in our parish on these occasions whether churchgoers or not and we are very grateful.

Beryl Hoda, Churchwarden

Dovecote Trust

With effect from January, Graham Madeley and Hugh Vernon have joined Shelley Connop as trustees, upon the retirement of Margaret Milchard and Albert Sheffield.

Over the next 24 months the prospect of rolling through eclectic exhibitions will be considered, although for the near future the AA and WW1 displays will be maintained.

News from the Dovecote will be posted in the Parish magazine routinely.

Hugh Vernon

Eardisland Bowling Club

Last year was a difficult time for the bowling club as the green (the most important part) had started the season in very poor condition. Professional contractors were called in at great expense to re-lay turf in badly worn areas of the green, seeding and watering continued throughout the year. A grant from the Village Community Shop helped considerably and then the club managed to complete the season successfully.

On a more happier note the men's team came top of the second division in the Hereford Men's League so 2017 will be a challenge in the first division (the team have scored six points already after only two matches)!

After having to send in two reports a year for three years Sport England have finally signed off the grant that was given to the club for the new changing rooms and toilets etc.

The club continued to attract new members and the junior section is growing.

Finally the new season started on a sad note as Pat Roach passed away. She had been a life long member and secretary of the club for many years and will be sadly missed.

Doug Tantrum

Eardisland Community Shop

The Eardisland Community Shop Committee would like to thank all those who support this vital amenity, especially those who volunteer their time to keep it open and our volunteers.

We have several new suppliers, including fresh fruit and veg delivered daily by Parry's of Leominster and soft fruits and asparagus from Tillington Farm.

Central Bakery in Leominster continue to supply us with fresh bread and cakes daily and Alex Gooch delivers his artisan bread on a Friday.

Suzanne Evans, who supplied us with fruit and veg for many years, has turned her attention to plants and continues to supply us with a good selection. Orders for these are welcome.

The committee would also like to thank the Dovecote Trust for their continued support and the 'E' Team for the voluntary hard work, enhancing the area around the shop.

The Eardisland Shop Committee.

Eardisland in Bloom

The last 12 months have been amongst the busiest for the group since its formation. Ambitious plans have seen the area behind the dovecote cleared of unsightly weed and re-turfed at In Bloom expense. An arch has been erected which will lead to a wildflower garden. Two benches have been transferred to this area and sit on newly created patios.

In Bloom, through the parish council has appealed for new benches to enhance the appearance of the centre of the village and has resulted in a number of confirmed offers. A bench in memory of Greta Pennington now sits next to the arch, overlooking the millstream whilst another, kindly donated by Sue & David Wallis, sits adjacent to a planter on a patio area in front of the dovecote.

The clearing of tall trees on the south side of the Manor House has enabled us to create a new border garden in front of the Manor House wall. In our opinion this has transformed in the centre of the village which has been a riot of colour.

Work is in progress to site further benches, both in the village centre and the recreation ground. The group also found time last autumn to paint the telephone box.

In Bloom survives through well supported fundraising events, namely the annual Plant Sale, but now a shared Craft Fair, which is expected to become an annual occurrence.

The group has increased its 'workforce strength' to 8 regular attendees and is pleased to continue to support both financially and physically the young persons allotment, so well managed by Bryony & Ben Woodcock.

Phil Milchard

Eardisland Heritage and History Group

The Eardisland History & Heritage Group has undertaken a range of projects during the past year, especially related to information gathered from an examination of the Tithe Map (1842-44). This parish map provides details of field names and land ownership. We have been interested to see whether these provide us with knowledge of how fields have changed in size and use; also, whether their names indicate possible archaeological significance. For example the name 'Bury' in a place or field name may relate to a Saxon period stronghold. The name 'Butts' may relate to a place in a township which was used for Archery practice or it may describe a field whose shape does not make for easy agricultural use. A 'Prill' describes a small watercourse, as does 'Sytche'. All can be found on the tithe map giving clues to the ancient past.

We have focussed attention particularly on Lower Hardwick and the township that existed there and the fields within it, many of which were devoted to the strip system of the feudal period. A colleague has provided us with detailed drawings and other illustrative material showing contours and waterways in the area under examination from which important deductions can be made.

We have also examined the Tithe map to see which buildings have disappeared since it was drawn and considered the implications for economic and social changes. We hope to see if there are ways of indicating how the landscape and its use have altered from the times of earliest settlement to the present. To this end we have also examined some fields with unusual earthworks or features which may eventually throw light on the patterns of habitation in the area.

We often receive requests for information regarding family history or from someone doing particular research in this area. If we can assist we do so. We have had a visit from a researcher from Edinburgh University who was investigating a holding in Monkland once part of the Burton Court estate. More recently we have had a meeting with historians from Hinckley, in Leicestershire, who wished to share information about their projects.

We were able to provide an opportunity to inform parishioners about our archaeological and documentary work since 2000 together with information about the background to our twinning association with Lyre, in Normandy at a well-attended Presentation in April. This included an exhibition of photographs and power point display.

Eardisland Local Link and Share a Care

Share a Care would like to thank the Eardisland Parish Council and Eardisland Community Shop for their support. The village hall is open to everyone in the parish on the last Thursday of each month (except December) from 2.30 pm, for tea/coffee and cake and a chat. There is no membership, no committee and no fee, the hire of the hall and the refreshments being paid for by the afore mentioned.

Most of our get togethers have about a dozen of us sharing a news and enjoying each others company. This is a great way for anyone new to the village to meet people and it's free!

We look forward to seeing some new faces in the near future.

Share A Care

Eardisland VillageBand

The Village Band's 10 Year Anniversary Concert took place on Saturday 25th March 2017 and was a sell-out – a big thank you to everyone who supported us.

Dave Townsend of The Mellstock Band led a fantastic workshop for the Band in the afternoon before the concert and gave a superb virtuoso solo performance to open the second half of the concert itself. The concert closed with Dave playing several numbers with us in the Band – and what an exciting experience this was...

Your generosity with the collection at the concert raised £165.00 to complement the funds raised by our WI for the Herefordshire charity, The Music Pool, and ticket sales produced, after costs, £105.00 towards Band funds. (This will be used to help fund the hire of Eardisland Village Hall for our monthly practices as we begin to work towards our next concert.)

Ruth Brinton-Bivand, Administrator, Eardisland Village Band

Parish Magazine

1. The Eardisland Parish Magazine has been produced on the dates agreed with Eardisland Parish Council during the year since my last report.

2. The November edition was of very disappointing quality, a result of technical difficulties at Leominster Community Resource Centre. This led to various changes being made at our end, with a view to clearer reproduction, and heavier duty copy paper for the final copies. The cost implications of the changes are minimal. I am keeping a careful eye on the print quality and if it fails again I shall consult the Parish Council with a view to making alternative arrangements. I would do this with considerable reluctance, because there would almost certainly be a significant increase in costs.
3. Barry Freeman, the Distribution Manager, was taken ill at Christmas and is still undergoing tests. Alternative arrangements have been made to get copies to the delivery team, and Barry continues to play a slightly smaller role in the system.
4. As always, my thanks go to all those who take part in the production and distribution of the Eardisland Parish Magazine. Patricia Gill continues to do an excellent job as Advertising Manager, Barry as Distribution Manager and Phil Milchard as our Parish Council representative. Our various contributors provide a constant supply of village information and comment, and we receive information from other villages and organisations. The delivery team turn out in all weathers to ensure that all houses within the Parish receive a copy free and on time. The magazine continues to appear on the Parish website and I know it is read across the UK and as far afield as New Zealand.
5. Finally, I thank Eardisland Parish Council for their continued support in the production of the Eardisland Parish Magazine.

Chris Bivand, Editor

Twinning Association

As this Annual Parish Meeting takes place, the celebratory 10th anniversary French visit (26th-29th May 2017) will be just a week away.

I must first say a big thank you for all the support from parishioners at both the recent History Presentation Evening and for the French Cheese and Wine Evening. After costs, the former raised £75.00 each for the History and Heritage Group and the Eardisland Twinning Association. The latter, again after costs, raised £522.00 towards the forthcoming 10th anniversary weekend.

And now it is time for the Twinning Association to give a little something back to the parish after all your support with fund-raising events over the last eight months. In the poster in this month's Parish Magazine you will find details of the village events scheduled to take place during the 10th anniversary twinning weekend. Please spread this news to all your friends and neighbours throughout Eardisland. Posters are up around the village and the information is on the community website. We look forward very much to seeing you at one or all of these community events on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th May.

Ruth Brinton-Bivand, Chair, Eardisland Twinning Association

Village Hall Management Committee

Facilities and equipment: The Parish Council funded a new electric heater for the small meeting room after the gas heater was found to be no longer fit for purpose by the servicing engineer. We are very grateful to Eardisland in Bloom for providing smart new wooden planters for the exterior and maintaining these and the remaining older ones. A chiller cabinet was also donated and has been much used. Other items have been offered which we would love to accept but sadly storage space is at a premium. The pump in the accessible toilet has been replaced after being damaged by 'inappropriate' waste and should now be good for at least 10 years if kept serviced and not abused. A new Fire Alarm board has also been installed.

Bookings/Finance: The main hall is now used every weekday morning and the number of private and community bookings remains stable which has enabled us to cover this year's high expenditure on maintenance without eating too far into our reserves. Our relationship with our new energy providers has not been straightforward and we are still working out how cost effective the new contracts have been and how spend relates to usage. Many thanks to Chris Watson for persevering with this ongoing saga and keeping meticulous records of the process.

Renovations: After obtaining estimates for the toilet renovation work we discovered that the cost of what we envisaged was higher than anticipated. Together with the Parish Council, our main effort over the last few months therefore has been in applying for grant funding, initially from Severn Waste and Awards for All, precipitated by the fact that this is the last round of funding available from Severn Waste. We are now waiting to hear from both bodies and other applications are in preparation.

Personnel: Kate Thompson stood down as chair and her place was taken by Caroline Marsden with the provisional title of interim chair – we are still seeking a volunteer willing to lead the committee. Diane Lee has joined us to assist with essential admin support and act as minutes secretary; Ruth Miller (Art Group representative) and Carole Millin as new trustees. Diane is also helping to make sure we fulfil all our health and safety requirements. With the increased usage of the hall over the last couple of years has come an increased workload, much of which has fallen on the shoulders of Steph Griffiths as Bookings Secretary. Steph has now announced her decision to stand down shortly, and we would love to hear from anyone who feels they could take on part or all of this role.

Fund-raising and events: The disco nights held in summer and on New Year's Eve were popular as (Contact Caroline on 01544 388868/cmarsden@freeuk.com). always, and the revived Duck Races on the river helped boost our funds – many thanks to all those who organised and attended.

Whittington Exhibition Foundation

The Whittington Exhibition Foundation moves forward with every Academic Year.

This Trust was kindly set up for the future of our Parish Children & covers all aspects of Education up to & including the age of 23. We are made up of Volunteer Members of the Parish who are very proactive. Our way of advertising is

mainly word of mouth & as always our Parish Magazine. We meet as a Committee on receipt of an Application from a Student & following set protocols we confidentially discuss & approve. We can assist with all aspects including Books, Tools, Clothing, etc but sadly unable to assist with Travel/Accommodation costs. From School, College & University days we are here to assist.

If anyone would like an informal chat re; the above please feel free to phone me on 01544 388681/07952283447
Melanie Gittoes, Secretary

Women's Institute

In December, for our meal, to The Corners we went.

It was a bit busy and noisy but we were content.

In January, because of the weather, in the morning we met.

Reminded that the defibrillator was ongoing so not to forget.

February the "Darjeling Dave" talk, cancelled it was.

The incessant downpour of rain was the cause!

In March, Anne Goodwin on Wordsworth kept us spellbound.

Talking of the River Wye and other areas around.

Doug's Railway Day again, went very chuffing.

Bacon sarnies all round kept the men puffing!

The Spring Coffee Morning was really a hit

Enough was raised for the defibrillator to be fit!

In April a very "Uplifting Experience" was had

With Carrie and Carol we were never sad.

With fittings and jitterings they did us entertain

And our old usable bras will be used again!

In May, Owen Mabbort our local smithy, gave us a talk.

An incite into smithying and much we were taught.

In the Three Counties Show we did a Group Display

But not many could get to Malvern on the day!

Lottie's Garden Day the refreshments went well

But the inclement weather was almost like hell!

At the June meeting to Lyonshall we could not go

So quilling by Mavis, she did us show.

Some eager members did have a go.

Who knows, the cards might be in the Village Show!

In July, Wendy & Berts Garden was the venue.

Sorry I missed it as it was a superb view!

Games of croquet and boules, members played.

Everyone enjoyed it and were not dismayed.

September Jen Green's health unfortunately let her down,

So we chatted and drank tea and there was never a frown!

October Shirley Cooke also because of ill health could not come

So with Colin Bates reference Cadburys we pulled out a plum!

Samples of chocolate were handed out.

We all enjoyed it without a doubt!

So to November and our lovely Annual Meeting

I hope we can continue but enough of this bleating!

After this a Beetle Drive we will play.

Hopefully the program next year will go swell

W.I. should be fun, come what may!

Hopefully new faces welcome we will

It is your W.I. come uphold it still!

Mavis Tantrum Secretary 01544 387972