

THE EARDISLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

JULY 2021

ISSUE 183



Bridge Cottage, by the bridge, is now two dwellings but was once a boys' grammar school. It dates from 1652. A National School was built in 1825 and gradually the grammar school was no longer required. In 1874 the property was bought by John Clowes, of Burton Court, and the top section was converted to a reading room; this continued until 1936, when it became private houses. On the left side wall, nearest the bridge, is a whipping post, with its manacles still intact.

Information from *Eardisland, An Oral History* by the Oral History Group.

ISBN 0 9526472 0 6

Photo: Kathleen Freeman

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EDITORIAL

Whilst I am looking forward as much as anybody to the relaxation of regulations pertaining to Coronavirus, I can't help but be concerned about the media using the term 'freedom day', especially as the declared number of new infections has increased significantly over the last couple of weeks. Whilst it is true that hospitals have seen fewer Covid patients, and deaths have declined hugely, Covid remains a nasty illness. Further, it can lead to 'long Covid', which renders the patient suffering from all sorts of symptoms, mainly fatigue, for weeks, months, and possibly years. The numbers in this category are thought to be greatly underestimated. My point is that 'freedom day' is NOT a return to normal. Taking sensible precautions will be necessary for a long time to come.

On a brighter note, the village has been an obvious attraction to many visitors, particularly during the sunny weather. This is good for businesses. And village activities are starting to show some green shoots, with Open Gardens, Duck Races, the Village Show, and Craft Fair.

Finally, I hope to be able to publish 'Who's Who and Organisations' with the September edition. If you are associated with a village organisation – community shop, church, village hall, etc. please check the details for changes. If you don't have a copy of the last one, please email, chrisbivand@gmail.com and I'll send you an email copy. All corrections should be sent to Patricia Gill, parishads@btinternet.com. This is a time-consuming task, so please don't leave it to the last moment. Now would be best, before it slips your mind.

I hope that you enjoy a good summer - we all deserve it after the last 18 months!

Chris Bivand

EARDISLAND PARISH DIARY 2021

Thursday 24 th July	Share a Care
Thursday 12 th August	Parish Council Meeting (if required)
Sunday 29 th August	Duck Races, p.8
Friday 3rd September	Magazine Copy Date
Saturday 4 th September	Eardisland Village Show, p.11
Thursday 9 th September	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 27 th September	Tree Council Talk,
Thursday 14 th October	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 16 th October	Eardisland Craft Fair, p.22
Thursday 11 th November	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 19th November	Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 9 th December	Parish Council Meeting (if required)

PHOTOS FOR THE MAGAZINE

In the last edition of the magazine, I asked for colour photos that could be used for the front and back covers. The response was underwhelming, to say the least. Nothing. None at all.

Luckily, Kathleen Freeman stepped into the breach and gave me some photos to use if I wished. Kathleen is not wishing to hog the limelight, so I am repeating the offer for you to gain fame and no fortune. At the last minute, I spotted the wonderful photo on the back page and Richard Davies gave permission to publish it, for which, thanks.

The theme for September's edition is 'Eardisland Duck Races', details of which are on page 8.

Pictures should be:

- Digital, .jpg format
- Preferably portrait for the front cover
- Landscape, if two on a page
- Include any written details such as names of people or location.

Please email photos to me: chrisbivand@gmail.com . If you can't email, please let me know if you have photos for publication. Phone 01544 388375. As Editor I will decide on the photo(s) to be used.

Chris Bivand

PARISH COUNCIL (PC) UPDATE:

1. The parish council now meets in person but for the next few months, if you wish to attend a meeting, please contact the Parish Clerk on parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk or ☎ 07789 322771, as we continue to work for everyone's safety and wellbeing during the ongoing Covid situation by maintaining Covid safe numbers at meetings, as defined by the hall Management Committee.
2. The report from the Environment Agency (EA) has been received and the PC has also finally had an answer from the EA that they will not fund any immediate work on silt removal. The PC will hold a public meeting as soon as possible to inform the community of the details of the EA's report and decision. ***Please look out for details of the meeting on the website, notice board and social media.***
3. The PC is very grateful for the donations it has already received for the work on the village hall. Approval has now been given for the PC to take out the required Public Works Loan, so exchange of contract is imminent. Following the lead-in time, it is hoped that the work will start mid-August. ***If you are able to make a donation to help cover the remaining shortfall in funding, please contact the Parish Clerk as soon as possible (07789 322771 or parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk). All donors will be named, both on a plaque in the hall and in the magazine (or you can remain anonymous if you wish).*** Many thanks.
4. The Eardisland Flood Response Plan (EFRP) has been updated and there are now 9 Locality Flood Warden areas. Please go to <https://www.eardisland-pc.gov.uk/eardisland-flooding-response-plan-efrp/> for details.
5. ***Are you new to the parish, just moved in?*** If you have not already received a 'Welcome to Eardisland' pack, please contact the Parish Clerk (parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk or 07789 322771) and we'll be pleased to bring you a Pack.
6. Would you like a tree(s) to plant? The PC would like up to 75 new trees in the parish to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day – please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like a tree or trees. They will not be available until November.
7. The parish council website can be accessed at www.eardisland-pc.gov.uk with the community website continuing to provide all other information at www.eardisland.org.uk. GDPR requires people to give positive consent for

the parish council to hold personal data and to allow you to receive emails. Please contact the Clerk if you wish your name and data to be removed from the list for news alerts.

8. The following planning applications have been considered or noted at the June meeting: **P211339/F**, Twyford, HR6 9JY – Proposed construction of access track way, circular equine deep sand gallop and equine all-weather surface outdoor school/ menage and consequent change of use – Supported with comments. **P211917/F**, Home Farm, HR6 9DN – Proposed agricultural manure store – Supported with comments. **P211725/F**, The Hay Barn, Lynch Court – Erection of stabling of horses – Supported with comments. **P211892/PA7**, Oak Grove, Hardwick, HR6 9HE – Prior approval for proposed agricultural – Supported under Minor Planning Matters Policy. Noted **P210755/FH**, Roselynn, HR6 9AR – Proposed two storey side and rear extensions to existing dwelling – Approved. Noted **P210922/FH**, Church Cottage, HR6 9BP – Proposed addition of fencing to top of existing wall – Approved. Noted **P211392/K**, Earlslea House, HR6 9BD – T1 + T2 Larch - Raise crowns as limbs damaging shed roof. T3 Oak Mistletree - Tree rotten/dying, to be removed. T4 Plum-Tree rotten/dying, to be removed. T5 Hawthorn- Tree to be thinned. T6 + T7 Beech-Trees to be trimmed. T8 Leylandii- Tree dying, to be removed. T9 + T10 Horse Chestnut -Trees to be trimmed and thinned as limbs are damaging house roof. T11 + T12 Leylandii- Trees encroaching on house and blocking light, to be removed. T13 Ash- Tree stump to be removed. T14 Larch- Tree to be removed. T15-T17 Elm & Hemlock- Trees to be trimmed. T18 Ash - Tree to be trimmed. Xs show Apple and Quince Fruit trees to be replanted in field – Works allowed. Noted **P211689/K**, The Brouch, HR6 9DN – Holly tree overgrown in roadside hedge likely to hinder/damage lorries in near future. Needs lowering to hedge height and has signs of decay – Works allowed. Noted **P210855/FH**, Viner Lodge, HR6 9BP – Proposed summerhouse – Approved. Please see Parish Council minutes for any comments made.
9. The planned parish council meeting dates can be found in the diary of the magazine. Extra meetings will be held if required to meet deadlines for response to planning applications and details can be found on the notice boards and website. Meetings are open to the public and a short time is allocated on the agenda to take questions or comments from parishioners, in line with the council's standing orders.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

from your local County Councillor ROGER PHILLIPS;

rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Local Post Covid Recovery

As we edge towards the easing of restrictions, using government funding the council is proposing a package of support to help local business and communities recover post covid. The six-million-pound package includes some local business support grants; promotion and support of Herefordshire tourism, hospitality and retail, encouraging people to return to more normal activity. There will be some support for reskilling, particularly for young people not in education, employment and training.

Similarly supporting community wellbeing is vital as we go forward. We must all build confidence to carefully and positively meet up and start interactions again during the summer months before we go into winter and the darker nights.

The proposals are very City and market town focused and I am keen to see some of this funding coming to support our local parish-based businesses or community wellbeing, so if anyone has a particular plan or proposal that they think could do with some support please contact me and I will do all I can to get some funding.

One of my other concerns is the poor performance of council's planners so I am lobbying for extra capacity in the department to support businesses requiring planning permission who are post covid developing and creating jobs.

Hereford & Worcester Fire Service Annual report

Hereford & Worcester Fire services covers the two counties with a joint population of 788,000 people (192,000 in Herefordshire), 350,000 residences and 42,000 businesses. They have 41 fire engines in 25 stations, a staff of 253 fulltime firefighters, 370 retained firefighters, 126 support staff and a personnel of 25 stationed in the control room. During 2020/21 despite lockdown, we received 11,000 calls to the control room resulting in attending 7,000 incidents.

In Herefordshire there are 13 stations, with Kingsland being our nearest station, with a retained crew of local people many of whom have served over 30 and 40 years. Only Hereford has full time firefighters dealing with 48% of the county call outs, all the other stations are crewed by volunteers from the community who are fully trained to the highest levels. During 2020/21 in Herefordshire, we had 1,769 incidents - 421 fires, 605 other incidents including road accidents, flooding and animal rescue and over 700 false alarms - the

overwhelming majority were malfunctions of alarms. The target is to get to all incidents within 10 minutes but that can be a challenge in rural areas.

There are plans to build a new Fire Station in Hereford and a training facility at the Leominster Police station. Over the next 18 months a campaign to recruit more retained firefighters to our rural stations particularly in Herefordshire, active people who live within a five-minute distance of the station with a focus on potential female firefighters. I have just completed my four-year term as Chairman of the Authority and it has been a great honour and pleasure to work with such a dedicated service.

Contact details

Conditions in road surfaces always suffer during winter please report any potholes and defects on highways or footpaths by phoning 01432261800 or www.herefordshire.gov.uk website.

Advice on submitting a planning application Adam.Lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk

EARDISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our first W.I. meeting in over a year was on 17th May in Kath Morgan's garden to celebrate her 90th birthday. After singing a rousing Happy Birthday to Kath we all enjoyed a glass of bubbly or apple juice along with some delicious almond cupcakes which Mandy Vernon had made for the occasion. Kath was also presented with a bouquet of flowers and a card on behalf of all members past and present and thanked for her continued support over many years. We were so fortunate with the weather which stayed dry and sunny, as it enabled the event to go ahead in the fresh air with social distancing, and for our members to have a chat and catch-up.

Our second meeting on 14th June was held in Rita's garden, where Mandy Ware gave an informative and interactive session of chair-based exercises, including stretching/balance/core strength and general keep-fit exercises. Everyone took part and we were all surprised how many exercises can be done either sitting down on a chair or standing and holding the back for support. Mandy was then thanked for the session which everyone had enjoyed, the beneficial effects though were slightly diluted by the fact that we all indulged in cakes and tea after the event! Again, we were lucky that the weather was good, and it was so nice to meet and welcome Julie and Liz, two ladies who are new to the village.

With the regulations now being extended into July our next meeting will be in Mandy Vernon's garden, so let's hope that the weather continues to be kind. Anyone interested in joining for a 'taster' session should contact either Helen Kirkham, Secretary - tel. 388860) or Rita Kirby (President – tel. 388810).

Eardisland W. I. Committee.

EARDISLAND VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CHARITY NUMBER 1108366

It rather looks as if the “new normal” is on our doorstep. Events are being planned in the village: the Open Gardens, the Craft Fair and the Village Show have already been publicised.

The Village Show is an EVHMC event organised by our fabulous Village Show sub-committee. This year as part of the “new normal” and the fact that the village hall will (all being well) be undergoing a kitchen rebuild, it will be an outdoor event. We look forward to seeing you all there.

The annual Duck Race was the next item EVHMC had to consider. After much discussion we have decided to go ahead, government regulations permitting. So:

Sunday August 29th
First race 2pm
“Betting” open from 1.30
EARDISLAND MILL STREAM

Naturally, there will be a Tombola so please look out desirable and lovely items to donate. As always bottles are especially welcome! Volunteers equally welcome, we can always use help. The other side to all this activity is that the dratted covid is not going away so we will ask everyone to be patient with us as we do our best to organise events in this difficult time.

As I indicated above, we hope that the village hall will soon have a new kitchen. The funding has been complicated and the logistics a nightmare. This is a Parish Council project as they own the hall but EVHMC has played its part as leaseholders raising a considerable sum in grants and donating a generous amount in cash from our fundraising reserves. Obviously, the hall will be closed whilst building work is going on. As I write the Parish Council is not yet in a position to initiate a start date so we do not know when the work will finish. In the light of this the annual New Year’s Eve Party will not take place this year but keep those dancing shoes polished, next year (all being well) we will let it rock!

Carole Millin

EARDISLAND MEMORIAL WALKS

Over the past few months, the Walks have proved popular with visitors, and assumably, parishioners alike, judging by numbers of brochure guides sold from the shop and caravan park. Happily, across the parish this summer, all of the paths are in good order and compliant with regulations: many thanks to those farmers and landowners responsible.

This is not the case in two neighboring parishes, and the time to address justified complaints from angry users necessitated withdrawing guides for Pte John Charles Morgan (Walk 5), and Pte William Webb (Walk 13), for a few days in early July.

For new readers' information, the 13 memorial gates commemorating our Fallen bear a brass plaque dedicated to each soldier and those of his regiment who died in service of our country in the First World War. Funds in most instances were provided by respective regimental associations or donors with connections to the regiment itself. Additionally, to one side of most gates, the colours of the regiment are painted on a small block of Eardisland oak. Given that over 100 years have passed since the 1918 Armistice, these colours might not seem important to everyone. However, they are important to those who share the regiments' traditions through personal or family service connections, or in cases remember friends either killed in action or losing their lives while serving our country.

Pte George Roberts' memorial gate is on the path opposite Home Farm, up Burton Lane. He lived at what is now called West Wayes, and worked locally as a farm labourer. George signed up almost straight after war was declared, into the Grenadier Guards. Ahead of embarking to France with his battalion, he died of paratyphoid. He was 20 years old. George lies in our churchyard.

The Grenadier Guards' colours attached to the side of George's memorial gate have been removed and can't be found. In place, a large sign is now nailed up, advising dog walkers about country code issues; important, but why here? George Roberts would have been proud of those colours, as would those 4,650 Grenadiers who were lost in that war - and many others since. Like them, for our tomorrows in this peaceful village, George gave us his today.

Please **contact@eardislandmemorialwalks.org.uk** if you become aware of shortcomings during walks, and of course your comments about particularly positive experiences.

Hugh Vernon

EARDISLAND: BY ALBERT SHEFFIELD

Eardisland is a little village by the River Arrow
Timber framed houses, lanes that narrow
Surrounded by farmers tending their crop
Has two pubs and a Community Shop

By the bridge sits the historic Dovecote
Down St.Mary's Walk the ancient Motte
St.Mary's church is open all day
For quiet reflection or to sit and pray

You go through the village it's full of flowers
Planted by the E Team over hours and hours
There is an Art Club, Fitness Classes for your leisure
An Archeology Group who discovered treasure

The Twinning Association, Village Band
Lots of volunteers to lend a hand.
The Village Hall, the meeting hub
And there is a Bowling Club

There is a children's play area on the recreational ground
Where responsible owners can walk their hound
A zip wire for those more daring
A community garden growing veg for sharing

The Parish Council who do their best
To look after the village and our interest.
A Parish Magazine with local news
A forum for parishioners views

The villagers are a mix of old and young
Some born here, others from places far flung.
But whether you're old or new
This village is home to you

The last twelve months have been tough to endure
When you couldn't go far past your own front door
But we count our blessings we don't live in a City
We live in a village that's ever so pretty.



Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee (EVHMC)
Registered Charity 1108366

The (Eardisland Village) Show must go on!

We are delighted that we're able to run our Village Show this year. It may look a little different to previous years - but we're certain that it will be a brilliant day. We are planning on holding the show on the Recreation Ground and we cannot wait to see you all. The schedule follows, and entry forms will be available from July. Please do support this fun village event as we get back to village life as we know it!

The Recreation Ground
Saturday 4th September 2021
2.00 – 4.30 pm

Section A**COOKERY**

- 1 A chocolate cake (see recipe on entry form)
- 2 A jar of homemade jam
- 3 A jar of homemade marmalade
- 4 A jar of homemade chutney
- 5 6 cookies (same type, please specify)
- 6 3 jam tarts (same type- please specify)
- 7 A loaf of bread (any type - please specify) men
- 8 A loaf of bread (any type - please specify) women

Section B**DRINKS**

- 9 A flavoured gin
- 10 A flavoured spirit
- 11 A non-alcoholic drink

Section C**FLORAL ART**

No artificial fruit or flowers.

- 12 A harvest swag
- 13 Time for Tea
- 14 5 flower heads floating in water

Section D**CRAFT**

- 15 A bird (any size, any material e.g. wood, pottery, fabric, paper)
- 16 A placemat (any material)
- 17 Time for Tea (1 piece of craft, any medium)

Section E**HORTICULTURE- Division 1**

- 18 A single yellow rose (Megan Lloyd Trophy)
- 19 Roses (3 stems, any variety)
- 20 Garden flowers (3 stems, any variety)
- 21 Sweet peas (5 stems, any colour)
- 22 Free choice (a single flower head)

HORTICULTURE- Division 2

- 23 3 cooking apples (Leslie Evans prize)
- 24 3 tomatoes
- 25 A display of garden fruits (any size)
- 26 A display of garden produce (any size)
- 27 A hand-tied bunch of fresh herbs (may be displayed in a jug)
- 28 Free choice (1 item of produce)

Section F

PHOTOGRAPHY

- 29 An Eardisland building
- 30 A black and white photograph
- 31 Time for Tea

Section G

ART

Pictures may be mounted but not glazed. Stretched canvases are acceptable.

- 32 A painted pebble
- 33 A rural scene
- 34 Time for Tea (1 piece of art, any medium)

Section H JUST FOR A LAUGH... *(entries free and open to all ages)*

- 35 How many different items can you fit in a small matchbox? (please attach list of items)
- 36 Limerick beginning, "In Eardisland it was time for tea..."
- 37 A vegetable animal

Section I

CHILDREN

Young people of 16 and over are encouraged to enter the adult categories. Please put your age on the Entry Form so that it may be taken into consideration by the judges.

Children under 5

- 38 Decorate a wooden spoon
- 39 A painted pebble
- 40 A decorated biscuit

Children 5-10

- 41 A greetings card
- 42 A painted pebble
- 43 3 jam tarts

Children 11-15

- 44 A greetings card
- 45 A black and white photograph
- 46 A Victoria sponge

Entry form on next page

JOTTINGS FROM THE BURTON COURT KITCHENS by Helen J. Simpson

- ❖ The average lemon yields about 3 tablespoons (45ml) juice. If you warm a lemon in the microwave for 30 seconds before squeezing out the juice, it will yield you a little extra.
- ❖ When cooking vegetables in the microwave do not add salt - it causes them to dry out in patches on the surface.
- ❖ Jam sauce can be served as a compliment with many oriental dishes - simply by turning half a pot of your favourite jam into a small saucepan and adding 4 tablespoons (60ml) dry sherry, and 4 tablespoons of fresh orange juice. Heat, stirring, until the jam melts, and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat and serve.

This sauce may be sieved, and is good as a dessert sauce or served with waffles, pancakes, plain ice cream, steamed sponge pudding and profiteroles.



A Member of the Guild of Food Writers, Helen is a published author of seven cookery books and a food article writer for the Hereford Times. She also writes on Herefordshire subjects of historic interest.

EARDISLAND VILLAGE SHOW ENTRY FORM 2021
Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee (EVHMC) Registered
Charity 1108366

Please circle the numbers of classes you wish to enter. Entry costs 40p for the adults' section, children are free in the children section.
 Complete and return this entry form with the fees in a sealed envelope marked 'show' to either my house or the Community Shop by Friday 27th August.

Jo South, Tividale, Church Rd

☎ 01544 387 698

DRINKS	B9	B10	B11						
FLORAL ART	C12	C13	C14						
CRAFT	D15	D16	D17						
HORTICULTURE	E18	E19	E20	E21	E22				
	E23	E24	E25	E26	E27	E28			
PHOTOGRAPHY	F29	F30	F31						
ART	G32	G33	G34						
JUST FOR A LAUGH (free to enter)	H35	H36	H37						
CHILDREN	I38	I39	I40	I41	I42	I43	I44	I45	I46

Full name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Exhibits must be your own work. Judge's decisions are final.

Entries should be taken to the Recreation Ground on Saturday 4th September between 9 am and 10.30 am. Judging will take place during the morning and the marquee will be open to the public from 2pm. Prize giving and raffle draw will take place at 4pm. Prize money will be paid out after the announcements. Any prize money not collected by 5pm will be returned to Show Funds. All exhibits must be collected by 5pm.

Recipe for Chocolate Cake (A1)

Ingredients:

For the cake:

- 200g golden caster sugar
- 200g unsalted butter, softened plus extra for the tins
- 4 large eggs
- 200g self-raising flour
- 2 tbsp cocoa powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp milk

For the buttercream:

- 100g milk chocolate, chopped
- 200g butter, softened
- 400g icing sugar
- 5 tbsp cocoa powder
- 2 tbsp milk

For the chocolate shards (optional):

- 50g dark chocolate
- 25g milk chocolate
- 25g white chocolate

Method:

1. Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Butter the base and sides of two 20cm round sandwich tins and line the bases with baking parchment or a liner.
2. In a large bowl, beat together 200g golden caster sugar, 200g softened unsalted butter, 4 large eggs, 200g self-raising flour, 2 tbsp cocoa powder, 1 tsp baking powder, ½ tsp vanilla extract, 2 tbsp milk and a pinch of salt. Continue to beat until pale.
3. Divide the mixture evenly between the prepared tins. Bake for 20 mins or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean.
4. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 mins, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
5. For the buttercream, put 100g chopped milk chocolate in a heatproof bowl and melt in the microwave, stirring every 30 secs. Leave the melted chocolate to cool for 5 mins.
6. Mash 200g softened butter and 400g icing sugar together with a fork, then switch to a wooden spoon or electric mixer
7. Sift in 5 tbsp cocoa powder with a pinch of salt and pour in the melted chocolate and 2 tbsp milk. Mix again until smooth.
8. On a cake stand or large plate, sandwich the cakes together with half of the buttercream, then spread the rest on top. Decorate with chocolate shards, if you like.
9. To make chocolate shards: melt 50g dark chocolate and pour it onto a tray lined with baking parchment or foil.
10. Now melt 25g milk chocolate and 25g white chocolate and drizzle them over the dark chocolate before it sets.
11. Tap the tray gently to level the mixture then leave to set somewhere cool. Break into shards and use to decorate the cake.

CHURCH MATTERS

Priest-in-Charge:	Rev. Julie Read, The Rectory, Kingsland. 07826 194400, rev.julie@hotmail.com 01568 708255
Churchwarden:	Liz Lever, 1 Arrow Barns, Eardisland 01544 388157 leverfamily360@hotmail.com
Churchwarden and Lay Co-Chair:	Richard Kirby 01544 388810
Treasurer:	Mike Coleburn 01544 388486
Deputy Churchwarden and Organist:	Annette Blyth 01544 388241
PCC Secretary:	Avis Denny 01568 780874

Services at St Mary the Virgin, Eardisland and services at Kingsland and Aymestrey

SUNDAYS	Time and type	Which church?
11 th July	9.30 am Morning Prayer	Eardisland
18 th July	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
25 th July	9:30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
SUMMER SAFARI		
1 st August	10:30am Holy Communion	Kingsland Coronation Hall with parking
8 th August	10:30am Leinthall Lammas	Leinthall Earles
15 th August	10:30am Taize Communion and Patronal Festival of St Mary the Virgin	Eardisland
22 nd August	10:30am Holy Communion	Aymestrey
29 th August	10:30 am Holy Communion	Kingsland Coronation Hall with parking
5 th September	9:30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
12 th September	9:30am Holy Communion	Eardisland

Holiday Club- there will be a holiday club on the last few days of August in Kingsland Coronation Hall, leading to Messy Church on 1st September

FROM JULIE READ

I hope that you have been able to get out and about and begin to enjoy each other's company again without fear. There are events beginning to happen and coming up will be the Open Gardens over the weekend of July 10th and 11th and the following week on the Saturday (17th) there will be a concert in Eardisland Church (the church will be at half capacity) given by two of my sons, one wife and a friend. An evening of music starting at 7.30pm. If you would like to come it will cost you £10 and you will need to sign in with myself on rev.julie@hotmail.com to reserve a place. There will be some folk music and some classical and it will all be in aid of benefice funds (to pay for the admin help we need). I haven't made posters because things keep on changing and I'm not hedging my bets, but I hope that it might go ahead.

You will see in church a couple of new display boards which come on the back of the bell tower project and are with thanks to the National Heritage Lottery Fund who sponsored that project and with thanks to Hannah Vernon and Richard Kirby who master minded the boards. These complement the board for the fallen of Eardisland at the back of the church and are a welcome addition at the back of the church.

You might have heard Peter Greenfield our intern for the last year having some lessons on Eardisland bells. He rang for the first-time last Sunday and will be ringing again in July before he leaves us at the end of the month. We have enjoyed having Peter with us in church and for all that he has brought to us – much of this has been online because of the pandemic and he is sad that he hasn't been able to be involved in community things over the last year.

Our curate Rev Katie Smith will have been priested in the cathedral on Saturday July 3rd. She has completed her first year ordained and after the service will now be authorised to preside at the communion table and conduct weddings and bless in God's name. The bishop has had to self-isolate being asked to do so by track and trace and so another bishop has been asked to conduct the priesting service. We wish Katie all the best for her future ministry and hope that it will not be under such strange times as last year when most of us were locked up inside.

You may have heard steel pan music coming out of the church on Friday afternoons. Do come and see and perhaps you might like to take part. From 4pm children aged 7 or above, and from 6pm adults who would like to have a go. The steel pans will be in church until near Christmas when they will return to their home in Kingsland. Kingsland Church is at the moment closed whilst restoration

work is going on and are grateful to Eardisland and Aymestrey for their help during this time.

We continue to offer prayers in the church each week in thanksgivings for the many blessings of this life – for our families and friends, for the beauty of the land and the kindness of our community, and we pray for the continuing situation in our country and across the world of pandemic and places where there is no peace, and the church is open for you to find some space to think and to pray. Do make use of it.

With every blessing,

Julie





Are you looking for a safe way to continue your newfound enthusiasm for walking?

MORTIMER RAMBLERS

Invite you to walk with our friendly group.

On Saturdays we take packed lunches and walk between 7 and 9 miles.

Midweek walks are usually shorter, 5 miles or less and often end at a café or pub for optional refreshments

Walks range over the whole of North Herefordshire and beyond.

Non-members are welcome to try up to three walks before joining.

All walks comply with Covid safety guidance. We are fully supported by the national Ramblers organisation.

Contact Jen Atkins on 01568 620138 or jenatkins@btinternet.com for more details.

Eardisland contact: Sue Richards – 07941 022115

Further information from www.herefordshireramblers.org.uk or www.ramblers.org.uk/mortimer or Mortimer Ramblers' Facebook page.

HEREFORDSHIRE MAGISTRACY
PRESS RELEASE JULY 2021
BECOME A MAGISTRATE IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Staffordshire and West Mercia Advisory Committee is seeking applications from those interested in becoming a magistrate on the Herefordshire Bench where new magistrates are needed in the Adult Criminal Court.

These are voluntary positions; you do not need legal training or formal qualifications to become a magistrate and we are looking for applications from across the county and from all sections of the community.

Magistrates are not paid (although some allowances can be claimed), and those who are successful in being appointed must be able to attend training and sit in court for at least 13 days a year – this is a minimum requirement.

Anyone between the ages of 18 and 65 may apply. Applications are particularly welcome from members of Black and Minority Ethnic communities, people under the age of 50, people in paid employment, and people with a disability who are able, either unassisted or with the benefit of reasonable adjustments, to carry out the full range of a magistrate's duties.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment and want to find out more about the work of a magistrate and how to apply, see:

www.gov.uk/become-magistrate or email swmjco@justice.gov.uk

Applications for the Adult criminal court open on 1st August 2021 and close on September 10th with interviews being held later in the year. Prior to submitting an application at least one observation visit must be made to a magistrate's court where magistrates [rather than a District Judge] are sitting; each visit should be for a minimum of half a day.

Magistrates will tell you what a worthwhile and rewarding position this is – as well as doing something vital within the community, friendships are formed, and magistrates enjoy each other's company.

EARDISLAND IN BLOOM

I'll start these notes with an amusing story. One of our group recently observed three members of a motor club, all standing in the village car park, puzzling over a piece of paper, pacing up to the bridge, then to the pubs, before returning to their starting point and yelling with excitement. It turned out the Eardisland in Bloom boat was the answer to one of the questions set by their motoring organisation. With the boat having been cleared from its original site, it was fortunate for them the stern could just be seen tucked away in a corner. Hence why this part of the boat is now more visible with the remainder off site.

Work on this site has been slow going, there are just too few of us to keep up with all the work which needs doing elsewhere. We will get there eventually but could do with more help.

Since my last notes we've sadly had to say our goodbyes to another much-valued member, Ronnie Stead, who together with his wife Susan, have left the village to tour the southeast coastline in their motor home in search of a new property. Ronnie was a real hands-on person, our foreman, who would lead on major projects, such as the block paving outside the dovecote and laying bases for the planters and benches. Everything he did he did with a smile. He was a big friend to all of us on the E Team and will be greatly missed. We wish Susan and Ronnie every success in their new venture and thank them for their contribution to village life during their all too brief stay in Eardisland.

Hopefully by the time you read these notes all the village planting will have been completed, now we face the task of keeping everything watered.

I will end with my usual appeal for additional help. We meet every Thursday morning around 10am, usually outside the dovecote. No experience in gardening is required, indeed very few of us have that skill, but you must enjoy a hot drink around 11am.

Phil Milchard

EARDISLAND CRAFT FAIR

It is looking more likely this year's craft fair will be able to proceed on Saturday 16th October, with the government insisting we will come out of lockdown in the middle of July.

Unfortunately, the village hall will be undergoing its transformation so will be out of use to us, so no hot drinks this year. The show will centre around the church and grounds, with parking, subject to permission, on the recreation ground. All stalls have long since been booked, with 25 in the church, a further 11 in the marquee and, so far, a further 5 in gazebos. I'm pleased to report the popular Cart Shed volunteers will once more be present, promoting their charity and showing off their wood skills. We hope to have a BBQ and Wendy Cross will be selling her delicious produce from a tent.

We urgently need volunteers to help run the event, so if you can help with any of the following tasks, please let me know:

- Erecting a marquee, probably on the 14th October, a.m. We need at least 8 persons.
- Helping stallholders unload their vehicles from 2pm on Friday 15th October.
- Assisting with car parking on the day.

- Ticket sales on the day (One and a half hour shifts) from the church porch.
- Raffle ticket sellers.
- Assisting with unloading from 8a.m. on the day and then loading vehicles at the end of the event.


I'm particularly looking for a coordinator to welcome stallholders and direct them to their tables, answer relevant questions they may have and ensure the event runs smoothly. You will be working closely with both Richard Kirby and myself.

Finally, a team to dismantle the marquee in the afternoon of Monday 18th October.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Phil Milchard

eardislandcfair@btinternet.com

 01544 388097

EARDISLAND BOWLING CLUB 2021

Members are very much enjoying their bowling this year and Tuesday evening Club nights are well attended. The Men's league team have enjoyed some success in their matches and at present are in the top half of the 1st division. Club competition rounds are being played and some Inter Club matches are taking place with Covid rules being followed. So far, a successful season after a long wait!

Membership is open to both beginners and experienced players.
Eardisland Bowling Club: flat green bowling with 4 rinks, a club house

and approximately 35 members plus social members and is situated adjacent to the recreation ground. Parking is available outside the village hall and the entrance to the club is a short walk up the lane just past the village hall.

Bowling is a lovely game for all ages, male and female, so if you are interested in joining us please email fitcats@btinternet.com or pop in and see us.

Barbara Kay (Secretary)

 01544 388697

In November 2020 I read an article in the national press regarding the recent discovery of a new variety of apple by someone living in Wiltshire. Mr Jim Arbury of RHS Garden Wisley was mentioned as having inspected and identified the apple as a rarity. This reminded me of the events in January 1998 when there was discussion and debate among experts locally and nationally as to whether two examples of an apple type growing in gardens in Eardisland were rare Costards. If so, we may once have had costermongers, the sellers of Costard apples, in Eardisland.

In 1993, I was involved with the Oral History Group whose members were undertaking research about the social history of the parish through interviews with local people. In the course of this I was given a copy of the book produced by the WI in 1956 to read. This was a parish history by WI members at that time. In this excellent publication it was stated that *"An apple tree growing in the river garden at Staick House is the only known specimen in the country of the Costard Apple..."*. The passage continued *"...Grafts of the apple have been sent to the National Trials Station at Wisley"*. On reading this, I wondered if these grafts had resulted in positive results since I had subsequently come across reference to the 'Herefordshire Costard Wisley'. Naturally, I wondered if the tree was still in existence in Eardisland and if there were others of this type in the parish. It has proved a complex and interesting quest and many questions are still not resolved.

The source of the story

My investigations developed further in 1998 when I was the local correspondent for village news published each week in the Hereford Times. In one week in January of that year, I briefly reported to the paper the story mentioned in the 1956 WI book of the mysterious Costard and raised the possibility of the tree still existing in the garden of the Staick House. With permission of Mr Francis Greenhough, who lived in the property, I was able to inspect the tree which he indicated might be the Costard from which grafts may have been taken in 1956. Soon after sending the report, to my surprise, I was contacted by the Hereford Times who wanted more information about the apple and a photograph of the tree. They sent a reporter who took details of the limited information I had, based on the story in the WI book.

The HT duly published an account by their reporter the following week. In this it was said, *"The horticultural world is buzzing with the news of the discovery of a costard apple. Cuttings have been requested by Wisley.."* None of this was

accurate. However, as a result the story was then taken up by several national newspapers and worse was to come. The national press further distorted the details to suit their news values. The Times, which inaccurately described me as *"an apple detective"* added further invention by saying, without contacting me, that I had *"found a description in a 100 year old book and then located the tree"*. The Express, with equal invented inaccuracy said, in their report, that I had *"obtained the information about the Costard whilst talking to elderly villagers and discovered the tree in a wild copse"*. The Mail and the Express, both of which considered the item to be newsworthy based on their re-writing of the simple facts also misreported and overstated the basic details of the story. They, too, suggested that I was claiming to have made 'the discovery' of the rare Costard apple *"whilst conducting a parish wide search"*. This could not have been further from the truth since I am unable to tell one variety of apple from another and so would have had no idea what I was looking for.

The Marcher Apple Network

Following all this publicity in local and national papers, I was contacted by Sheila Leitch of the Marcher Apple Network (MAN) for more details. MAN is a charity which strives to protect and record varieties, having their own heritage orchards. They have many experts among their membership. She was most helpful in explaining the complicated issues surrounding the Costard but was somewhat concerned about the range of strange stories she had read in the press. I explained how they had totally misrepresented the events. In discussions with her I explained that I was certainly not claiming that I had 'discovered a Costard' as the local and national press suggested. I was merely noting that there was an apple tree in the village which may have been a Costard since it was so described as having been seen in the garden of the Staick house, and duly mentioned in the 1956 WI book. Naturally, having no knowledge of apple varieties I suggested that Sheila or her colleagues might deal with the issues arising as to how the matter could be resolved. I believe that a suggestion was duly made that MAN would send examples of the apples and cuttings from the tree to Mr Arbury with a view to arranging a graft to see in due course if a recognisable Costard apple was produced.

As a result of the information in November 2020 that a new unknown apple had been discovered in Wiltshire and examined by Mr Arbury, (whose name had been mentioned in 1998) I contacted MAN once again in January 2021. I asked if they had any records of the outcome of the possibility that a graft was undertaken at Wisley in about 1999 (or that one had been taken in 1956) from a tree in the Staick House garden. The representative contacted said that she had checked all the apple trees that they have in their database (about 3000) to find those that MAN and members have grafted and grown which have the name 'Costard' in their original accession name and were sourced from Eardisland. She

said, *"To my surprise two appeared, 'Arrow Costard' and 'Holy Costard', both in the name of Greenough. She explained that the former also went under the name of 'Scotch Bridget', and the latter 'Golden Spire'. She said that both are lovely apples and hoped that they are still being enjoyed.*

Some key issues

The question remains as to whether either (or both) could be a Costard from which grafts were taken. I was able to provide some photographs for her inspection.



She said, *"They look a little more like Golden Spire, except that it seems from photos to be rather round, whereas Golden Spire is taller than it is broad. Golden Spire also has little of no flush or stripes. Scotch Bridget usually has quite a lot of stripes and is slightly less tall than broad. Another difference is that Golden Spire is at its best late September or early October and doesn't last into November. Scotch Bridget by contrast is at its best November or even into early December. So more likely to be Golden Spire. If you have fruit samples next autumn, I'd be happy to give an opinion".* She said, *"You can see pictures of both apples (and many more) on the website fruitID.com just enter the cultivar name and you'll have a wealth of information".* In response, I mentioned that there may be another tree in Downways, Lower Hardwick, where the then owner, Mrs Margaret White, once told me she thought she had a Costard growing in her garden. The contact from MAN indicated that this, in fact, had been duly recorded. It is believed that the tree has subsequently died, but that successful grafts were taken. So, whilst this tree may have gone, it may be that one still exists in the Staick House garden. But this is still a matter open to investigation and requiring further analysis of the apple trees there, by experts. However,

some further research has revealed how there is a long history of confusion regarding the identification of the fruit.

Historical details

It is believed by such fruit experts that the apple known as the Costard is the second known variety (after the Permain) to have been introduced by the Normans and was commonly grown as a commercial crop in the 13th century. The search for a Costard apple in modern times remains a quest for skilled botanists. The problem, it seems, is having a sufficiently good description. Apple trees can survive for more than 300 years so it seems likely that a Costard will survive through grafting, over time if its history can be accurately identified.

There is debate as to the origin of the name; it is considered to have derived from the Latin word 'Costa', meaning a rib or a flank. A later reference, 1292, mentions, 'Poma Costard' in the fruiterers' bills of Edward 1st. Rogers, in *The History of Agriculture and Prices* (1886) discovered that *"In the year 1345 some fruit is called costard in Leatherhead, is sold at an exceptionally high rate."* John Ray (1686) said, *'That which is called 'the Costard Apple' was once held in such high esteem, that an apple seller, was known as a 'Costermonger.'* Teresa McLean, in *'Medieval English Gardens'*, 1980, said the Costard was the most popular medieval apple, which made good cider and good eating. The Reverend William Hanbury living in Leicestershire in 1770, described the Costard as a *'Large, irregular apple, finely striped with red, especially on the sunny side. The flesh is tender and juicy, but not very agreeable to the palate. This Apple is in universal request for baking and affords the best sauce yet known for a goose, roast pork, and savoury meats.'*

The problems of identification

The MAN contact has indicated that the Costard is a type of apple, like Pippins and Permain, rather than a single variety. The author, Meager, in the *'The Compleat English Gardener'* (1670) listed three types of Costard, 'the White, the Grey and the Red'. The Costard still appeared to exist and be known into the 19th century, but then more recent experts believe that confusions subsequently occurred in describing a Costard making identification difficult. George Lindley, in *'A Guide to The Orchard and Fruit Garden'* in 1831, an influential authority and writer of the time, caused further confusion when he said in publications that the Catshead apple was the same as the Costard described by John Ray (in 1688).

In 1872, a nurseryman in Somerset, John Scott, described the Costard as being *'large, of top quality, for the kitchen and lasting till April. Long and somewhat square, or 5-angled or ribbed, from which it has evidently deserved its Latinised name, i.e., Costa, a rib'*. He said, *'It is one of our oldest English Apples and is one of our best kitchen fruit. The tree is very hardy and a great bearer; it is of low spreading growth and produces its fruit abundantly as far north as Breadalbane*

in Scotland, where I have seen it bear heavy crops; it there bears the name of Catshead, as it does in many other places, although wrongly.' He described the Catshead, in detail noting the confusion that existed between Costard and Catshead. He added that, *'The first is always oblong and five-sided, but the second always of an irregular roundish form..'* The two fruits were then often confused by writers. The 1884 *'Fruit Manual'*, under Costard, starts describing the features of the Catshead apple, saying the Costard is *'no doubt synonymous with the Catshead hence the assumption that they are the same variety.'* The author suggests that there are two other varieties of Costard which *'are undoubtedly distinct'* namely the Herefordshire Costard and the Gloucestershire Costard. Of the Herefordshire Costard he says.... *'Fruit large, three inches and a half wide at the base, and four inches high; conical, larger on one side of the axis than the other; towards the apex there is a waist, from which it narrows abruptly to the eye, where it is much ridged; it has prominent ribs and an undulating outline. Skin, fine deep yellow on the shaded side, and bright red on the side exposed to the sun, where it is streaked with red and orange. Eye, small, set in a deep narrow basin, with erect convergent segments, half open. Stamens, median; tube, long, funnel-shaped. Stalk, about half an inch long, stout, inserted in a very deep and prominently ribbed cavity... Flesh, white, very tender, with a mild sub-acid flavour. A very handsome apple, much esteemed for roasting, and especially for baking; in use from November till January.'*

Conclusions

The problem that has been identified by the experts in the field is that these descriptions were allocated to different names in the Herefordshire Pomona. This was a 19th-century catalogue of the apples and pears that were grown in Herefordshire. It was one of the first attempts to fully catalogue the existing varieties of English fruit and has been called *'a classic of late Victorian natural history.'* This caused further confusion in identification. Although one commentator, Taylor, in *'The Apples of England'* (1946) said that even by the end of the 17th century the Costard was fast disappearing.

However, in more recent times a number of apples have been designated as 'Costard'. These include The Downway Costard which was examined and identified by MAN experts in 1990s. A representative from Marcher Apple Network said in correspondence recently: *"Yes, we have two trees growing from graft wood obtained from Mrs White of Downways, Hardwick. They were planted in December 1995...It puzzled us a lot for a while, we thought of Prince Alfred and settled on Captain Tom for several years. Then with the utility of DNA fingerprinting it was shown to match Castle Major in the NFC. It is possible that Castle Major about mid-20th century was brought from Kent and at sometime renamed and sold locally as Captain Tom. Not an unusual story"*. The respondent stated, *"Now this tree has been confirmed to be the cultivar Castle Major which*

was, and still is, marketed as Captain Tom by F.P. Matthews of Tenbury Wells". To see if they could further assist, I have duly contacted the company to see if they hold any history of the apple from a graft from the Downways tree. A representative helpfully responded to questions posed about the apple, Captain Tom. He explained that they were recently informed by MAN that their Captain Tom is indeed Castle Major, which will be included in updated website and description information. He concluded, "I am aware that the Costard's history and true identity amongst apple gurus is still somewhat confused and unclear and perhaps it is a generic name for apples of a certain type of which Castle Major could be one? I wish you luck with your endeavours!"

It seems that experts believe that apple trees can live for possibly hundreds of years and that, in the past, owners would have grafted new trees to replace their old or dying ones. Such grafts may have been exchanged and it may be that true Costard trees are probably still growing as old anonymous trees. But the problem remains that some are incorrectly named and misidentified. It is an issue with which MAN experts are concerned in their excellent work and I hope some conclusions will be drawn in due course with regard to possible examples from Eardisland and the resulting emergence of new village costermongers.

Anyone who thinks they may have a rare apple tree in their garden should contact MAN (based in Glasbury) and a representative will no doubt be pleased to come to inspect later in the autumn. I am most grateful for the help, advice, and information which I have received from various sources in my very amateur quest to know more about the ancient apple, the Costard, with reference to those thought to be growing in our parish. It is to be hoped that the new owners of the Staick House and Downways will be pleased to know of the very rare apple that seems to be growing in their gardens. There is one thing that is clear, which is that anyone planting fruit trees should keep an accurate record with relevant details and in some cases a map showing where and when each was planted for the benefit of future generations and to assist those on an apple identification quest.

Paul Selfe

EARDISLAND WEATHER REPORT

The weather for May in Eardisland carried record amounts of rain, 139mm (5.47 inches) with river levels rising from 13 to 23 inches. Barometer pressures ranged from 29.1 to 29.94 and temperatures from 9°C to 23°C were recorded with strong winds around the 20th of the month.

The weather improved in June with only 31 mm (1.22 inches) of rain and temperatures from 16°C to 31°C. recorded. Barometer pressures ranged from 29.4 to 29.98 and the river dropped from 13 to 11 inches.

The equivalent rainfalls for May 2020 were 15mm (0.591 inches) and June 107 mm (4.21 inches).

Nature-wise birds that have been busy nesting have been moorhens, pheasants, thrushes, blackbirds, dunnocks, great tits, blue tits and robins. It's all very exciting to see the fledglings.

Doug Tantrum reporting from Kingfisher House

FOLLOW THE SCIENCE

I don't know how many times over the last eighteen months or so I have heard the phrase, uttered mainly by politicians of various stripes, 'we are following the science', or some such. In truth, it is a fairly meaningless phrase, used mainly to shift political blame to others, a political shield, if you will. It also reveals a fundamental misunderstanding about the nature of science.

Science is not a book you pull out when something new and unexpected happens, it is not a set of settled ideas. However, there are fundamental principles that can be agreed: gravity, the earth and other planets moving around the sun, Einstein's equation, $E = mc^2$, and so on.

So, how does science develop? Essentially, scientists start with an idea to explain a phenomenon, collect data (real or theoretical) and form a hypothesis. This is published and reviewed by others in the same field, essentially a critical process, peer review. If the evidence supports the hypothesis it becomes a scientific theory. There is a whole field of academic work on the philosophy of scientific change and how it happens. This is not for now.

In the case of Covid, medical observers noted the emergence of a respiratory virus in China in late 2019. It appeared to be associated with previous outbreaks of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), but it was not identical.

Thus, there was a search for evidence and analysis. Luckily for all of us, modern techniques provided a genomic analysis. The question then was: can an effective vaccine be developed? Various groups of scientists went off in different research routes – there was no agreed 'science'. Through all of this we now have different vaccines, all tackling the same problem. This shows that there is no such thing as 'the science', there are only competing approaches and interpretations of data. Eventually, it is possible that all the research and collection of empirical data will converge to for a common theory on a universal vaccination for SARS-Covid-2, and its inevitable variants.

However, medical scientists are all too aware that a key feature of viruses is that they mutate – this one has many, many times. What's important is to track variations that affect humans and our response to the current vaccines.

Fortunately, we live in an era where scientists have the technology to invent vaccines relatively quickly. What is required is government support, in considerable financial measure, to support our science base for the future.

Chris Bivand

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Printed by Signature Signs and Print
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Views expressed are those of individual contributors and not necessarily those of Eardisland Parish Council. The Eardisland Parish Magazine is published by Eardisland Parish Council without inserts. The Eardisland Parish Magazine is posted online in pdf format on the village website: www.eardisland.org.uk. Eardisland Parish Council has appointed Cllr. ELAINE HARPER as the member responsible for the Magazine. Elaine may be contacted on ☎ 01544 388274.

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Copy date for the next edition of the Eardisland Parish Magazine:

FRIDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2021



This lovely image was captured by Richard Davies. It appears also on Cllr. Roger Phillips' email newsletter and on Facebook. Many thanks to Richard.