

# THE EARDISLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2021

ISSUE 185



*A rather snowy Eardisland, December 2017*

*Photo: Chris Bivand*

*Happy Christmas and New Year*

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## **EDITORIAL**

I am sad to report the deaths of two local citizens: Gillian Vaughan and Roger Fenna. Our condolences go to family and friends. There are appreciations on pages 9 and 26.

As we approach the end of the year, it is worth reflecting on what an extraordinary year it has been. The unstinting work of scientists and medical health professionals has allowed us to edge slowly closer to a 'normal' life with Covid-19 now endemic, thankfully now with falling death rates and serious illness. Several of citizens in our community have unfortunately suffered from the virus, and we should be grateful that there have been no deaths.

Eardisland has welcomed some new residents and I repeat the Clerk's note that a 'Welcome Pack' is available. If you moved in recently and don't have a pack, please contact the Parish Clerk on ☎ 07789 322771 to get yours.

The major change to the Eardisland Parish Magazine in the last year has been the introduction of colour and better print quality, which seems to have been appreciated in the community.

The Eardisland Parish Magazine represents a joint effort by all those who are involved – organising, writing, advertising, delivering and funding. Without all these combined efforts there would be no magazine. I am very grateful to all those who contribute, in whatever capacity. I know that the magazine is generally appreciated, and that's down to you. Thanks.

Looking forward to 2022, what may we expect? Well, let's hope the Village Hall renovations are finally completed, and that part of community life can resume. We should also hope that progress continues to be made in containing the Covid-19 virus, as, with collective effort, I am sure it will be. And let's hope that our community continues to thrive in a friendly and considerate way. Happy Christmas and New Year.

Chris Bivand

## **EARDISLAND PARISH DIARY 2021/2**

Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Parish Council Meeting
<b>2022</b>	
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Eardisland Twinning Association Special General Meeting, 7.00pm. Venue to be announced, p. 14 - 15
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> August	Parish Council Meeting (if required)
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Parish Council Meeting (if required)

Reminders are sent out two weeks before the copy date of the Eardisland Parish Magazine by email. When I receive the copy I will send a personal email to acknowledge receipt, this is not the same as an automatic receipt.

If you do not receive my personal email within a couple of days, please make contact so that we can resolve the problem. If I am away, I will make arrangements so that you know that your copy is safely with me.

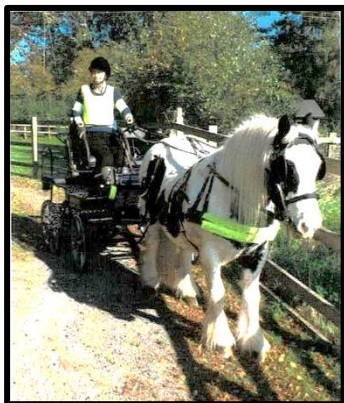
Please do not leave things to the last moment. We all know that problems can occur, and they generally do when you need them least.

If there is an important, unforeseen, event just after the copy date, I will be as helpful as possible to alter the content to accommodate the information. However, post copy date I have to work to very tight deadlines, so the wriggle room is small.

It really is best to aim for at least a week before the published copy date.

Editor

## **GILLIAN VAUGHAN**



Gillian was born at home in Cookham in 1960 and was the eldest of three having two younger brothers, Geoffrey and David.

She was brought up in Cookham, attending the local primary school, passing her 11+, which took her onto Newlands Grammar School, where she studied and passed her O Levels and A Levels.

Accounting was a to be her calling in life, so she studied again, this time for her accountancy exams.

And as a student she did spend two seasons working on the railways in the dining cars, sometimes doing the silver service which was not an easy task on a fast-moving train. She was always very interested in steam trains, which was something that went back to her own father's involvement with the railway.

The first part of Gillian's accountancy career was with various companies based mainly around the Southeast, Maidenhead area.

In the 1990s Gillian decided to relocate to Eardisland, a very familiar place, as the family had a caravan based at Arrow Bank Holiday Park, and various family members were still living nearby.

She bought a house in Eardisland and started her own accounts practice.

Gillian met Dave in the local pub around 27 years ago and together they enjoy boating, having a boat based on the River Avon in Evesham. On top of this, horses were always a big part of Gillian's life and when she could she enjoyed attending the 'Horse of the Year' show.

April was her first horse, followed by Morgan, a calm horse who was excellent with carriage driving. Gillian was never happier then when out with the horses at Hamnish.

Gillian loved her other pets too, Sweep, a Westie who would go out on the boat with her. And Morag the spirited little Cairn Terrier.

Gillian was incredibly kind and thoughtful and was happy to chat to anyone when out and about. She enjoyed lots of chats in the village shop, talking to dog walkers and passers-by.

Gillian was definitely one who could be described as unique. On TV Gillian liked to watch Emmerdale, Coronation Street and Quiz programmes.

She loved history and her grasp of general knowledge was put to good use when she belonged to a local Quiz Team. She enjoyed reading books on horses and in particular, Noel Fitzpatrick, the Vet.

Gillian also supported the Hereford and Worcester dog rescue, other local/community orientated groups, especially helping them to do 'the books' - without charge.

Gillian did travel further afield, visiting Canada, Australia and even the Oberammergau Passion Play in Austria, and she and her partner David enjoyed touring around Scotland and Ireland.

Gillian wanted to thank Becca and Kate for all their invaluable help with the horses. And in particular, Caroline. As Gillian became ill she started referring to Caroline as 'my absolute rock'.

*This is a copy of the Eulogy given by Mark Townsend, with grateful thanks.*

### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

A couple of months ago, I received a letter from Charlie Hanson mentioning a couple of issues, about which he felt strongly. One seemed to me to be a personal matter, which was best resolved by private communication and not for the Magazine. The other is of general interest and touches on an ongoing problem.

The issue concerns use of the countryside and respect for farmland and public rights of way. I wish I could say that this is a minor, one-off problem, but it isn't. It has been mentioned in this magazine on a number of occasions, and, sadly, appears in other similar local magazines up and down the country.

Whilst most people use the countryside with its paths, highways and byways sensibly and with respect. There is a minority that don't. We all know of gates left open, sheep worrying by dogs, dog mess and litter.

It would be comforting to think that this is all due to 'townies' who don't know what they are doing, and to some extent, this may be the case. However, a small number of people from the local area are to blame too.

The NFU publishes a 'country code', which may seem obvious to most country dwellers, but acts as a good reminder for all of us. It might be a good idea if it were to be displayed prominently in strategic places – as a reminder for some, and an education for others.

Herefordshire County Council has an excellent website (just Google Herefordshire County Council and go from there) where you can report potholes, dog mess problems, matters relating to public rights of way and the (quite disgusting) fly tipping.

It doesn't matter how many websites there may be, however, these problems will continue until people, both local and visiting, respect decent behaviour.

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](mailto: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.
2. **Are you prepared for the next flood event?** As we go into winter, please make sure that you have your Personal Checklist to hand, and you know what to do in a flood event. And most importantly please make sure you register with the Environment Agency for flood alerts and warnings – go to <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> or ring 0345 9881188. The Eardisland Flood Response Plan is available on the website <https://www.eardisland-pc.gov.uk/eardisland-flooding-response-plan-efrp/> or contact the Parish Clerk on 07789 322771 for a copy of the Plan.
3. The work on the new kitchen at the village hall continues – but with a major hiccup on the way! The builders found that the ends of the rafters on the main hall roof, where the new kitchen roof joins onto it, were rotten. This led not only to a delay but yet another cost to be met. Currently there is a £6,172 shortfall in the funding required to complete the project. Both the PC and the village hall committee have applied for grants, but we have no guarantee that any of the grants will be awarded. ***Therefore, once again, we are appealing for donations from businesses in the parish and parishioners – your name will be added to the list of donors.*** Please contact the Parish Clerk if you can help the community.
4. **Exciting new group for anyone interested in the environment!** Come and join the Environment and Sustainability Working Group, next meeting to be arranged – please check the website. All welcome – please contact the Parish Clerk if you wish to attend.
5. **New Tree Warden needed!** Are you interested in finding out about trees to be able to advise other parishioners? The PC is a member of the Herefordshire Tree Warden Network which provides free information sessions – please contact the Parish Clerk if you can help.
6. Would you like a tree(s) to plant? Another 16 trees available for the tree-planting project to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the

- Queen's Green Canopy scheme – please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like a tree or trees. They will be available in November.
7. Concern has been expressed about parking on Green Elms. Please park considerably as the narrow road is difficult for traffic to manoeuvre.
  8. ***Are you new to the parish, have you 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](mailto:parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk) or 07789 322771) and we will be pleased to bring you one.
  9. The parish council website can be accessed at [www.eardisland-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eardisland-pc.gov.uk) with the community website continuing to provide all other information at [www.eardisland.org.uk](http://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.
  10. The following planning applications have been considered or noted at the September and October meetings: **P213515/FH and P213516/L, Arrow Lawn Cottage** – Supported with request for conditions. Noted **P213213/AM, Court House** – Proposed non-material amendment to planning permission NW2000/3287/RM (New Dwelling and Garage) Changes to the appearance of the design: removal of a bay windows, Fenestration changes, front porch redesign repositioning of chimney, additional height to allow for flood risk and re-orientation of the house – Refused; substantive material change. Noted **P212332/FH, Earlsaen House** – Construction of a new 3 bay garage – Approved with conditions. Noted **P213575/AM, Roselynn** – Proposed non-material amendment to planning permission 210755 (Proposed two storey side and rear extensions to existing dwelling) - Replace external finish of painted brickwork on upper storey with unfinished larch cladding – Approved with conditions. Noted **P212888/K, Staick House** – Yew tree to left of the front of the property to be removed to allow works to the property. Currently growing against the house and out into the highway. Unable to reduce the crown – Works are allowed. **P213617/F, Folley Farm** – Proposed removal of condition 2 of planning permission DCNW2005/1275/F (Retrospective application for the replacement building which also includes office accommodation) – Supported. **P213978/AM, Kiln & Brick Storehouse Barns Lynch Court** – Proposed non-material amendment to planning application DCNW2003/1432/F (Conversion of barns into one dwelling) - slight

modifications to window and door openings – Commented. Noted **P212455/J**, Bridle Goose – Yew TPO405 reduction by 25% to reduce weight on canopy and continue to carry out a good practice of work for retaining a veteran tree within close proximity to the house. Multiple Beech Crown lift and reduce weight over garden side to allow more light on to garden below. Cypress- reduce by 30% to a natural line that is noticeable when viewed from garden to allow more light into garden – Consent Approved. Noted **P211339/F**, Twyford – Proposed construction of access track way, circular equine deep sand gallop and equine all-weather surface outdoor school/ menage and consequent change of use – Approved with conditions. Noted **P212433/F**, Oak Grove – Proposed steel portal framed agricultural building for general agricultural storage, machinery and sheep housing – Approved with conditions. Noted **P211917/F**, Home Farm – Proposed agricultural manure store – Approved with conditions. Please see Parish Council minutes for any comments made.

11. 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**

### The River Arrow

Following the Parish public meeting on flooding I have had a meeting with the Environment Agency local field officer looking at a potential flood storage site upstream and liaised with the emergency planning team on flood risk in the village. Getting various agencies and organisations to plan and liaise with our local community flood group is essential to support any protection and operational work at a time of crisis. This is only the second such group to be set up in the county and will play a key role with the early warning information from the Titley monitoring station to support residents. River and watercourse maintenance is important – keeping the water carrying channels clear. With our climate changing more high rainfall events seem likely to occur and rightly the community needs reassurance that their vulnerability is on all agencies' priorities.



Residents will be aware of the high levels of phosphates in the water courses of the River Lugg catchment area (which include the River Arrow) and the ban on all new housing development we have had imposed for over the last two and half years. Recently a 5-year project aiming to improve the water quality and wildlife in the 6,000 acre Curl brook catchment in Lyonshall and Pembridge saw a 20% reduction in phosphate levels and it is hoped some elements of good practice can be shared across the whole of the Lugg basin. Ensuring our water courses are free from pollution from Agricultural, Business or Household activity is important. If you see pollution ring Environment Agency 0800807060 and answer their questions – location, smell, dead fish etc. Always ask for an incident number and take pictures.

#### Winter pressures on the highways.

The grit bins have been filled and the grit runs at times of freezing will include the A44 and the main highway through the village. As the freezing actions impact on the highways, please report any potholes to

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e3b2b34e/ttjzBlvlfEewR-](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e3b2b34e/ttjzBlvlfEewR-39NN73dA?u=https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole)

[39NN73dA?u=https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e3b2b34e/ttjzBlvlfEewR-39NN73dA?u=https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole)

Hereford & Worcester Fire service offers free home assessments particularly aimed at those who would be more at risk of fire in the home, such as older people living alone/ families with mobility issues, sensory impairments or additional needs. They can also support people with concerns around hoarding. Check out more details on

<http://www.hwfire.org.uk/safety-and-advice/home-safety/safe-and-well-check/>

As ever if you think I can be of help please do not hesitate to contact me. Stay safe and keep well everybody over the festive period.

Roger

Councillor ROGER PHILLIPS

[rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk)

#### **EARDISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY GROUP**

After being stalled for several years due to COVID, the new E&SG had two meetings in October.

The need for a group like this seems particularly pressing. Awareness and concerns about climate breakdown are ever increasing, along with a growing understanding about the negative impact of our way of life on the environment.

At the first meeting the structure and aims of the group were decided:

- The Group will initially be a Working Group of the Parish Council and consider moving to be a Community Group at some time in the future.
- There is a need to work with parishioners, the Parish Council, and local businesses to protect, enhance and influence working towards improvement in the environment.
- The group's overarching aim is '**To encourage and support the community as a whole to minimise its impact on the environment and nurture all life within the parish boundaries**'.

The parishioners attending the group had a wide range of concerns and reasons for wanting to be involved, so at the second meeting the group discussed and prioritised these ideas based on what was most pressing, achievable, or popular.

The list is a long one, and the group realises that some of these may not happen for some time, or be too difficult to move forwards, so the list will be reviewed periodically.

#### **To do now**

- Support the Community Shop to look at purchasing food in bulk to reduce packaging and food miles.
- Make suggestions for a Parish Council Environmental Policy.
- Encourage the idea of *reduce, reuse and recycle* as a way of lowering carbon use and environmental impact.
- Encourage shopping locally and buying locally produced products.
- Look at how to encourage reducing plastic use.
- Promote making 5% of land wild or insect friendly – for example the wildflower area on the recreation ground.
- Gain an understanding of the coverage of trees and hedgerows in the parish with an aim of supporting increasing this where suitable.
- Promote and share information about grants available for reducing home energy use.
- Encourage the use of green energy and how to switch supplier.
- Encourage parishioners to look at the energy use in their home through offering the use of a thermal imaging camera and highlighting the usefulness of an Energy Performance Certificate survey.
- Become involved in projects to test water quality.
- Look at bulk buying Christmas trees – ask supplier to attend in village to reduce car miles.

### **To do next**

- Ask the Parish Council to look at the suitability of providing Electric Vehicle charging.
- Promote the use of green spaces.
- Support maintaining and planting new orchards.

### **To do later**

- Encourage reduced pesticide use – noting that the PC has stopped use of weedkiller by the lengthsmen.
- Support a reduction in farming pesticide use.
- Investigate car/lift sharing, car club – although this is difficult in our rural area.
- Promote safe walking.
- Promote safe cycling.
- Encourage use of public transport – lobby to increase our very limited bus service.
- Investigate green energy production in the parish, perhaps from water.
- Influence development and planning policy when the PC look at a new Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- Flooding - support nature-based solutions.
- Monitor the pollution of watercourses with phosphates – PC continuing to report instances and work with Environment Agency.

It's clear that there are lots of interesting ideas to move forwards, and a lot of ways people could help. The group had a great turnout at the recent meetings, but we would be keen for anyone else who is interested to come along. No need to get involved in all the projects, perhaps just one of the ideas sparks your interest?

There seems to be a real desire and understanding that changes will need to be made over the coming years, but that it's not always clear the best way to do this. Hopefully the group, with help and advice from experts, will be able to support and encourage the whole parish to make a difference.

Look out for the next meeting date in December or January.

Ben Woodcock

### **EARDISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

In October the Eardisland WI was pleased to welcome a number of guests to its first proper face-to-face meeting since February 2020.

Our speaker, Simon Fanthorpe, retired Metropolitan Police Officer and Forensics officer was introduced and welcomed by Rita. He gave us a very

interesting and informative talk, which included slides on his work in Forensics and how police gather evidence and the use of fingerprint techniques. He did emphasize that since his retirement DNA and CCTV are used more widely now in collecting police evidence.

Our November meeting was a demonstration of seasonal flowers by Sue Hamer who was able to inform with interesting anecdotes, advise of plants available to all in the garden at this time of year and create seven beautiful seasonal displays for autumn and winter.

A full programme is planned for 2022 with both daytime and evening meetings after the clocks change again. The membership year runs from April 2022, so guests are welcome in the first quarter of the year for a fee of £3.00 per meeting. The Eardisland Website, the Parish Magazine and Facebook will be used to publicise the date and time of meetings. Whilst the village hall continues to be out of action the venue to be confirmed for each meeting closer to the time. We also wish to thank the PCC for the use of the church over the last couple of months

- 10th January 2022- Hand Massage - at 2.30 p.m.
- 14th February - 2022 Kay Pritchard (Ugandan Dream) – at 2.30 p.m.
- 14th March 2022- AGM & Social meeting – at 2.30 p.m.

Eardisland W. I. Committee

### **CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

1. The traditional Christmas tree originated from which country?
2. People buy artificial Christmas trees more than real ones. True or false?
3. Where did the word Christmas originate?
4. What is the use of a tree skirt?
5. What did the three wise men gift to baby Jesus?
6. What is frankincense?
7. Which country started the tradition of decorating the Christmas trees?
8. Which country sends a huge Christmas tree to London, every year?
9. When is Christmas celebrated in Russia?
10. Which famous scientist was born on 25<sup>th</sup> December?

Answers on page 24



# **Eardisland Community**

## **Shop**

### **Christmas Opening Hours**

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>8 – 10</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Boxing Day</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Bank Holiday Monday</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Bank Holiday Tuesday</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>8 – 10</b>
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>8 – 10</b>
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>8 – 10</b>
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>8 – 10</b>
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>8 – 10</b>

**Please note: there will be no newspapers on the days that the shop is closed.**

**Thank you to all our volunteers and customers for all your support.**

**Merry Christmas! And A Happy and Healthy New Year!**

## **EARDISLAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION: Some Background Notes**

TWINNING AGREEMENTS between European towns began in 1947, two years after the ending of the Second World War. The intention was to foster friendship and understanding between different cultures and between former foes as an act of peace and reconciliation.

EARDISLAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION originated in 2004, when local historian Paul Selfe wrote an article for Eardisland Parish Magazine detailing the remarkable historical background that connected Eardisland with a similarly small French village, La Vieille Lyre in Normandy.

THE BASIS OF THIS RELATIONSHIP was that for some 250 years after the Norman Conquest, we in Eardisland paid taxes to our Norman overlords, initially William Fitz-Osbern, Earl of Hereford, who channelled them to La Vieille Lyre to endow and enrich the abbey there which he had founded in 1046.

INITIAL TWINNING DISCUSSIONS in both Eardisland and La Vieille Lyre led to a preliminary signing in Normandy in 2006 and a final signing here in 2007. Over the years there has been a series of lively Association events in Eardisland, along with exchange visits, incorporating cultural, historical, sporting and other fun activities. Many well-established and new friendships have developed both within Eardisland and with La Vieille Lyre.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE - please come along to the Special General Meeting, opposite, to discuss plans for the future of the organisation. New and longer-standing residents of Eardisland would be most welcome. There will be no obligation to join a committee unless you are interested! Please phone me if you would like more detailed information. Thank you.

Ruth Brinton-Bivand

Founding Chair, Eardisland Twinning Association (01544 388375)





# **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

## **EARDISLAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at 7.00pm**  
**(Venue to be confirmed)**

### **AGENDA:**

### **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

### **EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Eardisland parishioners and interested  
residents of neighbouring towns and  
villages are welcome to attend all  
Association meetings/organised events  
– there is no membership fee**

## **EARDISLAND CRAFT & PRODUCE FAIR**

For once the weather was on our side and what a difference it made! The public turned out in record numbers, with stewards operating the car park, finding it difficult at times to find room for all the vehicles. The team on refreshments were rushed off their feet and Wendy Cross sold all her produce by 2pm, which is unheard of.

There was a new set up this year, with gazebos replacing marquees, which gave the event a more country fair feel. A one-way system operated in the church, relieving pressure on the porch door, which was used as the entrance. This, coupled with the recommendation to wear a face mask, made the building as Covid safe as we could. A similar system operated in the village hall, which was busy throughout.

We are extremely grateful to every one of the near 50 volunteers who carried out at least one role, either on the day, or assisting with erecting / dismantling the marquee, assisting stall holders with loading or unloading their vehicles, or donating a cake. Thanks also to the Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee for agreeing to allow the hall to be used in trying circumstances. Finally, thank you to BBC Hereford & Worcester and Sunshine Radio for the many mentions on air.

Some interesting facts from the day:

481 members of the public paid their £1 to the fair.

47 stall holders attended, with many giving a hugely positive feedback.

The refreshments team used 30 pints of milk and sold out of cake.

The barbecue team sold 69 burgers, 98 sausages, 12 veggie burgers, 12 veggie sausages and used 12 packs of bacon for the bacon rolls.

The last stall holder left the site at 4.45pm

The church was cleared of tables and chairs repositioned for Sunday service by 5.10pm.

The event made a profit of £3141, which will support the church, village hall and In Bloom.

Phil Milchard



## EARDISLAND MEMORIAL WALKS

### PTE JOHN HERBERT DAVIES



At last: Pte John Herbert Davies, who lived at Lower Burton Farm and emigrated with his brother Carl to Canada in 1911, has been commemorated with an Eardisland Memorial Walks' oak memorial gate bearing his name. He is identified by his name being set in the stone on our War Memorial, and similarly with that of 54,000 other British and Commonwealth servicemen with no known grave, at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium.

Parishioners from both Eardisland and Dilwyn attended a modest ceremony, gathering by John's memorial gate, installed facing the farmhouse on a path he is sure to have used. As are most of the memorial gates, this one is made from Herefordshire oak, crafted by the charity Hereford's Choices Foundation. The mounted brass plaque was dedicated in part by the Calgary Highlanders, the active Canadian Army Primary Reserve infantry regiment now responsible for holding the values and traditions of the long disbanded Albertas. Retired Brigadier Richard Kirby, who has supported the project since its inception, unveiled the plaque.



IN MEMORY OF PTE JOHN HERBERT DAVIES AND THOSE OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CANADIANS  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR, 1914-1918  
DONATED BY THE CALGARY HIGHLANDERS, 2018



Preparing the gate a week or so ago, your writer apologised for his tardiness to Herbert, as he was known, and received the imaginary expected response – as any soldier then or now would say it! Deservedly so, when placing your imaginary self alongside Herbert during the ferocious fighting taking place on the ridge above Ypres at the time he was killed.

These sorts of conversations, where responses are imagined, is just another way to approach the concept of Remembrance. Having imaginary discussions with the mothers, fathers, siblings and friends of our fallen soldiers, getting to know their thoughts and feelings; all this adds up to making sense of the last line of words in the Kohima epitaph's, 'for your tomorrow, we gave our today'. . In particular, it was this war: the sacrifices made, and the success achieved, that shape the country we live in today.

We have some old pictures of the village, and we might wonder about peoples' thoughts and feelings here during the war after learning of the death of sons and husbands from families, like today, generally known by most of us. Numbers must have mattered, worst of all from March to August 1918, when five of our brave young men were killed in action

The Walks' objective remains, "To maintain consciousness of the sacrifices made by servicemen who grew up and lived in our own community, and who fought for its culture and traditions."

Its support is appreciated.

Hugh Vernon

All children of any age including mums, dads, grannies and grandads, please help to decorate the St Mary's Christmas tree on December 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am.

Hot chocolate mince pies and sweet treats will be available as a 'thank you' for helping.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>.

Dian xx

## **CHURCH MATTERS**

Priest-in-Charge:	Rev. Julie Read, The Rectory, Kingsland. 07826 194400, <a href="mailto:rev.julie@hotmail.com">rev.julie@hotmail.com</a> 01568 708255
Curate	Rev Katie Smith 07775 486521
Reader	Rosie Capon 07811 436412
Churchwarden and Lay Co-Chair:	Richard Kirby: 01544 388810
Deputy Churchwarden and Organist:	Annette Blyth: 01544 388241
Treasurer:	Mike Coleburn: 01544 388486
PCC Secretary:	Avis Denny: 01568 780874

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

Date	Time and type	Which church?
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am Benefice with Bishop Richard – the re-opening of Kingsland church building after renovations and repairs	<b>Kingsland</b>
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>5pm Carol Service</b> followed by seasonal refreshments	<b>Eardisland</b>
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10pm Carols and Holy Communion</b>	Eardisland
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.30am <b>Family Service</b> with carols and Holy Communion. Please bring one of your gifts to the service!	Eardisland
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	8am Book of Common Prayer service	Kingsland
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	9.30am Morning Prayer	Eardisland
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am Benefice Service	tba

If you would like to volunteer to read a lesson, lead prayers, become a sides-person, sing, play, look after the church in any way or choose a hymn for a special occasion, please let us know. Everybody is welcome to services and will find a friendly community.

### **FROM JULIE READ**

It is time to say goodbye to Liz Lever as she moves from the village to a new home and adventure and we are grateful for her time with us as churchwarden through the pandemic, for her gifts and wisdom and we wish her well as she journeys on. Thank you to Richard Kirby and the team for the Remembrance display in church, it is most inspiring to help us remember the large sacrifice made by this village and similar villages, towns and cities across the land during the 1<sup>st</sup> world war especially. Thank you to Rev Michael Denny for leading the remembrance service and helping us to pledge to work for peace in the world today, in our communities and in our families.

The days are getting shorter again and the darkness is enfolding our lives, for many they get up in the dark and off to work and by the time they get home it is dark again. Time to get out the jigsaws and curl up with a good book? We are making our preparations for Christmas in Church, and I wonder if you would like to come and sing with the choir for the carol service? Annette is the person to contact if you would like to. They rehearse on a Friday afternoon, and you would be most welcome. The shortest day in the year is the 21<sup>st</sup> December, the winter Solstice, and the first day that you can noticeably tell the difference as the days begin to lengthen is the 25<sup>th</sup>. I wonder if this is why the church chose to celebrate Jesus' official birthday on that day?

In the church the symbolism of light in the darkness is one that is used to talk about Jesus' birth. Perhaps all new life is felt in that way, and certainly the birth of Robin Read my new grandson in London brought light to the lives of our family. I think it is not just Jesus' birth, but the life, death and ultimate power over death that Jesus showed that means that for Christians we have one who is light in the darkness, life in the midst of death, and love for the world. Perhaps that is the thing that convinces me to follow the footsteps of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, not for my benefit alone, but because of the benefit of the whole creation – man, beast and land.

If you would like to join us in looking at the Christian Faith – either exploring for the first time or wanting to understand some of the depths of the treasure of faith - do drop me a line on email or leave a message on the answerphone and I will get back to, or speak to Rosie, Annette or Richard. We

meet every Tuesday morning at 9.30am to pray for the needs of the world, and the environment is top of the agenda as we emerge from COP26.

With every blessing  
Julie

### **ROGER FENNA**



Roger Fenna, an Eardisland resident for over 30 years sadly passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Roger lived quietly with his partner in a remote part of the parish and may not have been a familiar face to everyone in these parts. I was privileged to get to know him through our Sunday morning chats when Roger collected his newspaper from the community shop.

*Roger, pictured left, with Stu Francis on the set at BBC's 'Crackerjack'*

He was a warm, friendly man and a strong supporter of Eardisland in Bloom. I knew nothing of his career until after his passing and was amazed to learn of his achievements, mostly as a senior cameraman at the BBC. I am very grateful to his long-time former colleague, Geoff Hawkes, who has provided me with his memories of Roger. This article was previously published in a BBC magazine.

In addition to Geoff's words, I am reliably informed Roger was the first cameraman to use a techno-crane, this on Top of the Pops. He later became senior cameraman on this long running series for over twenty years. Remarkably he was a cameraman on the first live drama broadcast on television, An Evening in June, starring Violet Carson. This was to be the forerunner to Coronation Street, which starred Violet in the role of Ena Sharples. His career wasn't just behind the camera, he was the financial manager for the band Jamiroquai!

Phil Milchard

### Memories of Roger Fenna by Geoff Hawkes

Many readers will remember **Roger Fenna** as a somewhat enigmatic character who lived quietly in the area with his partner, having moved from London some thirty years ago.

Roger was born in 1938 and attended Forest School in Snaresbrook. Having done some minor jobs at Hackney Hospital, he joined the BBC in 1958 as a trainee operator at Alexandra Palace and remained with the BBC until his

retirement in 1992. Among the earliest shows he worked on was Compact, a twice weekly soap that ran from 1962-65 starring Frances Bennett and Ronald Allen. My experience of him was as one of the cameramen on his crew from the mid-seventies to the early eighties when he was a Camera Supervisor on some of BBC Television's most memorable shows in the peak years of production at Television Centre. In the field of Light Entertainment camerawork at the BBC it was recognized that there were just two giants - and Roger was simply the best. Roger could handle anything with flair and a creative genius that was the hallmark of a master craftsman. He did a variety of shows, from occasional drama series like Secret Army or comedies like Terry & June, Bread - and The Good Life (for which he was presented to the Queen on her official visit), to the Paul Daniels Magic Show, The Two Ronnies, Victoria Wood, Marti Caine, Nana Mouskouri, Des O'Connor, Top of the Pops, Crackerjack and the Val Doonican Music Show.

On a music number, give him a shot with 32 bars or even the entire song and with little more from the director other than, "We're on you Roger, off you go..." he'd amaze everyone with how dexterously he and the crew on the crane behind him would carry it out with perfect timing. Whenever I hear a song with a long soaring note, I picture Roger doing a slow developing shot from wide angle to close-up, gliding smoothly round the singer and up and out again, then gracefully down and back in, as he visually interpreted the music and lyrics with sensitivity and skill. On one occasion we had as a guest the pianist and conductor, Marvin Hamlisch and in rehearsal Roger sat down with him to re-arrange what Marvin was going to play so it better fitted with how he planned to do the shot - to their mutual satisfaction. Another peak moment for Roger was when a guest on Terry Wogan's chat show was the renowned Nazi-hunter, Simon Wiesenthal and Terry fixed it for Roger to greet him off-camera and shake his hand.

Roger was not only an excellent operator but a good manager who led his crew from the front. We knew he would be monitoring our output and in rehearsal we would sometimes hear an abrupt comment such as, "Wha's-at?" if he thought a shot looked odd or if there was a mismatched cut or mix between ours and the preceding one, reminding us all to be on our toes. He'd make sure we enjoyed the day and in the break before the dress-rehearsal at the Television Theatre, we'd go up to Gladys's tea bar on the third floor for a friendly chat and to compare notes. Before transmission or recording, he would use the showbiz expression, "Eyes and teeth" to tell us to look happy and confident in front of the artists and the gathered audience.

He was always in demand by top Light Entertainment producers and directors because with him, they knew their show was in safe hands. He was not a boastful man though he knew his own worth and would sometimes look around at those who were perhaps a little too full of themselves and liken them to mice riding on the back of an elephant crossing a rickety bridge, saying

gleefully, “We shook that, didn’t we...” For my part I was happy to have been one of those riding along with Roger and we had a great time.

Roger had a warmth, charm and charisma that drew people to him and he made us feel valued both for the job we did and as individuals and helped us to give of our best. He was full of life, vibrancy and humour and was occasionally mischievous with a Walter Mitty imagination with which, especially in retirement he liked to convince people that he held occupations far from his own, such as a trapeze artist or a race-horse trainer - or his favourite, a Russian spy.

Roger died peacefully on 5<sup>th</sup> August at the age of eighty-three and apart from his family, will be greatly missed by his former colleagues and many friends - and significantly by his partner of thirty-eight years with whom he lived in the village.

Among his favourite songs were Val Doonican’s “Quiet Moments” which Val would sometimes sing for him on one of his shows – and significantly Abba’s “Thank You for The Music.” In memory of him therefore I would like to say, “Thank you Roger for the music you brought to our lives. In our quiet moments, we will think of you and be glad to have known you.”

### **EARDISLAND IN BLOOM**

The last E Team session of the year has been completed and the gardens put to sleep over the winter. Around one hundred geraniums have been lifted and will be over wintered, whilst approximately one thousand bulbs have been planted ready for Spring.

The new rockery feature has taken shape and will be completed in the early months of next year. For those who are wondering, the stone was

generously donated by the village hall committee / parish council and originates from the demolition of the kitchen wall at the village hall.

For the last few weeks of the year, we were joined by Compton Edwards, who, with his wife Hilret, recently moved to the village. Compton is proving a real asset and his engaging personality makes him a delight to work with. Welcome aboard Compton!

Phil Milchard

### **THE WAY WE WERE: WHEN 'BOYCIE' CAME TO EARDISLAND**

The sad death of the actor John Challis in September brought to mind his visit to Eardisland. John endeared himself to millions of viewers as the dodgy car dealer Boycie over seven series of *Only Fools and Horses* from 1981 to 2003.

We first met John in 1999 at his newly acquired home of Wigmore Abbey. Kathleen was gathering additional photographic material for her book "Herefordshire: The Spirit of England's Most Rural County" and asked for permission to take views of the abbey and gardens. John readily agreed and during subsequent discussions also agreed to contribute a foreword for the book on "Why We Chose Herefordshire", having moved to Wigmore two years previously.

In this foreword John explains that the deciding factor was the discovery that Carol Challis' ancestors had lived at Wigmore Abbey for a century after the Dissolution and, as John writes "We knew we had found the right place".

A short time later John and Carol came for tea; an uproarious proceedings in which he slipped effortlessly into character, with the south London twang and staccato machine gun laugh and stories about his screen wife Mah-leen ("all the boys remember Mah-leen"). Afterwards I took them across to the church and he wrote in the visitor book "This is why we came to Herefordshire" and left an appreciable donation.

It was a memorable day, entertaining a larger-than-life man ... rest in peace John.

Barry Freeman

### **AND THE ANSWERS ARE . . .**

1. Germany
2. True.
3. It originates from the words Cristes Maesse meaning 'Mass Of Christ'.
4. Gifts are placed there.
5. Myrrh, gold, and frankincense.
6. A plant resin with healing properties.
7. Germany.
8. Norway.
9. 7 January.
10. Sir Isaac Newton.

Just for interest, myrrh (Qu.5) is also a tree sap which hardens to form a resin.





## JOTTINGS FROM THE BURTON COURT KITCHENS

by  
Helen J. Simpson

### Marzipan

To soften slightly stale and dry marzipan, heat it gently in a warm grill compartment for a few minutes (turn the grill off). Alternatively, unwrap it and heat in the microwave for 10 seconds. Then knead the marzipan until it is pliable.

### Canny Custard

Whip ½ pt (280ml) double cream with 1tsp (5ml) vanilla essence and 1 tbsp (15ml) icing sugar until it stands in soft peaks. Turn a 15oz (425g) can of custard into a bowl, then fold in the whipped cream. Pour this over a trifle base and chill well – it tastes like home-made custard!

### Brandy Butter Dessert Sauce

Add small amount of brandy butter to a white cornflour sauce to make a dessert sauce.

### Frosted Mint Leaves

Brush a little lightly whisked egg white over the leaves, then sprinkle them generously with caster sugar. Shake off the excess sugar and place the leaves on a piece of greaseproof paper until crisp and dry. Use to decorate cakes or desserts.



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.

## **THE STORY OF TWO EARDISLAND SQUADRON LEADERS**

Following a recent request for information concerning a project into family history the history group was able to provide useful information about some members who had lived in the village before the war.

### **Squadron Leader Arthur Greenough**

From time to time, we receive many fascinating details from visitors to Eardisland; some add information about relatives and forebears who once lived in the parish; some provide photographs and documents, and others detail extraordinary stories. In one recent case, the discovery of a rather tattered scrapbook relating to members of the family who had lived in the Staick House since 1909 until its recent sale provided some long-forgotten information about those who had lived there since that time. One, named Arthur Basil Wickham Greenhough served in the 6th battalion Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. He had fought in the first world war as a soldier and won the MC for acts of outstanding bravery. Towards the end of that war, he joined the newly formed Royal Airforce and continued his military career subsequently becoming a squadron leader. The Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps were amalgamated into a new service on 1 April 1918 as the Royal Air Force. Later, he became a qualified and very successful architect. He was responsible for designing the Memorial Cross in the village. One memory of him by a local resident who had connections with the household suggested that he may have been among the very first airmen to fly an aircraft 'upside down'. Was there any truth in this? By a wonderful chance arising from another recent request to the history group for family history information I was able to make contact with another exceptionally brave man, Gwynne Price also a Squadron Leader now aged 96. I had had sight of a memoir he wrote about his wartime experiences several years ago and had a short correspondence with him then when he provided helpful information about his family and that of related members. He was born in Eardisland in 1925 and by coincidence lived only a few hundred metres from Staick House. The recent correspondent led me to try to contact him once again and to my delight he responded. I was keen to discover any further information he could provide regarding his time in Eardisland.

### **Squadron Leader Gwynne Price**

Gwynne had lived in a property which once stood on the site of the present Glebe Cottages in the centre of the village. The story of his life in the parish and his subsequent career is fascinating and inspiring. He went to school in the village from 1930 and was taught by the two most famous teachers of the pre-war era,

Headmaster Tom Wood (whom he recalled as being very strict) and his assistant Mrs Davies, remembered as calm and kind.



This was taken in 1936. It shows the following pupils:

Back row l-r: Laurence Mainwaring. Gwynne Price; Edgar Vaughan; Doug Robinson; Les Morris (?) Donald Barrington; Stan Kay.

Second Row: l-r: Jean Snead; Phyllis Underhill; Gwen Rogers; Doreen Price; Ethel Morgan; Gladys Price; Ella Rogers; Peggy Watkins; Rachel Davies; Joan Underhill; Florence Price.

Third Row: l-r: Joyce Humphries; Ethel Humphries; Millie Weir; Dolcie Bray; Nancy William; Gwyn Watkins; Marj Morris; Phyllis Watkins; Edgar Mewies; Pat Smith; Mabel Rogers.

Bottom Row l-r: Fred Harris; Derick Watkins; Ron Mewies; Don Howard; Ron Kay; Ken Morris; Ray Howard.

Gwynne got on well in school, playing sports and clearly working hard such that he duly won a place in Leominster Grammar School at 11. He had strong determination to succeed, delivering milk for Mrs Weir, papers and groceries for Mr Stead, working on local farms and even as a timekeeper at Shobdon airfield, as arranged by Mr Rhys Williams of Porch House. This gives a clue to his ultimate aim which was to fly with the RAF. Mr Stead, the shop keeper, taught Gwynne to drive in his Austin 7 which he describes as *'a super car, with a sensitive clutch and an engine which required coordination with the accelerator. If I stalled the engine Frank would have to turn the handle to restart it..'* Gwynne also tells a lovely story of how he met his future wife Muriel, to whom he has been married for 71

years. In 1940 Liverpool was under heavy attack and Bootle was suffering badly. The local authority decided to evacuate pupils to Herefordshire. A large number of young boys and a party of 6 girls came to Eardisland, including Muriel. She went to live in the family of Mr Rogers, the butler to Mrs Clowes and then with the other girls and teachers went to Hergest Croft in Kington. In 1944 she attended a Teachers' Training College and Gwynne joined the RAF. By chance they met up again in 1948 when Gwynne was home on leave and Muriel was visiting friends. By good fortune there was a dance being held in Stoke Prior and they went together (Gwynne unaware that she had another beau (Curly Lewis) who had already bought her a ticket for the dance!). In due course, they married in 1950 and have been together ever since.

### **Gwynne Price's wartime experiences**

But perhaps the most extraordinary events described by Gwynne were his war time experiences. These are described in his memoir, entitled 'Bob's Crew'. In it he presents his operational memories as a member of a Lancaster bomber crew in 1944. When he joined them, Gwynne said he was "*19 years and 10 days young*". His total flying time to date was 50 hours as a passenger in training aircraft, including an hour in a Lancaster and ten in an Anson. With 24 hours of instruction, he was the newly appointed Flight Engineer, awaiting approval by other members. The Captain was Bob Newbiggin, "*a huge bright Aussie with a twinkle in his eye*". They underwent a further 33 hours training before departing for 195 Squadron as a crew. The station from which they flew was Wratting Common in Suffolk where they lived in the Nissen Huts heated by coke fed stoves. Each crew member had their own special place in the aircraft into which they were securely strapped. Only the pilot had a steel protection down the back of his seat. The Lancaster had a maximum speed of 287mph and a cruising speed of 200mph. It had a range of 2,530 miles with 7,000 lb bomb load but only 1,550miles when loaded with 22,000 lb of bombs. It had 8 machine guns in nose dorsal and tail turrets.

The memoir was initially written for his widow, to inform her about Bob's time with Bomber Command. However, other members of the crew suggested that it should be published, and sales used to raise funds for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

## The Lancaster Bomber



**The Avro Lancaster is best known for the Dambusters raid over Germany in 1943. To watch the Lancaster in flight, see You Tube films.**

The crew consisted of 7 men, the Captain and Pilot; the bomb aimer; the wireless operator, the flight engineer, Gwynne Price, the navigator, the tail gunner and the mid upper gunner. Gwynne's first mission was on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1944. As Flight Engineer his job was to check all the working parts, the surfaces for ice, leaks, the tyres and cowlings. Once everything was cleared it was 'chocs away' and await the green light for take-off. They were carrying 2,154 gallons of fuel, a 4,000 bomb and twenty 250 pounders. As the huge aircraft lifted off, Gwynne's job then was to monitor all the instruments for any malfunctions. In the coming weeks the crew got to know each other better and adjusted to the new lifestyle. On 23<sup>rd</sup> December the next operation took place. This was a daylight attack on Trier, a flight time of about 5 hours. As they approached their target, white puffs of smoke indicated enemy fire. Bundles of silver foil were dropped from the Lancaster to confuse their radar. The target was located and bombs away. Despite the heavy flak they returned safely to base. Further raids took place before the end of that month on the 28<sup>th</sup> they attacked Cologne. They had completed 6 missions in nine days. On New Year's Day, 1945 they had a successful night raid on Vohwinkel but the difficult trip home caused them to be diverted to an airfield in Yorkshire with limited fuel remaining, but they landed safely. Their attack on Munich in January 1945 involved an eight-hour flight during which they saw several other Lancasters going down, out of control, with

no parachutes emerging. After 11 operations the Captain asked whether the crew would volunteer for Pathfinder Force, for which they had been recommended. There were major hazards associated with such operations, but Gwynne recalls that they were thrilled to be considered to serve with the elite Pathfinders and they accepted. Their job was to drop flares as markers for the main attacking force of bombers. In doing so they were faced with the initial searchlights seeking them out, the hazard of stick bombs dropping from aircraft flying above them, and the heavy flak that opened up on their arrival. Some Pathfinders lost parts of their aircraft as a result, sometimes with disastrous consequences. One of the most experienced crews was lost right at the end of the war having completed over 80 ops together. Their own close call came on April 11<sup>th</sup> when a Junkers 88 passed feet over their aircraft; the enemy pilot could have brought them down, but perhaps with the end of the war in sight, he wasn't prepared to do more. Sadly, some Lancasters were lost to friendly fire when in poor weather the returning bombers were mistaken for enemy aircraft.

Some of the information he provided was to indicate the early state of flying and the aircraft development at that time in 1940s. Much of the time, Gwynne says, was to fly *"on a wing and a prayer.. Then it could have been a string and a prayer!"* For thousands of others who, like him, volunteered to fly in Bomber Command, they were keen to do their bit to respond to the enemy bombing our cities. Gwynne paints a vivid picture of what it was like waiting on the runway to take off into the night sky in another bombing raid. He says, *"I do sometimes have a thought of sitting on the runway ready for the green light from the caravan operator full power holding on the brakes with no thought of the toxic load of 20,000lbs of bombs and about 2,000 gallons of fuel. One was too concerned on keeping an eye on 4 Rolls Royce Merlins with Boost Revs Temps Pressures and with the Green light one would be following ones friends down the runway and charging off into the dark sky and for the next six hours or so concentration would be avoiding other aircraft and enemy fighters. The thought now is how did we do it with an average age of 23 in the crew with me being the youngest at just 19!"*

In the final weeks and days of the war in Europe, Gwynne and his crew flew mercy missions into Holland and Germany to assist POWs and the Dutch who were desperately short of food. With the war ended, Capt. Newbiggin went back to Australia. Gwynne saw his future in the RAF; the rest of the crew went their separate ways. No 35 squadron, Pathfinder, was given the honour of representing Bomber Command in VE Day flypast over London on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1945 when twelve Lancasters flew in perfect formation. This was followed by a goodwill tour of USA. When he completed his final flight Gwynne went off to instruct and continue his service in the RAF. Bomber Command crews suffered extremely high casualty rate. They lost 8,325 aircraft; 55,573 crew men were killed out of a total of 125,000 (44% death rate). A Bomber Command crew



member had a worse chance of survival than an infantry officer in the first World War. But Gwynne Price did.

### **Was Sqn Ldr. Greenough the first pilot to fly ‘upside down’?**

Since the discovery of the old scrap book which provided details of the other Squadron leader who lived in the Staick House it was interesting to ask Gwynne if he had any information about Arthur Greenough. Before joining the RAF, Arthur had won the MC. The citation stated that as a battalion signalling officer he crawled out during the hottest part of a bombardment by the enemy and repaired the telephone wires which were repeatedly broken. He was four and a half hours under fire but successfully maintained communications. I asked Gwynne if he knew anything about Arthur and the possibility that he was the first to fly ‘upside down’. In response he said that he did not but would investigate. In his research he contacted the service records held in Kew and the RAF War Records. He explained the idea of ‘flying upside down’ and said that *“records consider that this was when a ‘loop the loop’ was carried out. The inverted time was only when the pilot went through the top of the loop which would be for a short time. The engines at that time did not have pressurised carburettors and the fuel was supplied by gravity feed. The inverted engine would soon run out of fuel and would die”*. In the Tiger Moth during training he would fly upside down until the engine cut. To restart he went into a vertical dive to get the prop rotating. Gwynne said that all his trawling through records did not discover Arthur’s name in the records of first “Upside Down” flyers. He added that *“This does not mean that he did not do so but it remains unproven. If Arthur kept a log book this may have such information”*. But, sadly, no such log book has been found to date. Gwynne has discovered that the recorded pilots who successfully flew in this way include: Adolph Pigoud (French) Sept.1<sup>st</sup> 1913; Petr Nesterov (Russian) Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 1913; Bentfield Hucks (British) Nov 1913; Gustav Hamel (British) Nov 1913; five others include: Major Carr; Louis Noel; Frank Gadden; Major Strange and Lawrence Hall. The records of the Royal Flying Corps state that Lt Robert Skene was the first Englishman to loop the loop; sadly, he was killed in 1914. The result of Gwynne’s investigations suggest that Arthur Greenough was not the first Englishman to achieve this feat. However, as Gwynne says, *“whilst it cannot be proved that Sqn Ldr. Arthur Greenough MC was the first pilot to fly upside down, the village should be proud of him as a distinguished officer and a gentleman who was awarded the Military Cross and mentioned in Dispatches in 1916”*. I would add that the village should also be proud to recall that a member of our community at the age of 19 was flying in Lancaster bombers and then as a Pathfinder to protect those same bombers. It is hard to imagine the exceptional bravery of men such as these, as was that of those whose names we see on the

war memorial, as well as those who were fortunate to return after the wars in which they fought.

**Squadron Leader Gwynne Price** was born in Eardisland in 1925 joined the RAF in January 1944 to train as a Flight Engineer and became part of Bob Newbiggin's bomber crew in October 1944. He completed 28 operations in Lancasters, 11 with 195 Squadron and 17 as a Pathfinder. During WW2 the Pathfinders were volunteers who were specially trained to operate navigation aids to guide the main airborne body to the drop zones. This was an exceptionally dangerous role. He was awarded the Air Force Medal in 1947. He was commissioned as a pilot in 1949 and flew Dakotas in Malaya and was mentioned in Despatches in 1953. He became a flying instructor in 1954 and joined 24 Squadron as a Hastings pilot. He was promoted to Squadron Leader in 1960. He spent 5 years at the Ministry of Technology and finally retired in 1974. He now lives near Bath.

**Capt Bob Newbiggin** was born in 1921. At 15 he became the fastest junior swimmer in the world. After the war he set a record for 8 consecutive surf championships, which earned him inclusion in the Melbourne Hall of Fame, with Don Bradman and others. He was also included in the Guinness Book of Records. After the war he joined Mobil Oil and remained in Australia until his death in 1988.

**Squadron Leader Arthur Greenough** was born in 1887. He died in 1974. Before the 1<sup>st</sup> world war. He was an electrical engineer living near Ludlow. He joined the Shropshire Light Infantry and in 1916 was awarded the Military Cross for outstanding bravery. He joined the RAF in 1918. He was awarded the MBE in 1919. He was made a member of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of St Michael and St George also a Member of the British Empire. Later he became an architect. He lived in the Staick House.

Paul Selfe

### **PEDANT'S CORNER**

The apostrophe can be a minefield, as a Mr Anu found out. Mr Anu started a café and sent fliers off to the printer – Anu's Café.

To his great distress, and not inconsiderable embarrassment, the printer left out the apostrophe. Poor Anu.

Chris Bivand



## **WILDFLOWER AREA**

Two years ago (November 2019) around 10 - 15% of the area of the Recreation Ground was planted with wildflower seeds. It was suggested at the time that the benefits would be:

- More wildlife – wildflowers will benefit pollinators such as bees and longer grass will be better for birds and small mammals such as hedgehogs and voles.
- Reduce the Council's carbon footprint by cutting CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from mowing equipment.
- Reduce time spent mowing especially if the longer grass is round obstacles such as trees.
- Create a more interesting recreation ground

The area has just been cut to the ground to give light for new growth of flowers in the spring.

It's been interesting over the past two summers to see how the different grasses and flowers have done better in different patches of ground. The predominant species in the northern end is still the Yellow Rattle which is continuing to do its job of weakening the grass cover. The umbelliferous Hogweed prefers the Southern end. Interestingly Hogweed (often called Cow Parsnip) is in the top 10 UK plants for most nectar production.

Ben Woodcock

## **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The Community Garden has had a quiet year due to ongoing COVID restrictions. We did however manage to plant up all the beds with vegetables and flowers and many people enjoyed the courgettes and beans over the summer.

The children enjoyed picking lots of pumpkins in October, despite the pouring rain, and we kept ourselves warm with delicious pumpkin soup. The beds now have a green manure planted on the to protect and nourish the soil over the winter.

Hopefully we'll be back to normal in 2022 and will start of the year as usual with handing out free seeds in the Spring.

Ben Woodcock

## **EARDISLAND WEATHER REPORT**

The weather for Eardisland in September saw 64mm (2.52 inches) of rain. Barometer pressures ranged from 29.5 to 30.14 and temperatures 14°C to 32°C. The river varied from 9 to 13 inches.

October turned out to be a very wet month with 156mm (6.14 inches) of rain recorded. Storm Aurore passed to the southeast on the 20<sup>th</sup> bringing heavy rain overnight. Barometer readings ranged from 29.0 to 30.2 and temperatures 12°C to 19°C. The river rose from 13 to 36 inches.

Equivalent rain for 2020 was 43mm (1.69") in September and 127mm (5") for October.

Wishing all readers, a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year from us both.

Doug Tantrum reporting from Kingfisher House



## **Be Amazing. Become a Foster Carer in 2022**

If you have been thinking about fostering, the New Year is a great time to start your journey. By next Christmas, you could be giving the ultimate gift to a child by transforming their lives.

Fostering ranges from short emergency stays, weekends or holidays, to longer term placements, which means you can find an option which fits in with your work and family commitments.

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- Therapeutic fostering - working with children with complex behaviours
- Being the forever home that some children need

Call the fostering team on 01432 383240, email us at [fostering@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@herefordshire.gov.uk) or visit [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/fostering)

## **A TRIP TO MALTA**



Malta is a favourite destination of ours, and one where we were for six weeks during October/November this year – co-incidentally, Eardislanders John and Pat Holding with their son, Robert, arrived just as we were leaving. The island has a huge reputation for a relatively small place – it's actually smaller than the Isle of Wight, having played a role in Mediterranean life for thousands of years. Most recently, Malta was an essential allied base during the Second World War.

Given Malta's position, south of Sicily by some 50 miles, it is not surprising to learn that it has been variously occupied by Romans, Greeks, Arabs, French and British, amongst

others. Malta became a British colony in 1813 and the country was granted independence in 1964, with the Queen as Head of State. The island became a republic in 1974. Interestingly, in the early years of their marriage the Queen and Prince Philip lived in Malta between 1949 and 1951 – it is reported to be the only place outside of the UK that the Queen called 'home'.

Before recorded history, Malta was inhabited by settlers from Sicily, amazingly around 5900 BCE (before the common era, i.e. BC). These Neolithic people built a number of the most impressive temples, pre-dating Stonehenge and the pyramids. It is awe-inspiring to stand within the walls of these structures and try to imagine life all those thousands of years ago. They are also a testament to the enormous skill and technical ability that was required to move, shape and accurately place 20-ton slabs of stone. Archaeologists continue to work on these sites, and it may well be that there are more extraordinary finds to be uncovered.

To the north-west of the main island lies the smaller island of Gozo, accessed by ferry, taking around 25 minutes. The island is generally quieter than Malta but shares the same characteristics of wonderful honey-coloured buildings, winding back-streets and a rural atmosphere.

Malta is now a diverse and fascinating place – tourists can enjoy sun and sea, attractions of all kinds, wonderful food, and warm, friendly people.

We will return!

Chris Bivand

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Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) individuals must give positive consent for their personal data to be held and published. Both the parish council and the community website have a responsibility to comply with the GDPR. Therefore, by actively submitting an article for publication in the parish magazine, you are giving positive ongoing consent for your data to be held and published in the magazine in paper and online format. Please contact the magazine editor if this is not acceptable to you.

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

**FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022**



This lovely photograph was sent in by a new resident, Christopher Walker. He moved into the village a couple of weeks ago (The Noggin on Church Road) and tells me that he has been made very welcome.

Many thanks to Christopher.