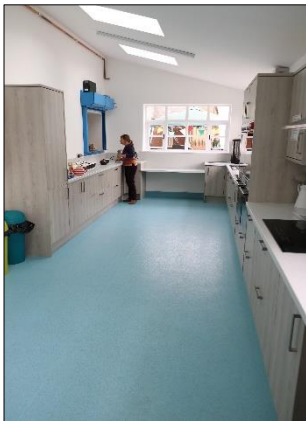


THE EARDISLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY 2022

ISSUE 188



Eardisland Village Hall, May 2022. The renovations are now completed, and what a good job done!

Endless hours have been spent by all those concerned.

The kitchen is now truly wonderful.

The building was formerly Eardisland C of E Primary School, with the original stone-built part dating from 1825. The brick parts were added later (date unknown). Note the old school bell top left.

The school closed in 1979.

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EDITORIAL

I am sorry to report the death of David Blatchford. There is a poem about David written by Stan Blatchford on page 4 – the picture was taken at the London Eye.

The renovations to the Village Hall have now largely been completed and the resulting kitchen is stunning. The project took a very long time to plan, including a public consultation, fund and execute. It is a huge credit to all those people who were involved, not least of all by the most incredible work in securing funds. So, a very big thanks to the Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee and everyone who was involved in whatever capacity.

Over the past months, you cannot have missed the roadworks in the village to put in ducting, which will eventually house fibre cable for quicker internet connections. The next phase will be up Lyme Lane from the main road, starting on Wednesday 11th May.

This neatly leads me on to the next point, which is the OFCOM website information about the planned transfer of all telephones that use copper cable landlines to digital. The projected date for completion is the end of 2025, after which time the phones (not mobiles) that we use at home or office will not work.

This may well not be as dramatic as it sounds, but the change now seems inevitable. There are potential difficulties with VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol). One is the cost – telephone users will need an internet connection and new phone(s), although all new technologies reduce in cost over time, money will be involved. The second major problem is internet connections depending on mains power. Therefore, in a power cut, there is no phone without some form of backup. Whether or not the timescale works remains to be seen. I will, of course, keep you updated on developments so that you can plan.

Chris Bivand

EARDISLAND PARISH DIARY 2022

16 – 22 nd May	The Big Plastic Event, p.10
Friday 27 th May	Needle Felting, p.16
Sunday 5 th June	Jubilee Picnic, p.12
Tuesday 7 th June	Tree & Hedgerows, p.11
Thursday 9 th June	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 18 th June	Memorial Walk
W/E Sat & Sun 18 th /19 th June	Open Gardens, p.18
Friday 24 th June	Flower Arranging, p.16
Saturday 25 th June	Children's Workshop, p.16
Tuesday 21 st June	Memorial Walk
Saturday 25 th June	Memorial Walk
Friday 1st July	Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 7 th July	PPG Meeting, p.15
Thursday 14 th July	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 11 th August	Parish Council Meeting (if required)
Friday 2nd September	Magazine Copy Date
Saturday 3 rd September	Eardisland Village Show
Thursday 8 th September	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 1 st October	Craft and Produce Fair
Thursday 13 th October	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 10 th November	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 18th November	Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 8 th December	Parish Council Meeting (if required)

STAMPS



The traditional paper stamp is being replaced by a more secure, digital version featuring a barcode.

You have until **31st January 2023** to use any existing Royal Mail first and second-class stamps.

The postal service will let you 'swap out' these stamps for free. You will be able to exchange current stamps for barcoded ones for free under Royal Mail's new

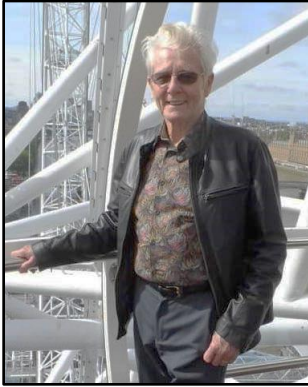
'Swap Out' scheme, which opened on 31st March 2022 and will run until 31st March 2023.

This will be via a 'Swap Out' freepost form on the Royal Mail website - you'll then have to post the no longer valid stamps back. I understand that the form will also be available at any Post Office, but Post Offices will not change stamps. If you can't access the internet, let me know and I'll print a form for you.

Chris Bivand

IN MEMORY OF DAVID BLATCHFORD (LOG-MAN) 12.07.1937 - 13.03.2022

Written by Stanley Blatchford



Now then he said
With a smile on his face
If we lever it there back into place
or get the big hammer and give it hit
with a bit of persuasion, we can make it fit.
If you needed a hand
then he was your man
He'd turn up in the Land Rover
armed with a plan.
Life doesn't give problems
just a challenge new
Sit down with a cuppa and think the job through.

No tree was too big
Too rough bent or twisted
I'll manage that, he always insisted.
One massive Oak was too big for the mill
that's not a problem
I'll get the big Stihl!
He climbed up on top
Big saw in hand
It's all part of the chain of supply and demand.
No sign of nerves, of stress or of tension
That's when he became a YouTube sensation.
Driving big wagons
Loaded with timber or steel
He was always happy sat at the wheel.
He was keen on big ships, and spent time on cruises,
He said it's good for the soul, and helps heal the bruises
At the end of a day when the yard gates were closed
He headed off home and changed to smart clothes,
and took Pamela dancing that was their treat,
He was surprisingly nimble and light on his feet.
Tractors and cranes, chainsaws and winches,
Timbers milled in metric or inches,
He didn't care much for rules or for fashion.
Machinery and timber that was his passion.

David was the late Bill Blatchford's brother. With thanks to the Blatchford family.

PARISH COUNCIL (PC) UPDATE:

1. The new Parish Clerk has been appointed, Debbie Cottam, who will work alongside the retiring Clerk before taking over from 1 July. The email address will remain the same but there will be a new phone number and postal address. Full contact details for Debbie will be available in the July magazine and on the website from 1 July.
2. **Join the Eardisland Platinum Jubilee Celebrations!** Please see the back page for details of all the celebrations for this once-in-a-lifetime event.
3. The new kitchen at Eardisland Village Hall was formally opened on Saturday 23 April. The parish council is very grateful for all the support and donations for this important project. Some snagging items are still to be done but it looks great and will make catering in the hall a much better experience.
4. **Are you prepared for the next flood event?** 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.
5. Would you like a Safety Check on your house? Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service provide FREE fire safety advice to everyone. A Safe and Well Check can be carried out for the more vulnerable such as elderly, people living alone and those with reduced mobility. Ring 0800 032 1155 to arrange a visit.
6. Come and join the Environment and Sustainability Working Group. All welcome – please contact the Parish Clerk if you wish to attend.
7. **Can you help, 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.
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 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 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.
10. The following planning applications have been considered or noted at the March and April meetings: **P220444/F**, The Old Workshop, HR6 9BD – Proposed erection of a 2-bedroom dwelling, the conversion of the existing dwelling to a workshop to be used in an ancillary manner to the new building, and associated works – Supported. Noted **P220343/K**, Arrow Cottage, HR6 9BT – Plum tree at north-west of garden – needs topping and thinning and branches removed to avoid interference with neighbour’s telephone lines – Supported under Minor Matters Planning Policy and Works Allowed. Noted **P220468/K**, 3 Arrow Barns, HR6 9BN – Alder tree is situated in the bank of the millstream and is the only mature tree in the garden. The Tree Surgeon advising on general maintenance has suggested that the tree should be pollarded at a height of 3-4 metres. The tree has previously been pollarded, circa twenty years ago and has six separate trunks all of which will be worked on – Supported under Minor Matters Planning Policy and Works Allowed. Noted **P220345/K**, Bridge House, HR6 9BT - 30% reduction of T1 and T2 (Limes). Removal of T3 and T4 (Conifers), to be replaced with 6 traditional orchard trees from local area – Supported under Minor Matters Planning Policy. Noted **P214008/FH**, Arrow Green, HR6 9BG – Proposed single and two storey extensions, including demolition of existing conservatory – Approved with conditions. Noted **P213617/F**, Folley Farm, HR6 9BS – Proposed removal of condition 2 of planning permission DCNW2005/1275/F (Retrospective application for the replacement building which also includes office accommodation) – Approved with conditions. **P220707/FH**, 2 The Sytches, HR6 9DH – Proposed single storey glazed extension – Supported. **P220758/F**, Milton Farm, Pembridge, HR6 9LA – Proposed extension to existing grain store building – Supported. Noted **P214003/L**, Staick House, HR6 9BU – Proposed removal of roof coverings, repair and re-roof – Approved with conditions. Noted **P220644/L**, Clearbrook Farm, Pembridge, HR6 9HL – Creation of new window and installation of rainwater goods externally and insertion of balusters to existing staircase internally – Supported under Minor

Planning Applications Policy. Noted **P220595/L**, The Dairy, HR6 9BW – Proposed internal alterations to include removal of 1no. C20 stud wall, alteration to 2no. internal C20 doors, installation of tumble dryer vent – supported under Minor Planning Applications Policy. **P214073/F**, Land adjacent to Arrow Lea, HR6 9BU – 6 no. dwellings with garages – Re-consultation on amended and additional documents – Objected.

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.

Alison Sutton
Parish Clerk

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

from your local County Councillor ROGER PHILLIPS;
rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Superfast Broadband

The Fastershire project which aims to enable over 98% of all Herefordshire residences with superfast broadband has now reached the Eardisland construction phase. Parishioners will have seen the various ongoing works in the village and throughout the parish. There still remains a national commitment to withdraw broadband from copper wiring in 2025 which makes access to fibre optic even more important.

Through my work with the Rural Services Network, I continue to raise the concerns that this could have on rural households and businesses, but I am hopeful that over 99% of my ward households will have access by the end of this year. For more information on installation

<https://www.gigaclear.com/installation>

For other information about Gigaclear Broadband

<https://www.gigaclear.com/contact-us>

Highways

Many residents will be aware of the land slippage by Heybridge in Broome Lane. While the integrity of the highway has not been impacted, a work order has been

made to infill the verge with soil. The situation will continue to be monitored and I understand the landowner is in discussions with the Environment Agency on any preventive work to reduce the risk of further erosion.

Responsibility for the Rights of Way services (including all footpaths, bridleways etc but not highways) has returned to Herefordshire Council from Balfour Beatty. If you need to report any concerns, please either email PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 01432 383 550.

Please report any potholes:

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole>

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-fly-tipping>

Report a flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places:
01432 26180

New emerging Waste collections service for mid-2023

The current alternative weekly bin collection service is being reviewed to meet new government regulations. The emerging plan is to continue with a weekly collection service, but households will have four bins plus a small food waste bin instead of the existing two bins - with a three-week rotation rather than the current alternate black or green.

In week one a blue bin collection of paper and card products

Week two – green bin of plastic, cans and glass

Week three- grey bin – general waste

In addition, there will be weekly collection of a small food waste bin and seasonal gardening collection fortnightly.

It is anticipated these changes will not happen till mid-2023

The new system will be a problem for residents with little room to store the bins, and bag collections will continue where existing problems occur. The objective of the change is to increase recycling rates, and to meet and exceed government targets. Many residents I am sure will know of similar collections like the one proposed already operating elsewhere in the country.

If you want more information on these and other matters, please email me and I will add you to my monthly updates

Roger

EARDISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

The E&SG has regular meetings, and anyone interested in making Eardisland a more sustainable parish is welcome to come along.

Eardisland Eco Event Report

The Eardisland Eco event was held on 26th March in the Village Hall with displays on a variety of current and future projects. 42 adults and 8 children from within the parish attended as well as 6 people from outside the parish. During and after the event we were contacted by representatives from three other Herefordshire parishes who were keen to see what we were doing as they were setting up similar local groups.

The aim of the event was to promote what the Parish Council and E&SG were doing, encourage people to sign up for some of our projects and find out feelings about possible future projects.

As a result of the event we are looking at having a soft plastic (such as food wrappers) recycling point in the village. We're also getting advice on issues with installing energy saving measures such as solar panels and secondary glazing in listed buildings and the conservation area.

Energy Saving Eardisland and Thermal Images

26 properties had thermal images taken during the cold spell of 2nd – 4th April. The images are being processed and a report will be emailed to each property during May.

Common sources of heat loss we found from the images are:

- Leaks around the frame of poorly fitting doors or windows.
- Leaks from doors and windows which don't close fully.
- Heat loss from uninsulated thin wooden doors.
- Single glazed windows or older double glazing losing heat.
- Warm spots on external walls where radiators are situated.
- Warm walls where there is no cavity insulation.
- Original panels in Black and White houses not being insulated.
- Roof spaces being warm due to lack of loft insulation.
- Heat loss from the back of chimney breasts.

Insulating your home is best carried out before other 'green' measures such as solar panels or heat pumps. Reducing your energy use should be the priority and will save carbon and money. The Energy Saving Trust has some useful information about the different types of insulation you may be able to use in your home.

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/reducing-home-heat-loss/>

You might find an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) gives you a better idea of the costs and benefits of different forms of insulation and other energy saving measures. EPCs are a requirement when selling a property, so one may have recently been carried out on your property and are also a requirement for rented properties. You can see if your property has a recent EPC on this website:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate>

Recent EPCs will give up to date recommendations of what can be done to improve energy performance in your property along with an estimate of costs and savings. Energy Performance Certificates should be carried out by an approved assessor and typically take less than an hour to carry out and cost less than £50. You can find approved assessors here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-new-energy-certificate>

There are often grants available to carry out energy saving measures. Keep Herefordshire Warm is an organisation managed by Severn Wye Energy on behalf of Herefordshire Council. They offer energy efficiency advice and administer grant funding to Herefordshire residents. You can contact them at <https://keepherefordshirewarm.co.uk> or 0800 677 1432. Their advice line is open from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

The Big Plastic Count: 16-22nd May 2022

One of the concerns to come out of the Eardisland Eco Event was the lack of recycling for plastic packaging. We're looking at tackling that within the parish, although the Co-op in Leominster does now have a collection box for soft plastics.

A better solution would be for government, manufacturers, and supermarkets to reduce the amount of packaging used.

The Big Plastic Count is a national 'citizen science' project, rather like bird or butterfly counts, that aims to collect anonymous information about how much plastic packaging households are using. This data will then be used to help inform decisions about targets and action for reducing plastic packaging.

You can sign up and download a survey sheet at <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>. Or call 020 4525 3241 to have a pack posted out.

The Great Collaboration: Please Sign Up

The Great Collaboration is an interactive website that the Parish Council are using to find out what carbon reduction actions the local community are doing, and what actions people may need more support with.

Eardisland has a personalised page on the <https://greatcollaboration.uk> website, on which you can explore and commit to a range of actions that will help reduce your carbon use. The Parish Council has access to anonymous statistics so can then make informed decisions about where to focus future help.

We'd like to encourage parishioners to sign up and spend a few minutes ticking which actions you are already doing, it's also useful to fill in which actions you can't do and the reasons why.

For instance, there is currently interest across the county in using electric vehicles and more public transport, but people are finding these options too expensive or difficult to access. This sort of data can help persuade councils to provide more support.


Trees and Hedgerows Talk: Tuesday 7th June at 7pm

The E&SG are hosting a talk in the Village Hall by Sarah King from The Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. She will be talking about the importance of understanding and maintaining trees and hedgerows in the county, as well as where best to plant new trees.

She will also be giving us advice on how to survey the trees and hedgerows in the parish. The group is aiming to start surveying during June, July and August as part of our tree audit project (for which we received funding from Herefordshire Council).

Anyone is welcome to come along to the talk which should be about 45 minutes long. There will be refreshments.

Ben Woodcock
b3nwoodcock@gmail.com

 01544 388976

<p>Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee Charity 1108366</p>

Good grief! I cannot tell you how pleased I am that the village hall kitchen is now up and running and the hall itself is back in use.

The official opening and taster day went well. Residents sang, danced, exercised and played their way through the day and it looks as though at least three activities will become permanent features at the hall in the not-too-distant future.

John Hope performed the opening ceremony with style and dignity. Thank you, John. Personally, I thought the hall looked quite nice and we have further improvements planned.

Look out for details of events and activities at the village hall; things are beginning to move again.

The next big item on the calendar is the Jubilee Picnic on Sunday 5th June.

We hope to see everyone at the recreation ground from 2pm. Bring your own picnic in the Eardisland tradition; in addition, there will be a bar, BBQ, teas and coffees, fun sports, live music and more.

As always, a huge thank you to all the people who have helped and supported the village hall recently and in the past. Bless you all.

Only thing left to worry about now is the electricity and gas bills...

Carole Millin
For EVHMC

EARDISLAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION

7 parishioners attended the Special General Meeting of 31st March 2022. 30 other people requested their apologies to be noted. It was agreed that Ruth Brinton-Bivand, in her role as founding Chair of the Association, should chair the meeting.

Chris Bivand, as the latest Treasurer of the Association, gave a financial update. After the cost of hiring the Hall for the meeting, the balance would be £583.37. The meeting gave Chris the authority to open an interest-bearing account solely for the ETA. The new account will be in his name, with a guarantee that all money will be available, including interest, if required by a properly constituted committee.

Only one person at the meeting was prepared to stand for election and as no-one tendering their apologies had offered to do so, it was therefore not possible to form a properly constituted committee.

Along with her apologies, Caroline Marsden had sent a suggestion to maintain and strengthen the links between Eardisland and La Vieille Lyre. Caroline suggested that while both travel and funding are problematic under current circumstances, the setting-up of an Eardisland/La Vieille Lyre Facebook page, linked to our community website and the Eardisland Facebook page, would allow the two communities to post what is going on day-to-day. Caroline felt that this would give us the opportunity to get to know each other as communities, without necessarily meeting face-to-face, and to strengthen the existing relationship which at the moment is perhaps dependant on, and focused on, those who have participated in person-to-person exchanges in the past. To those not in a position to host or travel, it would offer an opportunity to participate in the Twinning in a meaningful way – for instance, it would give a platform to local historians, craftspeople, equestrians, sportspeople, artists, businesses and students of all ages to exchange views and ideas. The meeting received this proposal with enthusiasm, believing it to be a practical and exciting way forward. Ben Woodcock, who maintains the Eardisland community website and is an administrator of the Eardisland Facebook page, offered to investigate the practicality of the proposal, believing it be a highly possible project. For those who don't use Facebook, Ben suggested investigating a live feed to the Community website. The Chair explained that she is a "friend" on Facebook of Marc Morière, the current mayor of La Vieille Lyre. He posts frequently about events in La Vieille Lyre, complete with photos. For those in the village without computers, tablets or smartphones, Ruth Brinton-Bivand offered to write a summary for each edition of the Parish Magazine.

The meeting could see many advantages to the proposal, including: the fact that Facebook posts would appear automatically translated into English with a button to click to read the original in French; the possibility of ex-villagers who have moved away from Eardisland maintaining on-going links with La Vieille-Lyre (and Eardisland); the possibility of establishing easy links with other Herefordshire twinning associations (there are two which are twinned with other communities in Normandy); the possibility of developing informal individual or group visits to La Vieille Lyre – perhaps using the campsite or the gîte in La Vieille Lyre as an alternative to staying with hosts; the possibility of involving local school pupils; the possibility of Zoom meetings in parallel involving both communities.

Ben offered to feedback to those at the meeting once he had investigated more. The meeting offered warm thanks to Ben and gave Chris Bivand permission to pay monies required solely for the benefit of the ETA up to the value of £50.

This arrangement will be reviewed at a Special General Meeting in March 2023, along with the on-going organisation of the ETA.

Ruth Brinton-Bivand, Founding Chair of Eardisland Twinning Association

EARDISLAND W.I.

Following our AGM, the Eardisland WI welcomed Felix Rawlinson of West Mercia Police to the Village Hall for tea and conversation for our March meeting. He outlined many of the challenges of working in such a large area and discussed things we could do to support our security. He also introduced us to the regular communications through the Neighbourhood Alert email.

In April our speaker was Mike Jackson from Weobley, a former BBC TV programme director who has worked on numerous shows from Saturday Morning TV with Roland Rat to the Antiques Roadshow. For the WI, he concentrated on the Antiques Roadshow and gave us an insight to how a typical day at the Roadshow works and then how the programme is put together.

Our next meeting on 9th May will be to the Hereford Archive, leaving from Eardisland at around 1.30 p.m. The June meeting will be a garden visit to Bycroft Gardens in Bircher, followed in July by our usual outdoor meeting at The Old Barn Eardisland, courtesy of Rita Kirby. We will return to the village hall in September. The full WI programme can be found on the Eardisland Website.

Please contact Rita, Wendy, Diane or Helen should you wish to attend as a guest, a charge of £5 will apply to non-members who wish to try a meeting before joining.

Helen Kirkham

MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

Green Impact -The Practice is continuing to find ways to reduce the use of plastic in the surgery. Most medication is now dispensed using compostable paper bags. The new phone system should be up and running within the next few weeks. This should make it easier for people as it will tell them where they are in the queue for the receptionist to answer the call.

Flu Programme 2022 - The Government has informed GP practices that 50–64-year-olds have been removed from this year's programme, unless they are clinically vulnerable or at risk.

There have been queries about whether the doctors still undertake home visits. They are mostly carried out by the Practice Paramedic. She is not able to prescribe medication at the moment but is supported by the GPs if medication is required. GPs continue to visit more complex patients with multiple health issues and all End-of-Life patients.

Friends of Mortimer Medical Practice have recently purchased 3 ECG machines one for each surgery. These machines feed the ECG graph directly to the patient's record. This has helped clinicians send clear unambiguous tracing directly to Consultants in secondary care (hospitals) electronically. This has made referrals far more efficient. The PPG thanked the Friends.

The Practice will not be covering Leominster Community Hospital from the end of March. This will free up 5 more doctors' sessions per week. The Primary Care Networks (PCN) is a group of GP surgeries that is working together more locally and sharing resources. The Mortimer Medical Practice is in a group with the 2 Leominster practices which are now combined and renamed Ryland Surgery, Weobley, Kington, and Tenbury Wells.

As a temporary measure due to staffing issues increase in demand and safety the Practice has had to take the step to increase the turnaround for a repeat prescription from 48 hours to 72 hours. With immediate effect (29th April 2022) all repeat prescriptions will be ready to collect 72 hours after receiving them before 2pm on a normal working day. Please note that weekends and bank holidays are not included in the turnaround time.

The Practice would like to thank all their patients for their understanding with this and they are working as hard as they can to revert back to 48 hours as soon as possible.

If anyone registered with the Practice has any concerns or issues, they wish me to ask at our next PPG meeting 7th July, please contact me on 01544 387685.

Diane Lee

COVID VACCINATIONS

Second booster Covid vaccinations are available for various groups, including those aged 75 and above. I am in this group and expected a letter inviting me for my second booster. In the absence of the letter, I made an appointment online – all very quick and easy with plenty of appointment slots available. I chose Elgar House in Hereford. If you are eligible for your second booster, sixth months or so after the first booster is recommended.

Chris Bivand

EARDISLAND VILLAGE SHOW CRAFT EVENTS

(EVHMC) Registered Charity 1108366

EVHMC has secured funding from the Herefordshire Council to run more craft workshops in 2022. These will be advertised in the parish magazine, the parish noticeboard and the Village Hall Facebook page.

The craft events have kicked off to a wonderful start this year - we've already had a wet-felting session, lino printing, and both an adults' and children's cookery workshop in our fabulous new kitchen.

Friday 27th May 7-9pm- Needle felting landscapes

Jen, from the Prolific Crafter in Church Stretton, will be teaching us how to make a needle felted landscape.

Friday 24th June - Flower arranging with Sue Hamer

Sue will return to the village hall for a fabulous evening of flower arranging. Please bring an (empty!) wine bottle, small flowers and small foliage.

Saturday 25th June 10am - 12 - Children's sewing workshop with *Lazy Daisy Chains*

Andrea from *Lazy Daisy Chains* will be leading a children's sewing workshop where children will design and stitch their own picnic. (Children aged 6-11)



These workshops will be a great time to start thinking about your show entries. The events will be fully funded, and all resources will be provided, but numbers are limited so please e-mail me if you would like to attend.

Tea and coffee will be provided at the adult events, but do feel free to bring your own drinks and snacks too.

jo.evhmc@yahoo.com

THE DOVECOTE

On a sunny day before lockdown I came to paint your fantastic Dovecote Shop! As the day progressed the shop was busy with locals buying groceries and visitors buying ice creams! And I added people as I went along so that the painting became 'the story of the village shop'.

The painting will be on sale in my Exhibition at The Barn, Herefordshire Wildlife's Birches Farm Nature Reserve, HR5 3EY near Kington from May 23rd – June 6th. It would be great, if I am in time for the May Issue of the Parish Magazine, if you could advertise this painting which is oil on linen, 68 x 48 cm framed, £695.

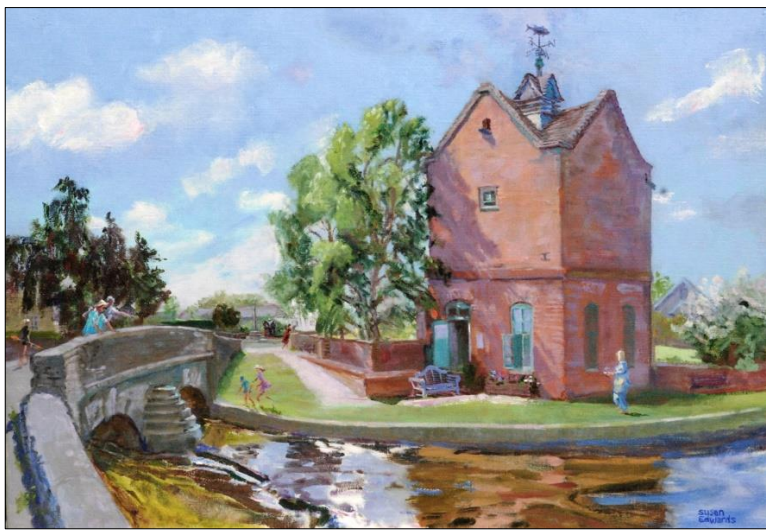
If the painting is sold to someone in the parish before it goes into the exhibition on 23rd May, I will be at liberty to donate the percentage commission on the sale to the Community Shop!

And if purchased, the image could then be used for notelets, cards and prints to raise money for the shop. (Copyright normally remains with the artist.)

I look forward to hearing from you,

Kind regards

Susan Edwards



Picture size: 68 x 48cm

EARDISLAND OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND 2022



**Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June 2022
11am-5pm**

Admission £6 Children under 16 free.

**A wide variety of gardens in our multi-award
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WOULD BE VERY WELCOME**

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THANK YOU

**THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT
WILL SUPPORT ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, EARDISLAND.**

CHURCH MATTERS

All are most welcome to services and will find a friendly and caring community. Come along and find out more; contact us too, if you are interested.

If you would like to volunteer to read a lesson, lead prayers, become a sidesperson, sing, play, look after the church in any way or choose a hymn for a special occasion, please let us know.

Priest-in-Charge:	Rev. Julie Read, The Rectory, Kingsland 07826 194400, rev.julie@hotmail.com 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

Date	Time and type	Which church?
Sunday 8 th May	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 15 th May	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 22 nd May Blessing of soil, crops and animals – children very welcome.	10.30am Rogation Service at John Hope's Farm, Lower Hardwick HR6 9HF	Please bring a chair to sit on; a plate of food to share for lunch and suitable footwear!
Thursday 26 th May Ascension Day	9.30am Holy Communion	Kingsland
Sunday 29 th May	9.30am Morning Prayer	Eardisland
Sunday 4 th June PENTECOST	9.30am Service for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Bubbly and cake afterwards!	Eardisland

Sunday 12 TH June	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 19 th June	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 26 th June	9.30am Morning Prayer	Eardisland
Sunday 3 rd July	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 10 th July	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland

FROM JULIE READ

At last we are moving out into the light of the lovely fresh green of May and the promise of a national celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A time of rejoicing and celebrating the long faithfulness that Her Majesty has shown, so vital an example to us all in these last couple of years when things have been difficult for us all. In the midst of the celebratory weekend at the beginning of June there will be a service of thanksgiving in our church at 9.30am on the Sunday morning to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and specifically her faithfulness and her Christian Faith which has been an important part of her 70-year reign.

Before that we will be celebrating Rogation at 10.30am on Sunday 22nd May at Lower Hardwick Farm, Pembridge, HR6 9HF, the home of John Hope. Rogation is a time of praying for our farming community, along with hymns of praise and there will be a service and walk around the farm asking God's blessing on the land, and the livestock and the farmland all around. The cost of feed and fertiliser is spiralling, and the needs of the farming community are important to us all during this economic period. St Paul wrote the following to the Philippians in his 4th chapter of the same name about praying for our needs – "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Please bring a seat to sit on for the service, sturdy shoes for a walk around the farm and a plate of food to share after the service. All are welcome. Rogation also falls at the end of Christian Aid week so our collection from that service will go to the work of Christian Aid. Please come along with suitable cash for such worthwhile work.

We have just held our annual meeting for the PCC and my thanks go to Richard Kirby our Churchwarden and Annette Blyth who has served as Deputy Churchwarden this last year for their devotion and care to the work of the church, and to the PCC. I would like to thank Mike Coleburn, who has shown great dedication and skill in his role as treasurer whilst in isolation during Covid times, but keeping the books up to date and monthly providing detailed accounts so we know where we are. Thank you too to those who support the church

monthly using the Parish Giving Scheme, this has kept us solvent during the uncertain times. Any who would like to know more about this scheme, please speak to Annette.

Since lockdown has been lifted there has been a thriving Messy Church and an Open the Book service happening in the benefice and I wondered whether is now the time for a similar service which was once a month in Eardisland. I know that families are happy to travel and that some would come to Eardisland from away, but need to know if there is a desire within Eardisland for something for the families here. It would be at 9.30am on one of the Sundays of the month and I will take my lead from you. Please let me know if you would be interested and we can put some plans together. My email address is rev.julie@hotmail.com and my telephone is 07826194400 .

Looking forward to weddings and celebrations together in the coming months.

Every blessing,

Julie

DO THEY STILL COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD?

The Way We Were by Barry Freeman

From 1992 to 2015 I provided a visitors book in the church as part of my voluntary ancillary duties. The entries were a totally absorbing source of information and visitors' opinions for almost a quarter of a century. Through all those years people crossed the road seeking information and this was invariably forthcoming whenever available via Paul Selfe and the late George Alderson - men of impressive scholarship on local matters and inexhaustible goodwill.

Every year the comments followed similar themes: a beautiful church in a beautiful village; a wonderful building well restored and thank you for keeping this church open, were most frequent. The Millennium Quilt; the inspiring poems and pictures; the World War I exhibition; the bells and special floral arrangements all received regular specific mentions. Committed Christians frequently remarked on the ease with which the atmosphere evoked God's presence and left their thanks and good wishes to our community.

Passing on the happy messages to our community

I gave a regular update two or three times a year and an annual report in the parish magazine. This included donation details I collected, and selected entries from various visitors. Numerous local residents used to express their appreciation of these notes.

Basic statistics from the 2015 annual report: the last I wrote

- 273 entries in the visitors book
- £2,262 total donations in the box
- Overseas visitors came from: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA, Netherlands, Norway and Poland. Often those from the English-speaking countries were tracing ancestors, brought here by internet research. A phone call to Paul Selfe or George Alderson was frequently helpful.

A small selection of entries from 2015:

"Roger remembers attending Sunday School here back in the 1950s".

Roger, Jill and David Bray: Wanganui, New Zealand.

"Such an expansive, welcoming church; wish we were here for a service".

Kirsti Aho: San Francisco, USA.

"Wonderful exhibition: A real pleasure as always to visit here".

Christine and David Jones, Hereford.

"With fond memories of the community and my grandparents, Roy and Sallie Leach". Pamela Leach, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

"A pleasure to find such a lively and loved church - blessings".

Rev. Marjie Stanton-Hyde, Malvern.

"A lovely restoration, long may you continue".

Spencer Meus, New York, USA.

"A lovely church in beautiful surroundings: a peaceful haven from the busy town we live in. You are so lucky to have it". Margaret and Ted Stroud, Oldbury, West Midlands.

"Beautifully restored without losing the original charm". Helen Shorthouse; Wellington, Shropshire.

Each year our visitors' entries could virtually fill one edition of this magazine. For us, they were a constant reminder that we have in the centre of our village a building with an atmosphere and purpose that is enjoyed and appreciated by people from all over the world.

For the volunteers who administer, clean and enhance our church it is a collective testimonial from visitors all over the world that their efforts are appreciated daily throughout every year.

EARDISLAND IN BLOOM

Many thanks to those of you who supported the Plant Sale earlier this month. Profits from this event brings in valuable financial support and enables us to continue our projects throughout the year. We've recently faced considerable expense, buying in three stone of Forest of Dean stone for the rockery, plants for the same project, donated new planters for the village hall, purchased plants and compost for the village planters, posts and trellis for a climbing plant and helped the community allotment with expense for compost. Personal thanks also to those who volunteered to help with the Plant Sale and particularly to Wendy Cross for donating multitudes of cakes, savouries, jams and pickles.

Please remember Eardisland in Bloom is run solely by volunteers and receives no outside financial help. We are still desperate for volunteers to help on Thursday mornings and sadly nobody has so far come forward to offer help for an hour or so outside of this time with simple tasks such as dead heading, watering, weeding etc. It really would make a difference. If you're interested, please use the phone number below in the craft fair report.

As reported earlier the new rockery is finally complete. We're pleased with the result, which will require constant maintenance and would like to offer our thanks to Willy and Hugh Lowe, for allowing us to continue to use their land.

Eardisland Craft Fair

This event takes place on Saturday 1st October. As expected, bookings were swift and there is now very little space left for stall holders. If you, or someone you know, is interested in taking a stall, please do so now. Phone me on 07767781073 or email eardislandcfair@btinternet.com

Phil Milchard

EARDISLAND LITTER PICK REPORT

The annual Eardisland Litter Pick took place on the 19th March with around twenty people gathering to help clear litter which had been dropped over the past year.

Thanks to equipment donated by Connops, we were able to again use our own set of litter grabbers and Hi Vis tabards, and the Community Shop provided a large roll of black sacks. The suitably kitted out team managed to clear over 12 miles of verges, as well as the village roads, recreation ground and churchyard. Burton Lane, Lyme Lane and Broome Lane were cleaned, as well as the main road from the A44 to the Playhouse Company. The stretch of the A44 from Burton Court to Lynch Court was also fully picked.

Ben Woodcock

EARDISLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden had been overwintering under a cosy covering of green manure until it was prepared for planting by a team of helpers on Sunday 8th May.

We also planted a variety of popular vegetable seeds including pumpkins, squash, courgettes, green beans, sweetcorn and cucumbers. The children also planted a large amount of bee and insect friendly annual flowers which should create a stunning and beneficial display.

All are most welcome to join in our next session which will be some weeding around the start of June – keep an eye on Facebook and the noticeboard for the date.

Ben Woodcock

EARDISLAND BOWLING CLUB

Saturday April 16th saw the Opening Day for the club with over 30 players attending including present members and some prospective new members who were able to “Have a Go”. The weather was perfect, and everyone was more than happy to enjoy outdoor bowling once again especially after the Covid epidemic which affected the last two previous seasons.

A lot of work has been done by the members during the winter months so the clubhouse and ladies changing room are now newly painted and looking fresh and

clean. Maintaining the bowling green and surrounding areas takes a lot of work in the Spring but it is now ready to take on the matches and competitions of the season.

Bowling is a great game for everyone and both Juniors (11-16 years) and adults, whether beginners or experienced, are welcome to come along and see us on Tuesday evenings, which are club nights opening at 6pm.

Barbara Kay (Secretary)
email: fitcats@btinternet.com

JUST A THOUGHT . .



Spotted on the way back from the village hall.

Poor old tank! It's probably worried about the cost of oil.

Ed.

40 YEARS LATER THE FALKLANDS REMAIN FREE

The Falklands war, 74 days in 1982



The Falkland Islands and the islands of South Georgia have been part of British history for over 200 years. On the 2nd of April 1982 Argentine forces spearheaded by men of their Special Forces invaded, overwhelming the small British Royal Marine garrison within the first 6 hours. A telex message sent by the Island's Operator to London

said, "We have a lot of new friends".

In London, the political decisions made, the UK assembled a task force of some 127 ships, including 42 Harrier jets, to sail the 8,000 miles south as quickly as possible, the mission being to recapture the Falklands. On the 5th April the carriers *Invincible* and *Hermes*, the assault ship *Fearless*, and the liner *Canberra*, with others, were the first away. On board were the royal Marines of the 3rd Commando Brigade, a Para Regiment and support Arms (Gunners, Engineers, Signals and Logistics). On the 12th May the 5th Brigade with a Gurkha Battalion and two Guards Battalions left on the *QE2* with the remainder of the flotilla. The US navy described the whole British effort as a "military impossibility".

On the 25th April a Joint SAS and 42 Marine Commando task force successfully recaptured South Georgia and on the 2nd of May the British Submarine *Conqueror* fired two torpedoes and sank the Argentine Battle Cruiser *Belgrano*.

This early British Naval success saw the Argentine Navy retreat to port. However, Argentine Air Forces remained a significant threat, sinking not only *HMS Sheffield*, the *Atlantic Conveyor*, with all its essential supplies, but also *HMS Ardent*, *Antelope*, *Coventry* and two Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, all with significant loss of life. The Argentine use of their French Aircraft, and the French supplied air- launched *Exocet* missiles, was most effective. Fortunately for us, many of their bombs failed to explode. Effectively, in those early days, the Navy's air defences were overwhelmed.

On 21st May, the British forces (2,400 Marines and paras) landed at San Carlos, heralding the commencement of the land battle. This unopposed landing was only possible after Argentine air losses had reduced their capabilities by about a third. British Harrier jets and ground launched *Rapier* air defence missiles proved increasingly effective.

The land battle progressed, Goose Green was taken by 2 Para from the crack 12th Regiment of the Argentine Army, then there followed the long march towards Stanley. After days of hard fighting the high ground to the west of the islands' capital was taken, effectively blockading the Argentine main base. Argentine losses were significant, at 649 killed and their main operating base was cut off.

May 31st saw the arrival of the 5th Infantry Brigade. The arrival of this significant force saw service politics come into play, and some strange decisions were made which ultimately led to the losses suffered at Fitzroy, when unprotected vessels were attacked by Argentine aircraft.

British forces marched into Stanley on the 14th of June after the fall of Mounts Tumbledown, Longdon and other peaks above Stanley, and the raising of an Argentine white flag of surrender. On the 15th June the formal surrender was received from General Menendes.

255 British lives were lost in this conflict and today there are still some 30,000 British Falkland Islands' veterans alive.

The majority of the force which left the UK in April/May of 1982 returned to a rapturous welcome between the 26th June and 11th July.

40 years on the Falklands War does seem very distant, particularly when seen against the horror which is Ukraine today, "a long-ago war in a faraway landscape". We must remember the sacrifices made and perhaps reflect on whether we could or would, do it again!

Richard Kirby

I am very grateful to Richard for writing this. The conflict certainly captured the public imagination exactly forty years ago. The logistics of transporting so many people with their equipment and supplies so far was a major and demanding task. All this was achieved with remarkable speed and great efficiency. Nothing of this kind is perfect, though, and valuable lessons were learned through rigorous analysis of what happened and why.

I was particularly interested in the story of the Falklands War - it's called a 'war', though no 'war' was officially declared. My interest was prompted by several factors. Initially, the logistics caught my attention, but that led to enquiring into the background, only to discover that the political history of the conflict did not show our Foreign Office in a good light. It also essentially saved the political career of the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, who had become an unpopular leader until the Falklands conflict.

In an interesting link, my wife, Ruth, who was appointed Head of Modern Languages at Peter Symonds' Sixth Form College, Winchester, towards the end of the '80s. It's one of the few boarding colleges, and as such was the sixth form college designated for 16 – 19-year-old students from the Falkland Islands.

Chris Bivand

THE STRANGE HISTORY OF THE EARDISLAND AA BOX: 22 YEARS YOUNG

In the course of research by the Oral History Group, John Gittoes revealed that he had an important historical structure in his garden. He mentioned, in the course of a meeting in the White Swan in 1995, that this was a dilapidated AA Box. Naturally, this information caused much interest, especially among those who had little background knowledge of the village and the fact that it once had such a box. John explained that his father, Harry, had been the local AA man who discovered in the mid-1950s that there were plans to remove all old AA boxes and replace them with new arrangements for motorists in distress. Harry decided therefore to remove the box himself on a low loader and store it in his garden. There it remained for more than 40 years gradually falling into disrepair.



John and his father in the 1940s

Naturally, I asked if I could view the box and John duly took a party to inspect it.



He explained that the Automobile Association (AA) was founded in the early years of the 20th century initially to help motorists avoid speed traps. Further research found that in 1903 there had been a Motor Car Act which introduced new penalties for breaking the speed limit and for reckless driving. These included fines and endorsements and even prison for major infringements.



A Renault outside Burton Court circa 1912

By 1906 the AA had erected thousands of roadside danger and warning signs and managed road signage until responsibility was passed to local authorities in the 1930s. The first members' handbook was published in 1908 which contained a list of nationwide agents and

repair facilities. The earliest AA boxes were introduced in 1911 some of which had a telephone installed to call for assistance. By the time of the second world

war, there were more than 600 similar boxes throughout the country. In that time the AA had installed 6,500 direction signs and 15,000 village signs most of which had to be removed when war broke out. Until this time it was necessary to hold a driving licence which could be bought from a post office for 5 shillings (25p) but there was not a test. Voluntary testing was introduced following the Road Traffic Act 1934 which cost 7 shillings and sixpence (37p). Drivers also had to display a registration plate on their vehicle.

The Eardisland box stood at Legions Cross at the junction of the C1036 with the A44, from about 1925 until the 1950s when all the pre-war boxes were replaced. This one is therefore a very rare (perhaps unique) surviving example of the pre-war type of AA box. Some motorists have claimed to have seen a few similar ones on their travels round the country. If so it is uncertain as to whether they are still in existence or whether they were original buildings or 'copies'. Certainly, when a representative of the AA then based in Basingstoke, was informed about the discovery of John's AA Box, he was sceptical and said that as far as he knew all the original old boxes had long been removed and demolished. He assumed it must have been a copy. However, because it was an interesting report, he agreed to visit Eardisland and inspect the one in John's garden. On arrival, he was astonished to see it and agreed that it was a genuine very rare example of one he had not seen in 40 years. He said, *"It is a pity you don't have any of the signage or other relevant items associated with it"*. John went to a cupboard in his barn and produced many yellow and black signs, handbooks, and photos, together with the telephone from the box and even tins of yellow and black paint. The question arose as to whether there were funds available for its repair. Fortunately, the AA man was so impressed and overwhelmed by these events that he agreed to assist with some substantial funding to enable the box to be fully restored. Furthermore, he also agreed to provide additional items for the display in the Dovecote exhibition area. These included a manikin and a full set of clothes as worn by an AA man at the time the box was in operation. Barry Freeman, who organised the renovation recalls how he, too, was astonished to receive a large, heavy and previously unopened box containing these rare clothes. They had lain in the Basingstoke AA Museum archive for more than 70 years and were in perfect condition.



The Eardisland Box was duly beautifully renovated in April 2000. Barry placed the work with a local craftsman, Roger Young. The representative from AA also agreed to attend the official opening when the great day came. Although it proved to be disappointingly wet, nonetheless, a large crowd came to watch the proceedings, some arriving in vintage cars and others on very ancient bicycles.



It is now the 22nd anniversary of the renovation of this AA box which has duly become a great tourist attraction. We must all remain grateful to the Gittoes family for allowing the historic box to be left on display in the village centre and for maintaining its upkeep and that of the garden, to the highest standards.

Paul Selfe

EARDISLAND WEATHER REPORT

The weather for Eardisland in March brought more frosty mornings and the occasional sleet shower. Rainfall measured 67mm (2.63 inches) with temperatures ranging from 8 to 20C. Barometer pressures ranged from 29.4 to 30.2. River levels rose from 13 to 28 inches.

April saw cold winds and some hail but hopefully will have seen the last of the frosty mornings. Rainfall measured 34mm (1.33 inches). Barometer pressures ranged from 29.2 to 30.16 and temperatures from 9 to 21C were recorded. River levels remained steady from 12 to 13 inches.

The equivalent rainfall in 2021 was March 40mm (1.57 inches) and April 25mm (1 inch).

We have seen cormorants, dippers, swans, goosanders and kingfishers on the river. The grey wagtails have been around as well as goldfinches and siskins.

Doug Tantrum reporting from Kingfisher House

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The training necessary for this role includes 4 x 4 hour core webinars and a variety of other training modules (including telephone support, trauma and self-care) plus the preparation and submission of coursework for our externally accredited Foundation Course.

It usually takes around 3 months in between submitting an application and completing the course. Once you start taking on clients you can typically spend between 2-3 hours per week volunteering. Currently support is offered to clients via telephone and Zoom, with some face to face sessions.

To find out more – come along to one of our Information Evening Webinars held via Zoom. Further details, including application forms, available from sharon.hanne@cruse.org.uk

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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 1st JULY 2022



Eardisland Jubilee Diary

Thursday 2 June

- 11.30** Ringing of bells and raising of flag at War Memorial and Church
- 14.00** Reading of Proclamation by War Memorial
- 19.30 onwards**
Pig roast (£5/head), ice creams and bar at Burton Court
- 21.40** Bugle Call 'Majesty' by Jubilee Bonfire Beacon at Burton Court
- 21.45** Lighting of Jubilee Bonfire Beacon at Burton Court



Sunday 5 June

- 09.30** Service at Church with ring of bells and Jubilee Anthem
- 10.30** At Church – Cake, fizz and a Jubilee book to every house in the parish with children
- 14.00** Big Lunch Parish Picnic on the Recreation Ground – bring your own picnic + free teas/coffees; a bar on sale and more
- 14.30 and 16.00**
Village Band playing
- 14.00 onwards**



Small pictures to create with thoughts on Eardisland 1952-2022 to form a Jubilee Mosaic in the hall