

EARDISLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2022

ISSUE 191



A snowy Eardisland five years ago, in December 2017.

It is very pretty but melt water from the Welsh hills can cause flooding when the thaw sets in – we escaped this in 2017.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR*



QUEEN ELIZABETH II
21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022

PRESS ASSOCIATION / Danny Lawson

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EDITORIAL

It has been a time of change since the last edition of the Eardisland Parish Magazine. At the national level we have experienced the sudden, sad, death of Her Majesty the Queen. There was so much coverage in the media that I can't add any meaningful comment. Also at the national level, we saw political upheavals that will reverberate for years to come. Without making any party-political point, I hope that our political leaders manage a strategy that will ensure a rather better economic and social plan that will serve us well in the future.

At the local level, we have had three deaths. Charlie Hanson, Alan Newcombe and Harry Davies. The obituaries for the first two start on page 5. On hearing of Harry Davies' death at the age of 102, Paul Selfe suggested that we re-run the piece that Paul wrote some two years ago – and this I have done. I corresponded with Paul via email whilst I was on holiday in Malta, only to discover upon my return that Paul had suffered a stroke and is currently in Hereford Hospital. We wish him well.

As we approach the end of the year, and yet another six editions of this magazine in the archive, I wish to thank all those who contribute to making it the success that it is. It is really a large jigsaw puzzle, which depends on the right people doing the right things at the right time. Sometimes there are hiccups, but we always seem to get there in the end. I am very grateful to all those who contribute, in whatever capacity. Without you all, there would be no magazine.

So, we approach 2023. An important item on the agenda will be the elections in May for Herefordshire Council and Eardisland Parish Council. The Parish has not seen an election for the PC in years. Please do consider standing for this important role that affects all our community More of this next year . . .

Finally, I hope you all have a good time over Christmas and New Year.

Chris Bivand

EARDISLAND PARISH DIARY 2023

Friday 9 th December 2022	Talgarth Choir, Dilwyn, p.28
Friday 6th January 2023	Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 12 th January	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 20 th January	Fun Quiz Night, 7.00pm, Village Hall, p.19
Thursday 2 nd February	Patient Participation Group Meeting, p.14
Thursday 9 th February	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 3rd March	Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 9 th March	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 30 th March	ETA Special General Meeting, p.23
Thursday 13 th April	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 5th May	Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 11 th May	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 8 th June	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 30th June	Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 13 th July	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 10 th August	Parish Council Meeting (if required)
Friday 1st September	Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 14 th September	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 7 th October	Craft and Produce Fair, p.29
Thursday 12 th October	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 9 th November	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 17th November	Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 14 th December	Parish Council Meeting (if required)

There are various Village Hall Craft Events detailed on page 25.

If you are planning an event in the village, please bear in mind that the distribution dates for the magazine are dependent upon a number of factors. If, for example, there is a technical breakdown at the printer, then the distribution will be delayed. It is always better to advertise events well in advance in case there is a problem with the distribution of the hard copy.

However, the magazine is always published on the Eardisland website, usually a week or so in advance of the hard copy distribution – just go to the website and look under ‘Community’. The magazine is identical to the printed version, other than the centre pages show colour, whilst the printed copy is in monochrome.

As always, copy before the copy date is much appreciated.

Chris Bivand

JOHN 'CHARLIE' HANSON

d. Thursday 15th September, aged 71.



Charlie was resident at Home Farm, Eardisland, all his life. He was educated at Eardisland Primary School and Weobley High School, leaving at the age of 15, and wanting to be at home working on the farm. Agriculture was very labour intensive in those days of mixed farming; a lot of the work being done by hand which made him extremely strong. He took pride in producing quality fat cattle and lambs and took over the marketing from his father in his late teens. At 6' 2" he was a big presence and had a very outgoing personality. He greatly loved the challenge of 'buying it right and selling it right'.

Charlie was an active member of Dilwyn Young Farmers' Club, participating in many of their competitions and acting as a steward on Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers' ploughing marathon. It was through YFC that he met his wife Maryan, they married in 1982.

Billy was born in 1983 followed by Michael in 1985 and John in 1990. During this period he was looking to expand the business by renting more ground and building sheds to house the livestock in the winter. In 1990 he passed his HGV test which enabled him to be able to rent ground further from home and be able to buy cattle from further away.

During the 90's farming became much more mechanised and in 1995 the first CAT telehandler was purchased and couldn't he do some work now! It was the start of a love affair with CAT telehandlers which he used with pride and absolute precision. It was his wish that he arrived at Eardisland church for his funeral service on the front of one.

The BSE crisis hit in March 1996, which compromised the beef industry and by an innate ability to survive he managed to get through a difficult period. Then in 2001 the livestock were slaughtered on suspicion of Foot and Mouth Disease which he found very difficult to cope with. He restocked when able to do so, only to be challenged by TB closing the trading of cattle down. Consequently, he changed farming policy and formed a large suckler herd. Despite the huge challenges he faced he was the eternal optimist looking for every open door to

expand the business so that Michael and John (Billy had chosen a career in engineering) could have a good start on the farming ladder.

In April 2020 he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and was found to be cancer free in October 2020 but was found to have esophageal cancer in November 2021. John was due to get married on 3rd September 2022 which, with the help and support of all the Palliative Care professionals, Charlie managed to attend and enjoy. He very much wanted to say thank you to the Macmillan Renton Unit (MRU) for the kind care he was given - he always said it was like being a member of an extended family - so insisted that the wedding marquee be used to raise money for the MRU. With the organization of an Auction of Promises by Dilwyn YFC, and the support of the farming community, the magnificent sum of £14,300 was raised of which £11,000 has been donated to the MRU.

Eulogies were given by, Billy and John Hanson, and John Uffold:

Now most of you knew my father as Charlie, some knew him as John, a few knew him as sir, and I knew him as dad. A man known for the size of his hands, who I can confirm growing could clip both ears at the same time and yet had tremendous dexterity whilst working on an engine and surgical precision with two pairs of long nose pliers.

Now, our father was a man who was judged by the stock that went through the ring and not the condition of vehicle that offloaded them.

My father never appreciated how much stronger he was than most, a good example of this will be the modifications he carried out to stock box springs and the back gates. This ranged from having the springs wound so tight that on more than one occasion someone has ended up on the roof of the stockbox or trapped against the gates – which was their fault for not moving fast enough. A favorite saying of my grandfather was if you can rise a sledge, the Lord will drop it – and yet I have seen many a man looking for divine intervention when grabbing a set of aluminum back gates that had been internally strengthened with steel, as they face cattle coming back on them - and my father in the vicinity using the Lord's name asking why they could not close them.

Nothing was impossible for our father, and this was prevalent when considering the type of loads he would carry – and we are all thankful this was at a different time as the escapades he got away with would've made today's news with everything ending up on social media. Nothing malicious, just stretching the boundaries of what is allowable. From small straw bales being taken to Anglesey and being warned of the tunnel height, but still adding one more layer as "it'll be alright", resulting in the filling the tunnel fans with straw To going through spaghetti junction with a 10' 6" wide load of cattle feeders, with telegraph poles hanging over the front and back of the lorry during rush hour.

Now building has always been a continuous aspect on the farm with now over two acres covered in the past 20 years – ½ acre of which has been built and rebuilt 3 times over the past 15 years. To source the building materials, we carried out our own demolition activities from all over the UK. One example of a unique demolition activity was from one of the closest where we were demolishing 2 buildings and dad was being advised by the previous owner how to do the job – much to his annoyance. Now the site owner had an existing French barn. 20ft wide, 45ft long by 3 bays and 12ft to the eaves. Dad was offered the building and told the gentleman he was not interested as the building only had scrap value and that was when it was in the skip. The demolition cost would not cover the money from the scrap. Well after a lot of persuasion and a 100 quid in my dad's pocket he agreed to demolish the building. He put the loader under the center, told me to cut the legs through flush on the ground and then dad proceeded to fold up the building with the telehandler and stuff it into the scrap skip within 15 minutes of starting – much to the bemusement of the gentleman who had just paid dad to do this “so called difficult task”. As I mentioned earlier, Dad built a lot of connections through business – but when he wanted to ensure he never dealt with anyone again, he had the last deal on his terms.

Dad always said if he was going to get the best labour, he was going to have to breed them. He also took use of his boy's having friends over and whenever I had friends to come to stay in the summer, they went off with dad to load bales and bring home whilst I went off to bale elsewhere. This use of free labour continued with all three of us boys - and all our friends would leave exhausted, but never hungry and always entertained.

I must also thank the health care services my family received to ensure my father could attend John and Emma's wedding. Marie Curie, St Michael's Hospice and the district nurses went above and beyond. To paraphrase a famous Churchill saying – never have so few been so thankful for the unrelenting generosity of so many.

Finally, of all the things my father was famous for – Top Gear could NEVER take a Toyota Hilux to the extremes like dad did. I will finish with a rhyming “poem”:

With Home Farm still and the day taking hold, there's a Hilux tale of Charlie that shall now be told. It's a tale of strength of machines and men, and of trucks that were their somewhat battered friends. From brokering grass keep, to transporting drench, the Hilux was his office, the Hilux was his bench.

The first of these was explosive from the start, the registration D369 TNT set the red truck apart. No longer was Charlie driving in the tough s**t position, with cowboy hat on, now on a mission. For a family of 5 this single cab truck did not have the volume – for Maryan and the boys, that was their problem.

There were numerous Hilux's throughout the years, all with stories on how they were used well past their capabilities without any fears. From hiding the eldest two under wool sheets from Hixon to home, the boys were alright, they weren't allowed to moan. To transport loads that were so out of gauge, to question why – you would face a rage.

One example was when pursuing a lamb across ground in Kimbolton that was acting irritational, by the third hedge it was clear the beast was better for the grand national. It was at this point Charlie decided to check on the boys who were in the truck bed, only to discover Mike was two hedges back, holding his head.

Another rare occasion when driving Charlie was faced with a game of chicken, with Maryan by his side they were at Lynch court, stricken. A bull of orange and white had decided the Hilux was fair game and did its utmost to destroy the vehicle and occupants without any shame. But little did the insurers who assessed the end of this Hilux know, the Simmental bull only struck the finishing blow.

Whilst it is great to reminisce about all the Hilux fun, Charlie would say, come now boys, there is work to be done.

ALAN NEWCOMBE 5/1/1938 – 7/8/2022



Alan, my dear husband of 42 years and a valued friend and neighbour in our village, died at home on August 7th. He was 84. We held his funeral in Cheltenham on 7th September. I am grateful to friends from Eardisland who were able to join us that day and for all the cards and messages of sympathy I have received. I am certain Alan had no idea of the regard in which he was held.

Alan's eulogy was written and presented by me together with personal tributes from our eldest son, David, and our daughter, Kate. The following is an abridged version.

Alan was born in Cheltenham in 1938. He was the first child born to Nora and always held a very special place in her heart. Nora married twice and had 10 more children. Life was hard for the whole family and being the eldest, Alan learned to be responsible and resourceful from a very young age. He often recalled family life on Cleeve Hill where one of his duties, aged 8, was to go out with a 10lb axe to collect and chop firewood for the cooking stove.

Alan's education was often disrupted due to demands at home and he left school at 15. He had various short-term jobs in and around Cheltenham and his wages were needed to support the growing family. In June 1956, he was called up to do National Service in the Tank Regiment. Alan had fond memories of his time in the army, and the discipline, focus and independence he learned there stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Alan was demobbed in 1959, returning to Cheltenham and various local jobs once again. In 1960 he married Pam and settled down to family life with their 3 daughters. In 1969, Alan joined Vibixa, the printing and packaging arm of Weetabix. I joined the Company in 1977 and we became great friends before falling in love and marrying in 1980. We settled in Gloucester where we raised our 3 children David, Chris and Kate.

Kate shared some musings on what it means to be a father. These were taken from a Fathers' Day card she had sent Alan some years before, for example:

Great fathers don't find fault . . . great fathers find solutions

A father is someone who is proud to see you get your first car . . . but secretly wishes it had no keys

A father is someone who carries pictures in his wallet . . . where his money used to be.

A father may not always tell you that he loves you . . . he shows you.

When we were first married, necessity being the mother of invention, there were always home improvement projects on the go. Ever resourceful, Alan often surprised himself with what he was able to achieve: he replaced a ceiling in our first house when melt-water, during the icy winter of 1981, brought the old one down and in our next house, he flattened outbuildings and built a kitchen extension (with a little help from his friends).

Alan retired from Vibixa in 2003 after 32 years of service and, in 2012, once I had also retired, we achieved our dream of "escaping to the country", finding happiness in the lovely village of Eardisland in Herefordshire.

We have received so many wonderful cards and messages following Alan's death. The most used phrase in tribute is that he was "a lovely, gentle man" – he was. He always advised us to "seek balance" and he, himself, was a

perfect balance of the practical and the sensitive with a generous sprinkling of good humour. He was seldom serious for long and always wore a smile.

Alan was reliable and resourceful, always wanting to help and, somehow, always having something to hand to fix things. One of Alan's most memorable "fixes" was when our old car had a hole in the exhaust pipe. With a flattened-out talcum powder tin and a couple of jubilee clips, the hole was repaired and we were back on the road.

David shared some of his own memories of his Dad, especially Alan's ability to fix things with his enviable array of "things that might come in useful one day". He also recalled his Dad's love of nature, his willingness to help others, his positivity and his sense of humour. David closed by saying "I'd like to think Dad has helped to make us all who we are today . . . and I feel incredibly lucky to have been able to call him my parent and guide".

Being outdoors in nature was Alan's natural environment and he was a great advocate for our native wildlife. He loved his garden, nurturing his collections of fuchsias and ferns and, more recently, sweet peas. He also loved wild places and the freedom of the skies. He was a keen observer of birds and loved to listen to their song in the early morning. Alan loved heroes and heroic tales, especially regarding animals. It's where his love of the homing pigeon came from and why he kept and studied them for many years.

Alan loved music and had a lovely singing voice. He read a lot, especially books on philosophy and self-improvement. He was always searching for answers and the right pathways to take but those of us who knew and loved him always felt secure in the knowledge that he already had the answers. We are all better people for having had him in our lives and we will miss him forever.

Pat Newcombe and family

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

1. It is now just over 12 months since Joe and I moved to this beautiful part of the world! Thank you for making us very welcome.

Contact details for the Parish clerk are as follows:

parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk. Tel: 07799 826779. Postal address: Westgate, Eardisland, Herefordshire, HR6 9AR. The details are also on the website.

2. **Benches - Thank you** to all those who have kindly offered to donate a bench either in memory of a loved one or to enhance the parish. Donors will be contacted in early 2023 with a view to purchase and installation in the Spring.

3. **Village Hall - Windows & Cladding.**

The Parish Council is in discussion with J Harper & Sons regarding replacement windows and cladding. It is hoped that the concerns can be resolved very soon.

4. **Environment Agency - Property Flood Resilience (PFR)**

The Parish Council met with representatives from the Environment Agency (EA) on 31 October 22. Household surveys to look at PFR options will commence in early 2023. Property Flood Resilience is a term used to describe measures that reduce the risk of flood damage to properties, speed up recovery and help householders to move back into their properties quicker after flooding. These measures are installed in homes or businesses to make them less vulnerable to flooding. PFR solutions are bespoke to each property. The EA have funding available for PFR work.

Desilting - The EA have agreed to 50% match funding for desilting work. The Parish Council will be applying for a permit for this work in early 2023 ready for work to commence in the summer.

5. **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 07799 826779 for a copy of the Plan.

6. **Road Safety**

Simon Hobbs, Senior Accident Investigation Officer at Herefordshire Council, met with the Parish Council to discuss road safety measures that could be of benefit in the village. Speed limit Roundels, Edge-lining, and Speed Indicator Devices are all options.

7. **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 and we will be pleased to bring you one.

8. 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.

9. The following **Planning Applications** have been considered or noted at recent parish council meetings:

P2228723/F, **Hay Cottage**, Lynch Court Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9AR - The conversion of a brick building to a use which is ancillary to the main dwelling comprising part annex and part residential storage (part retrospective).

P214073/F, **Land adjacent to Arrow Lea**, HR6 9BU – 6 no. dwellings with garages. Refused at Herefordshire Planning Committee meeting 28/9/22.

P212581/FH and P212582/L, **Staick Cottage** Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BU - Proposed conversion of adjoining garages into additional living accommodation and other works including new vehicular access and detached garage. Refused.

P222500/K, **9 St Marys Walk** Eardisland Herefordshire HR6 9BB - Birch Tree to be reduced all round by 20%. Over shading back garden and overhanging neighbour's garage. Works Allowed.

P223517/K - **Staick House** Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BU - T5 - Beech Tree. To dismantle to ground level - Has Meripilus Giganteus Fungus, making the root system unstable and liable to failure.

P223663/XA2 - **Staick House** Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BU - Application for approval of details reserved by condition 5 (part) attached to Listed Building Consent 214003.

10. 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.

Debbie Cottam

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

from your local County Councillor ROGER PHILLIPS;

rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Safer highways and communities

I arranged a ward meeting with local Police officers including Herefordshire's most senior officer Ed Williams. Issues of speeding on our main and minor highways was brought up. A suggestion of Parish Councils and residents paying for signage was supported by the Police where the County Council will not install, however there is a surcharge from Balfour for overseeing and installing the sign. Our Balfour steward is reluctant to have reflector posts installed on our verges but I consider they are effective and value for money, so I am pursuing that issue within Balfour and the Council.

HGVs using the highways was brought up, but concern of large farm vehicles was particularly mentioned. The accident earlier this year at Weston near Pembridge has resulted in an insurance claim of nearly 50K for structural damage alone. Our PC Dean Wall and our Balfour steward have visited the main Agri business over the summer to engage with them on safety issues. I will look to follow this up during winter and arrange a meeting again where we can encourage better tractor driver standards e.g. stop one-handed operations - not using mobile phones, dogs on laps! Better identification of vehicles, one-way systems. We all choose to live in a rural area and recognise it is a working environment to produce our food but respect for residents and road users must be part of operations. If you record anything illegal by photos or car cam forward to the police who will either consider prosecution or a warning letter.

We are fortunate to live in a low crime area with very low household burglaries, however, concerns were raised about recent commercial and farm thefts. Trespass and intimidation by certain minority groups were raised and the apparent lack of prosecution. The police encouraged more proactive behaviour of smart watering items and tracker devices in more expensive machinery. The illegal practice of hare coursing was highlighted and the previous network of monitoring of suspicious late-night driving was raised.

I was pleased to arrange recently a meeting between the Highway Safety Officer and members of the Parish Council, and we discussed the potential to place a request for a 20 mph speed limit through the village. I have some concerns that Herefordshire Council wants to fund 20 mph village speed limits by taking 1.2 million pounds from the public health budget. Laudable as the reduction in speed may be I think there are other pressing priorities for our public health funds. Extending the white line side markings to the west of the village, more planting schemes in the centre and on the east side, as well as the potential and impact of a speed indicator device (SID) were also discussed.

The sub-contractors installing the fibre optic broadband were very disappointing and I have had many concerns expressed on the level of workmanship and disruption to the village particularly to the local businesses. We will need to monitor the quality of the infill and have up to two years to get reinstatement of any poor surfacing.

This winter looks particularly challenging for us all and I enclose this link for useful guidance <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Take care and enjoy a peaceful and happy Christmas, Roger.

MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

The Practice is still having difficulties with deliveries and national shortages of medications, so they are not expecting to change back to 48-hour prescription turnaround. So, 72 hours from ordering a prescription to when it will be available to collect will remain. Some practices have a 5-day turnaround. The Practice has asked patients when ordering using the online EMIS system to add in the comment box which surgery dispensary they wish to collect their prescription. They have new dispensing staff some of whom are not familiar with where people live. Thank you.

There are extended access appointments at Kington and Ryeland (Leominster) surgeries at weekends that patients can book into for things like wound dressings, suture removal and bloods. Telephone the surgery for further information.

The Friends of Mortimer Practice have agreed to fund hearing loops for the reception and dispensing area at Kingsland surgery to help people with a hearing impairment.

The combined Flu and Covid booked appointment system worked well and will now be the normal way of rolling out these vaccination sessions. Over 50s, the clinically at risk and their household, pregnant women, carers and health care workers can now call the surgery to book an appointment for the vaccination/vaccinations.

From 8th July to 9th November 2022, 15743 appointments were offered but 419 patients did not attend which equates to 3% and 56 patients had multiple DNA's (did not attend) - frustrating for those who are finding it difficult to get an appointment.

If anyone has any concerns or issues they would like me to raise at our PPG meetings please contact me. Our next meeting is Thursday 2nd February 2023.

Diane Lee
01544 387685

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.

Energy Saving Eardisland

Winter temperatures and increased energy prices mean that it makes sense more than ever to make sure our homes are as energy efficient as possible, not only will this help reduce our carbon footprints but also save us money.

If you have a gas condensing boiler, then you can increase its efficiency and reduce costs by turning down the flow temperature. There are simple guides to doing this here: <https://keepherefordshirewarm.co.uk/advice/get-the-best-from-your-combi-boiler/>

It's not too late to check your insulation and draught proofing, which could keep you warmer and cut costs over the next few months. There is good advice here: <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/draught-proofing/>

If you're struggling to keep your home warm and deal with costs, the advice team at Keep Herefordshire Warm can help: <https://keepherefordshirewarm.co.uk/> or ring an advisor on 0800 677 1432. They can also offer advice about what current grants may be available to help with costs of installing insulation or fitting solar panels and heat pumps.

Trees and Hedgerows

Working with Eardisland's new tree warden, Andy Dunn, we've identified several sites on parish council owned (or managed) land around the village where new trees and hedgerows can be planted. Andy will be applying for funding with the aim of buying some plants over coming months. We hope that parishioners (especially children) will be able to get involved in the planting out.

Its important to plant new trees and hedgerows to:

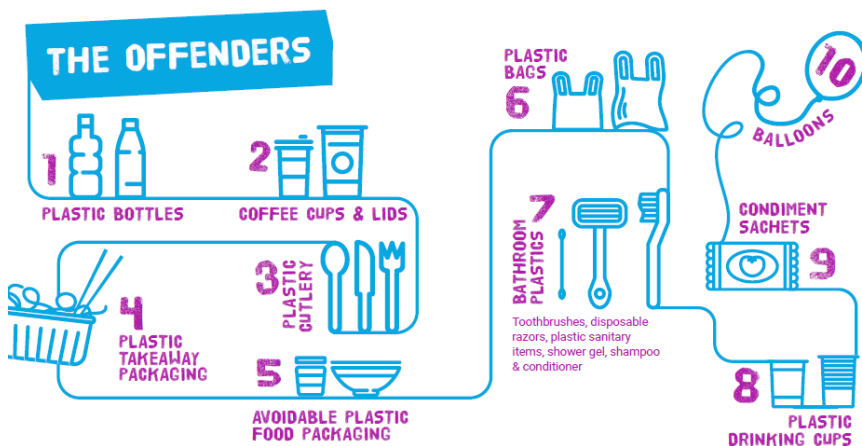
- Replace old trees as they die
- Provide habitat for wildlife
- Link up areas of habitat with hedgerows
- Store carbon
- Provide shade in increasingly hot summers

Maintaining existing hedgerows is equally as important and we're hoping to provide some training into how to assess hedgerows and put together hedgerow management plans. Get in touch if you're interested!

Plastic Free Eardisland

The E & S group is now also officially the steering group of Plastic Free Eardisland (<https://plasticfree.org.uk/>). We're hoping other Eardisland based groups, events and businesses will support this initiative.

Anyone who's been involved in the annual litter picks will know just how much waste is produced by single use plastics. A lot of this ends up in the environment and eventually in the sea. While it may seem like individuals can't make a difference, it really helps if people stop buying single use items or refuse them in shops. Eventually business and government take notice and changes are made. A good example is cotton buds, which have had to be made of paper since 2020. Perhaps try and use less of the common offenders over the festive season.



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 over 60 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.

Ben Woodcock
b3nwoodcock@gmail.com
01544 388976

EARDISLAND COMMUNITY SHOP REPORT

Our AGM was held on October 11th and the Committee would like to thank those who attended and showed their support.

The 2021 minutes were adopted, and Jo Watson gave her report as Chair, expressing gratitude to all volunteers including her fellow Committee members who work in the shop and behind the scenes. She reminded everyone that costs have rocketed this year, but the shop will endeavour to continue to keep prices as low as possible (e.g. Country Flavour eggs) and profits made will be used for the benefit of Eardisland Parish.

Helen Kirkham as Treasurer covered the issues that impacted the shop finances in 2021 and reported a small profit. She thanked the Committee and especially Kathy Prosser for dealing so promptly with all payments, a response for which local small suppliers are particularly grateful.

The Secretary, Sue Wallis, noted that the shop continued to provide a local service, selling goods but also offering a daily social hub. It was reported that the number of volunteers declined during the pandemic and has not built up to its previous strength so the opening hours have had to be considerably reduced.

During the AGM special appreciation was extended to Lou Lauden and Phil Milchard for their invaluable work providing newspapers for customers, dealing admirably with the many challenges involved.

The current Committee stood down with most members agreeing to stand again, although several of us would prefer to leave during the coming year. It is felt that the Committee would benefit from new blood and fresh ideas. Suzanne Butters was welcomed as a new Committee member.

An open invitation is extended to anyone who would like to work with the new committee to see what is involved and how rewarding it can be. Anyone new to the village will find that working in the shop is a very quick way of meeting people and making new friends. It is an institution of which we should all be proud, and it needs everyone's help as customers, as volunteers and as Committee members.

Please note: The shop will continue to provide raffle prizes to local organisations up to a value of £25 but raffle tickets cannot be sold in the shop. This is in accordance with regulations set by the UK gambling commission.

The shop committee fully supports the Eardisland Environment and Sustainability Group in seeking to lower carbon emissions, conserve energy and reduce the use of plastic in the Parish. We have continued to use local suppliers wherever possible to limit our carbon footprint and are stocking a range of environmentally friendly products. We buy items in glass rather than plastic whenever possible and have stopped selling some products such as soap in

plastic dispensers. You can also recycle your batteries and tablet foils in the boxes provided.

Many residents will have noticed the metal tap outside the shop, which is almost ready for connection by Welsh Water, who have been very supportive and helpful. This project began last year and will provide free drinking water, especially for the many passing cyclists and walkers who will be able to fill up recyclable containers rather than buy water in plastic bottles. The shop has funded the installation of the tap and will pay the water bills. The Committee would like to thank everyone involved in making this happen, but special thanks must go to:

Ben Woodcock who dug the trench on a very hot summer's day, Dave Carr who drew up the essential plans required by Welsh Water, Dave Gittoes who made the concrete base to support the tap and the Dovecote Trustees who gave permission for the land to be used. A special thank you to Dan Powell who carried out the plumbing work so efficiently and exactly as Welsh Water required, at a very reasonable cost. We hope this will be a valuable local asset for many years to come.

Finally, a big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who continue to turn up and give their time to provide such an important service to the parish, and also of course to our valued customers who enable us to keep the shop running.

The Eardisland Community Shop Committee



The Community Shop was opened by Paul the Postman in May 2010.

It was the most extraordinary community initiative and has served the community well for twelve years.

It always needs volunteers!

EARDISLAND VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – CHARITY 1108366

A successful Village Show and Dog show was enjoyed by many in the village, and we are pleased to say it raised much-needed funds for running the Village Hall. A great word of thanks to all supporters of our latest event the Halloween Oktoberfest. I am pleased to announce the winner of the Oktoberfest Word Challenge as Zoe and the Quiz highest scorers were James and Beau. Please contact Susie on 07799486210 to arrange prizes.

As always, we are keen for new volunteers and enthusiastic and skilled villagers to help on the Committee, so if you feel you have some time and energy to offer, please let us know! It's a great way to get immersed in Village events and make new friends. We are busy planning new events for next year starting with a **Fun Quiz Night on Friday 20th January, 7.00pm at the Village Hall**, look out for our event and Village Hall activity posters.



L-r: Rebecca Rhys-Evans, Susie Curtis, Patricia Gill, Ruth Brinton-Bivand, Sarah Heron.

Let the festive spirit begin here at the Eardisland village hall! The 'Oktoberfest' party was a great success, full of fun, laughter and dancing - not to mention

eating and drinking! Judging by the positive response from the local community the hard work and effort made it all worthwhile. Table service for food and drink was provided by the five 'wenches' (pictured above).

Bavarian folk dancing led by Barbara Kay could be described as organised chaos - the hall full of people slapping thighs and clapping hands in time to a Tyrolean Waltz - very funny! Fancy dress costumes were both scary and creative, and prizes were awarded to the best male, female and youngster. Well done everyone for taking part and we look forward to the next event.

Susie Curtis
For EVHMC



EARDISLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Thank you to those of you who have become members of Eardisland Neighbourhood Watch. Our membership continues to grow, although there are still a number of areas that are not yet represented, so if you have not yet signed up, please consider doing so using the details below. The more members who sign up, the more resources we can obtain, road signs etc. I now have a supply of window stickers and I am trying to identify the best way to get these to members.

If you are interested in joining this scheme, you will need to become a member and then join the Eardisland scheme using the following link <https://members.ourwatchmember.org.uk/join> to register by providing your personal details. Once you have done that and you are in your account, select the 'Manage Schemes' option in the 'dropdown' under 'Neighbourhood Watch Tools' in the top banner on the page, then click on the yellow 'JOIN OR APPLY TO CREATE A NEW SCHEME' bar and follow the process, selecting Eardisland to join this scheme and gain access to regular security hints as well as discounted security equipment and home insurance.

If you do not have a computer do not worry, drop me a line or give me a call with your name, address and contact details so I can arrange your membership; once I have your details, I will arrange for hardcopy updates to be delivered. Please contact me if you are interested in joining our scheme and have any questions.

Joe Logan

Westgate, Eardisland HR6 9AR, Phone: 01544 388878

Email: eardisland_neighbourhood_watch@hotmail.com (please note the 2 underscores)

EARDISLAND W.I.

Eardisland WI has resumed its autumn programme in the village hall. We meet in the afternoons on the second Monday of the month. At our September meeting we welcomed Meriet Duncan, she is a beekeeper, author and photographer who talked about her books and experience working with her hives here and in Surrey.

In October we went back in time to the Tudor Apothecary with the team from Discover History based in Worcester. We were introduced to some of the bizarre and frankly dangerous remedies of the time, plus the few that we still use

today. November's meeting will be on Caribbean cooking with Gloria and Christine.

Membership of the WI has increased over the course of the year, and we are looking forward to welcoming more new members over the coming months. If you are interested in joining, please contact the committee or any of our members and we will pass on any additional information you need. Guests are welcome at our meetings (a charge of £5 will apply).

Our programme for the new year starts with a visit from the Herefordshire Fire Service.

On behalf of Eardisland WI President Rita Kirby and the committee Wendy Priday, Diane Lee and Helen Kirkham we would like to wish all our past and present members a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Helen Kirkham
On behalf of the Eardisland WI

DOVECOTE TRUST

Since our new exhibitions have been on display, we have been surprised by the extent of their popularity.

The plan is to roll through exhibitions, but those in place will remain until January, and so there's still time to drop by to see the two subjects featuring the village and county history. One of course – set up by the History Group - focuses upon our parish, while the military exhibits demonstrate how Herefordshire through the past few centuries has maintained firm links with our Armed Forces.

These two aspects were brought together through November, when the biographies of our 13 Fallen soldiers were laid out together for visitors and parishioners alike to contemplate the circumstances in which those Fallen lived and died.

Meanwhile, the repairs to the Dovecote which make it safe and sound for a few more decades have had little effect; in so far as ridding the upstairs of cobwebs and dust - appearing magically and abundantly in places out of reach! Anyone with ideas, a few hours to spare, a sense of humour and a liking for challenge... are welcome at any time to come along with brooms, buckets and specialised cleaning tools, subject to appointment. Only serious people should apply.

Hugh Vernon
eardisland_dovecote@btinternet.com



EARDISLAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION

A FEW 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.

JOINT FACEBOOK PROJECT BETWEEN EARDISLAND AND LA VIEILLE LYRE

At the Special General Meeting held in March this year, it was not possible to form a properly constituted committee. However, it was decided to set up a joint Eardisland/La Vieille Lyre Facebook page to allow both our communities to post what is going on day-to-day and to keep the link between our villages alive in an engaging and cost-effective way. The page is now well-established with a growing membership. At the time of writing there are 108 members from both sides of the Channel. A recent post is of a very touching video taken at the war memorial on 11/11 in La Vieille Lyre showing the plaque listing the names of our own parishioners who died in both World Wars, with one of the French villagers reading out their names: [La Vieille Lyre and Eardisland Twinning | Facebook](#) There are now plans afoot to make the project more inclusive by streaming a live feed of the page to the Eardisland Community website for those who don't use Facebook.

Please come along to next year's Special General Meeting (see opposite) to review the Facebook project and to discuss plans for the future of the organisation. New and longer-standing residents of Eardisland would be most welcome.

MICHEL PROD'HOMME – AN APPRECIATION

We are very sad to share the news of the death of Michel Prod'homme in October. Michel was a founder of the Twinning Association in La Vieille Lyre and an invaluable and very active member. Michel also played a leading role in the organisation of the visit of Eardisland pupils from Kingsland CE Primary School to La Vieille Lyre in November 2017. During an outing to an educational farm with children from both Eardisland and La Vieille Lyre, Michel could not resist joining in the fun by balancing on one foot on the posts at the entrance to the farm. Both children and adults were most impressed! Michel's funeral took place on 2nd November and our Association sent condolences from all Michel's friends in Eardisland and organised a wreath. Michel will be sorely missed by Nicole, his family and friends and by parishioners from both our villages.



SAVE THE DATE!

The next Special General Meeting of Eardisland Twinning Association will take place on Thursday 30th March 2023 at 7pm in Eardisland Village Hall. The Association's Constitution states that all Eardisland parishioners and interested residents of neighbouring towns and villages are welcome to attend all association meetings/organised events. There is no formal membership or membership fee. 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)

EARDISLAND MEMORIAL WALKS

It appears that footfall on most, if not all, of the Walks increased in the second part of summer, enough in any case to continue with the project - now five years after its inception.

The 'Easigate' initiative – to encourage access to the countryside for walkers of all ages and abilities – will continue with five gates available at present, awaiting the decision of where they would prove most useful. For an example, visit the Easigate in Patslie Coppice just out of the village on the Warren Clowes Memorial Walk.



Please use provided chains to secure Easigates, a belt and braces action where stock are present in adjoining fields.

Easistiles will soon be in production to install as appropriate - such as where stock is close to busy main roads. They will serve this main purpose, while enabling safe and straightforward access for walkers.



Please advise contact@eardislandmemorialwalks.org.uk should parishioners come across gates or stiles which impede less abled walkers, restricted for now to Memorial Walks which run through our own or surrounding parishes. A trained workforce will spring into action as soon as practical to install a spanking new, Herefordshire oak Easigate as pictured above. Meanwhile, if any readers are interested in helping out the project by getting out and about and identifying problems which need a fix on any of our 13 walks, please use the contact details above to volunteer.

Hugh Vernon



EARDISLAND VILLAGE SHOW CRAFT EVENTS
(EVHMC) Registered Charity 1108366

EVHMC will be running craft events again this year. These will be sponsored by the fundraising from the Village Show. These will be advertised in the parish magazine, on the parish noticeboard and the parish Facebook page.

Friday December 2nd 7-9pm - Christmas door decoration workshop

Join Sue Hamer to make a Christmas door decoration with a difference!

Saturday January 28th 10am-12 - Children's sewing workshop (ages 6 ish – 12 ish!)

Join Andrea from LazyDaisy Chains to make an under the sea creature!

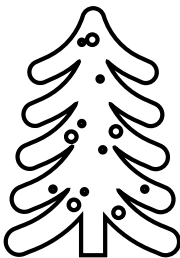
Friday February 10th 7-9pm - Macramé workshop

Jen (Theprolificrafter) will be teaching us how to make a macramé vegetable hanger.

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 ASAP if you would like to attend.

jo.evhmc@yahoo.com

HELLO TO MY CHRISTMAS TREE HELPERS!



On Saturday 17th December I need you to help to decorate the Church Christmas tree. You can bring mums, dads and grannie to help. As usual hot chocolate, and snacks plus a sweet or two, will be provided. I look forward to seeing you on Saturday 17th December at 10.30am - see you there.

Love Dian xx

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 welcomer, 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 in the Benefice

Date	Time and type	Which church?
Sun 27 th November	Holy Communion 9.30am	Eardisland
Sun 4 th December	Holy Communion 9.30am	Eardisland
Sun 11 th December	iSingPOP 9.30am	Eardisland
Sun 18 th December	Christmas Carol Service and Mulled Wine 5.30pm	Eardisland
Sat 24 th December Christmas Eve	Midnight Mass 10.00pm	Eardisland
Sun 25 th December Christmas Day	Family Communion 9.30am	Eardisland
Sunday 1 st January	Benefice Holy Communion 10.30am	Eardisland
Sun 8 th January	iSingPOP 9.30am	Eardisland
Sun 15 th January	Holy Communion 9.30am	Eardisland
Sun 22 nd January	Holy Communion 9.30am	Eardisland
Sun 29 th January	Benefice HC with Bishop Richard Jackson 10.30am	Kingsland

FROM JULIE READ

“Wise men came from the East” is a line from the Christmas Story, they followed a star that they had seen at its rising, and in tradition we don’t celebrate their arrival at the place of the newly born King that they were seeking until 12 days after Christmas, at the Feast of Epiphany. Hence the 12 days of Christmas that start on Christmas Day. I often think about their journey and one of my favourite books is the story of the 4th Wise Man who is behind the other 3 as he stops to help people on the way, but continues on his journey nevertheless. Our Christmas celebrations this year include a book “Follow the Star” which you can pick up from the church for a suggested donation of £1. It is an encouragement to all who are on a journey of faith, whether you are racing along through new adventures and exciting times, or whether you are just trying to put one foot in front of the other after a lifelong marathon, or somewhere in between. When the wise men found that the star had stopped, they entered the house and found Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus, and they fell down and worshipped (and gave their gifts). Wherever we find Jesus on our journey it is to be brought before the one who gives life, and healing and hope. Let us open our eyes to seek and to acknowledge what we find on our journey to Christmas and beyond this year. May it be filled with hope.

On the way there are many occasions. Hope to see you there. For me the celebrations begin with putting up the Christmas Tree which Dian will do with any children who offer to help her, and then at the Carol and Crib Service where we put the lovely figures in the crib scene which this year is on the 18th December at 5.30pm with mulled wine and mince pies. (After the world cup final!!) Then the school Christmas Service in Kingsland Church, and the evening service on Christmas Eve at 10pm where we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child in the still of the night and then on Christmas Day itself, we have a mix of locals and visitors in church for our Family communion where you can bring along one of your presents to show or share. All are welcome at any of the occasions, and you don’t have had to come to church ever before to come along.

For some Christmas is difficult, for those who have lost loved ones in the year, and this will be the first time without them, or for those who have found Christmas difficult for any number of reasons over the last years. On Thursday 22nd December at 10am in Kingsland Church there will be a short service and coffee entitled Blue Christmas for those who want to come to Church but don’t want to celebrate Christmas in the usual way. It would be helpful if you could let me know if you would like to come as this is the first time we have put on this kind of service.

On a more personal note – I will be on sabbatical from mid-January until mid-April and looking at Music in Worship at various places from Cathedrals to Large Concert Style Worship with bands and dancing and everything in between.

I hope to rekindle my love of music which filled my life until the children came along and in the mix of ministry and life has somewhat faded into the background. Whilst I am off duty here, there will of course be others who will be leading worship and serving the pastoral needs of the parish, and Rev Katie Smith who is our curate will be stepping up to take more of the funerals and Richard Kirby, Rosie Capon and Annette Blyth will be your first port of call to access the help you need. The Bishop and the Archdeacon are both taking services during this time for you, and the ministry team in this benefice will be fully engaged in seeking to promote the Good News of the Kingdom.

May you find peace and wonder as you journey to Christmas this year,

Every blessing
Julie

THE TALGARTH MALE CHOIR ARE COMING TO WEOBLEY

To celebrate re-opening Weobley Parish Church after repairs, there will be a concert on the newly laid floor by the well-loved Talgarth Male Choir.

Anyone who remembers their previous visits will relish their return and look forward to again hearing such favourites as 'Bring Him Home', 'Men of Harlech' and 'Calon Lan'. An evening not to be missed!

Friday 9th December
7 for 7.30pm
Tickets £12 at the door



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'd like to thank the many volunteers who helped to make it so successful, often extending their shifts to help alleviate pressure, particularly those serving refreshments in the village hall. At any one time there was a minimum of twenty volunteers per hour, a remarkable support from the parish and beyond. A special mention too to the car parking team who came under severe pressure finding space to park vehicles on the recreation ground. This was the first time the event has received sponsorship and there is no doubt the Lee Anderson Property signs, together with new publicity roadside signage, helped draw in a much larger crowd.

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 £3584.85, which will support the Church, Village Hall and In Bloom. There are plans already for next year's similar event, so please note the date – **SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER**. Phil Milchard & Richard Kirby

EARDISLAND IN BLOOM

We're now nearing the end of our gardening year with a few tasks to complete before we hang up our trowels for winter, including winter planting in the raised beds and lifting the geraniums. It's been another enjoyable year with very few Thursday mornings lost to bad weather. A big thank you to the team, Rebecca, Nicole, Sarah, Reg, Sandy, Dave, David and Jim for their invaluable help and to Wendy for keeping our finances in order.

One or two parishioners have, in passing, commented throughout the year the grass could do with a cut. Although our members have occasionally carried out this work prior to special village events, it is the parish council that contracts out this responsibility as a paid role, so comments should be directed to the parish clerk.

Phil Milchard

CHURCH INSCRIPTION

Many years ago, when the History and Heritage Group members tackled the pastime of recording all the Eardisland Churchyard interments, a discovery was made by chance which might well both surprise and be of interest to readers.

Not all of the inscriptions were on stones in or on the ground! One sharp-eyed member spotted an inscription engraved on the outer wall of the Church building - difficult to read, as it is above eye level. The stone is identical to those around it, which by their very colour and material, does not assist easy spotting. Even good photographs of the lettering lack clarity.

The inscription is as follows:

Joanne Pritchard, Wid.
Died Mar. 15 1727
Aged 82.

Naturally, at the time we were all amazed at our find, especially as Joanne's birth year is one of the earliest villager's we have on record. We have, of course, searched for other inscriptions on the outer wall like it, but with no success. We have since checked all of our records for Joanne's name, but also with no success. Some years later, at a talk on Hereford Church buildings, I spoke to the lecturer afterwards about "our" stone. He was VERY surprised, as he had never heard of any find like ours, but promised to let me know should he hear of another. If any reader can come up with any news, I'd be very grateful.

When at the recent Craft Fair, I searched for Joanne's stone, and took about five minutes to spot it! It is certainly not prominent. I will describe its exact location soon in a future Magazine, but feel that someone may be interested enough to carry out their own search in the meantime . . .! Good Luck!

Graham Simpson

I am reproducing Paul's article of 2020 in memory of Harry Davies who died in 2022 at the age of 102.

Ed.

HARRY DAVIES 100 YEARS OLD

In 1993 an oral history group was formed in Eardisland. The aim was to try to uncover stories and memories from those who had some longstanding connections with the village. One of those interviewed was Harry Davies who was born in June 1920. It is therefore with great pleasure to recall the details he provided then, having now achieved his 100th birthday.

I was fortunate to interview Harry in 1993. He was then the gardener in Arrow Lawn and was happy to reminisce about his memories of growing up in Eardisland in the 1920s and 1930s. He had such detailed recollections of operating the cider press in the barn in Arrow Lawn, that we were able to include him describing this when we made our third film about Eardisland's social history in 2006.

The beauty of talking to someone like Harry and others with deep roots in an area, is that it is possible to build up a picture of the social life of a place, over time for which there may be no other written details. For example, who was in the cricket team during his youth? Who was the shepherd who lived near Lynch Court? Who ran the shop on the riverbank? Where was the village reading room? What were the teachers like? Who ran the village garage? The stories told meld with each other to produce a fascinating picture of what it was like to have been living through a particular period, to learn about the social changes which have occurred and learn more about significant personalities who lived in Eardisland.

Harry was born in 1920 in Bearwood (once within the parish of Eardisland, but later redistributed to Pembridge parish). He said, *"I worked for a long time in Burton Court when Mrs. Clowes (Lady of the Manor) was living there"*. (The Clowes family came in 1862.) Harry explained that her husband Peter had died in 1925 and her son, Warren, was killed in 1918. He said, *"She was considered quite a disciplinarian by some, but I always found that she was alright with the men and the boys but she didn't get on so well with the women and girls on her staff. She led them a pretty dance.. There was Joe King and me taken on about the same time in 1934; she never called us by our names but always referred to us as 'my two boys..' She was tall and could ride a horse, too. She was the main stay of the church...always took the front seat."* (Another respondent I spoke to said that on arrival in the church Mrs. Clowes always placed flowers in memory of her son in a wall vase.) Harry said, *"It was sad to see her after the war in decline.. I went back there but only stayed about twelve months... in the last months of her life in 1949 she lived on nothing but fruit.."*

Harry was at school in the village until he was 14 when he went to Burton Court to become a gardener there. He had vivid recollections of the school and the Headmaster, Tom Wood. He said, *“It was Tommy Wood, the school master who got me my first job up there, five shillings a week, in 1934. Before that, when I used to go to school, I used to milk three cows, night and morning with Mr. Williams, up here. I earned three shillings a week and my tea. I did that from about the age of 11 until I went up to Burton Court where there was a lot of grass to cut. We had mechanical mowers, but before the Atco came, when I used to go up there on a Saturday morning, washing the greenhouses out, they used to have a horse with padded shoes, pulling a mower about...We always used clamps for potatoes and carrots. We stacked them up in a small tump put some straw over and gradually built up the soil all over. Anyone who had a cellar would keep them there, we did at Burton Court. But if you didn't, then you used a clamp...Of course for keeping things really cold we had ice boxes in Burton Court, full of big blocks of ice, we had that brought in. So, they killed their own sheep and stored the meat.”*

Harry was a keen sportsman. It certainly came as a surprise to me in 1993, to learn from him and others that there had been a large sports field in Burton Lane where cricket, football, bowls, and tennis had been played for many years, certainly whilst Harry and his friends were growing up. Subsequent research uncovered the fact that cricket was first played there in 1866. Many of the names that Harry recalled of his teammates through the late 1920s and 30s would re-appear in other contexts as the research of the oral history group developed so that we could see their roles and significance in village life.

Initially, the team first known as ‘The Burton Court Cricket Club’, drew players mainly from the Clowes family and members of the local gentry and landowning class, (as evidenced by examining the score book for the 1870s). In the 1930s it had become ‘The Eardisland Cricket Club’. Then, players were drawn from within the village and locality. Among the names Harry mentioned were-Frank Rogers, who was in service in Burton Court; two Holts, father and son, who were gamekeepers in Sytches Lane; Mr Robertson, head gardener at Burton Court; Harry Mewies, whose family ran the White Swan; George Kay, who ran The Cross Inn; Jim Kington, a farmer at Grove Farm. Tom Wood, the school master, was captain for many years and was described by Harry as a very good bowler. Harry himself opened the batting.

Recalling those days, Harry said, *“There was an old pavilion under the Lime tree on the Burton Lane pitch. It was there for a good many years, until just after the war, I think. Then they pulled it down; we had our tea in there and there were places to keep your bats and gear; and the Bowling Club members used it too. Mrs. Clowes generously supplied the teas on Saturdays; she'd send someone down in a cart with a load of wood to make a fire to boil the kettle for tea”*. Our historical research group subsequently discovered that the pavilion almost

certainly came from an old stable block building in Burton Court that was demolished around the time the Clowes family arrived in 1862/3. Parts of it were installed as a pavilion by 1904; there is a photograph showing it in use at this time.

Harry remembered that *"The last three to play for The Burton Court CC were myself, John Smith and Bill Griffiths. I remember one match when we were playing there, I was only about 12 or 13 perhaps and I was always the last one in, the boy always came in last. I was in with George Kay, he was the publican then of The Cross, and he was quite a good cricketer, and we were playing against Lingen and we wanted 30 odd runs to win. I kept blocking and blocking and blocking, and we eventually won by one wicket. Old George always remembered me after that; I didn't get many runs.. I might have made one or two at the most.."* He added, *"There were some good bowlers in the team; apart from Tom Wood, there was Dennis Goulding and Wilfred Webb, two fast medium bowlers; Holt as well .. Old Nash, he was a googly bowler; he could toss one up so that it pitched, stopped and looked at you...he took a good many wickets like that.. I seem to remember that Mr. Greenough, at Staick House, used to run a cricket side on a Bank Holiday in Kingsland."*

Harry said, *"I played until I was 42.. The work got a bit too much by then.. I was still playing in the 1950s and into the 1960s. I stopped about 1962. Then the club gradually died out. There weren't many young ones joining...There was myself, Bill Griffiths, the two Kay brothers, Tommy Rimmer, Allen Lewis, Bill Blatchford, he was wicket keeper and a good one too. His wife Mary was scorer. My friend John Smith played a bit before the war, but not much after.."*

The interesting thing about Harry's comments regarding the decline of the club after the war is that the very same problem arose following the most recent reincarnation of the cricket club between 1998-2010. It thrived whilst the older generation was prepared to organise matches, teas and club finances; it declined as soon as those players left the club with insufficient younger people coming to fill their shoes. Interestingly, when a match to celebrate 100 years of village cricket was played in 1996 on the original pitch, Harry, then 76, agreed to take the first ball, bowled by his old friend and teammate, Bill Blatchford. It marked the rebirth of village cricket which lasted for 10 years. Harry recalled, too, that there was once quite a successful Football Club in the village and Eardisland played in a local league. But he said, *"There's only a few people I can remember who played: Jim Taylor, Arthur Davies, Tom Morris, the two Jones brothers; they used to play on the Lyons Orchard, behind the bungalow, where the Bowling Green is now."* He explained *"I started playing football in 1932... I was only making up the team then, I was only a boy. They put me in when they were short like, and my shorts would come down to my knees! I had the men's shorts on! We played against local teams but some further away such as Dolyhir, even went to Rhymney Valley in South Wales.. We used the pubs to get changed in. The Club*

had been in existence some time when I started playing. It finished off sometime before the war, I think. Tom Morris was a very good goalkeeper, especially for a small village...But it all finished when war came. It was run from The Cross.. The sports field was ploughed up.” Interestingly there was also a tennis club that operated on the sport’s field and there is a photograph of tennis being played there in about 1904.

Harry recollected some of the characters of his youth “There was ‘Cabbie’ Williams; he used to do all the carting from Kingsland railway station, including the library books to the school. Then there was old Mr. Gransmore, who owned the garage in the village. (This operated until the mid-1970s on the site of the forecourt of the Old Post Office.) He used to mend anything, old saucepans, kettles, anything.. people didn't used to throw things away like they do now...Things began to change after the war.. people who run shops now are not like they used to be. We had two main shops in the village, one run by the Steads in the centre of the village and one on the riverbank, run by Mr. Harvey. They stocked everything you wanted or needed... They'd open at half past six in the morning if you wanted something, now shops don't open till nine o'clock regardlessI remember when Harvey was there, we used to get a lot of lolly pops in those days and I don't know whether they had been rescued from a flood and had got a bit washed but he used to give all us boys these lolly pops....they used to treat us really well, Harvey and Stead...old Mr. Harvey used to call every boy 'Joe', that's how he got the name 'Joe' Harvey; that wasn't his name at all; but he was a decent auld boy. He organised Cocoa Concerts to raise funds for the school to provide pupils with cups of cocoa at break time). And after Mr. Harvey came 'Pikey' Jones who was always fishing in the river. We also had a bit of a butcher's shop run by Leslie Bagley, that was where the old Blacksmith's shop was, opposite The White Swan”.

Harry spoke of another character named 'Snowy' Mond. “He was a shepherd at The Lynch who sometimes played for our cricket team if we were short. He was a bit of a jack of all trades, including poaching. Then there was old Stan Williams; he used to run a bike shop in the village...He used to keep all the spares and keep us going, up behind where the garage was. He used to work on odd jobs round the Burton Court estate. I think he cut hair as well. Then there was John Smith whose dad had a smallholding at West End; I was great pals with him when we were at school. He was always looking for business even then. There used to be an old postman's hut up by the entrance to Lynch Court then owned by the Glazebrooks, and there was a little orchard along the left-hand side of the road ...a lot of trees there now. Well, there was a postman's hut in the far corner where the postman used to come to have his bait; he used to ride a bike in those days, and John Smith took it over and he used to sell garden seeds; then he turned it into a bicycle shop; then he brought it down to his place in the finish; he used to have an eye to business when he was a boy...He went on to have a successful

apple business. There were some characters in those days. There was Ranter Jack, an old boy who lived in the mill. I used go down to help him lift the bags on the pulley there sometimes; he was almost blind, but he ran the mill and he used to keep a couple of pigs in the back here. Eventually, he got so bad they had to take him to the workhouse in Weobley. And of course we had an AA man: Harry Gittoes used a motor cycle and was based at Legion Cross.” (He rescued the AA box that is now on display by placing it in his garden when he got wind that it was going to be demolished and it is now thought to be one of the rarest boxes in the country.)

Harry explained that he made use of the Reading Room (once the old Grammar School, on the bridge). This was converted into a village facility by Mr. John Clowes of Burton Court, in 1876. It continued in this use until 1936 when he sold it. Harry said, *“I remembered using the old Reading Room quite often. There used to be steps up from the road to the top storey; we used to go up to play whist ... we never gambled; there'd be club nights when we'd just play cards and have a chat. Tommy Wood and lots of others including the vicar, used to go up there for that purpose. In the school days we had cookery classes up there once a week... That's where Tommy Wood told me off when we were playing whist... I revoked, see – failed to follow suit - and he took three tricks off me and said “that's the best way to learn-" I'll always remember that, it was a social thing- my friends the Holts used to go there. We boys weren't much interested in reading...we preferred the games.”*

In 1939 Harry was called up and served throughout the war. He explained, *“I was away for seven years for war service. We joined the territorial, some of us did in 1938, and when we got called up we thought we'd all be together...I was called up with Frank Smith of the Leen in Pembridge. We went down to Abergavenny first, then we went to Ireland after a couple of months, then we came back after nine months, back to Monmouth Race Course, in 1941. Then we went to Colchester. London 56 division, we went to Bazzra, twelve weeks at sea, right round the Cape and up the Gulf. We were there about 5 months and then up to the 8th Army, for about 6 months; then across to Salerno” (In September 1943, Salerno was the scene of Operation Avalanche, the invasion of Italy launched by the allies). “Then, we went to the Bridge at Anzio. We were at the bridgehead for a couple of months”. (The battle of Anzio took place from January 22nd, 1944 to June 5th, 1944 ending with the capture of Rome).*

“Then on to Egypt for a rest then back to Italy.. seven and a half years.. Single men were always the last to get out. We signed on for another twelve months, and got sent back to Woolwich...that's where I finished up.. with the Artillery, we were the first regiment to have the 25 pounders... I remember some of the men killed in the second war from the village...There was Stanley Farmer. He was quite a bit older than me and young Buster, as we called him, Donald Clayton. He was the first to go; a wonderful sportsman, full of life...he was a boy in the Navy, he

was the first to go from Eardisland... a wonderful young fellow he was into everything...He went down with his ship in the channel". Like so many men involved in war Harry did not wish to go into further detail but recalled how on returning to Eardisland he went back to work at Burton Court, but left in 1949. He said *"When I left Burton Court in 1949, I went to the Arkwrights at the Court House. They used to be agents for Burton Court. Then I worked for Glazebrooks and Mrs Levick, at Lynch Court. Of course, I kept pigs... in the old days they had a man to kill the pigs in the village...most people kept a pig. Later I came to Arrow Lawn".*

The views expressed by those we interviewed between 1993-95 on topics such as the schoolteachers who taught there provides a fascinating rounded picture of their character and significance. Harry recalled Tommy Wood the Head from 1901-1939 and his colleague Mrs. Davies who retired in 1948 married to the local postmaster in Adlen House (now Rita's tearoom). It is apparent that for some Tom Wood was a strict but fair disciplinarian who was a fine teacher (with classes of over 50 in some years). For others, his strict approach caused unhappiness and fear. There seemed universal agreement that Mrs. Davies was loved by everyone. But for Harry, Tommy Wood was a memorable teacher. He said, *"I remember the caning he used to give out - he was strict; he was a good disciplinarian and he took part in everything, especially the cricket and bowls; he used to go in the pub and the vicar would go in there and drink with him - they were great mates, him and the vicar, Rev Birley...Yes, Tommy Wood was a real Edwardian character, a moustache, breeches and long stockings...he was a fit man, keen sportsman and he kept bees.. I used to help him with the bees sometimes, he was friendly. We'd get on alright...we boys used to get caned by him for misbehaviour and he didn't always have a very good name at the time by some, but looking back, when you leave school you think he was a good auld boy. The one we used to like was Mrs. Davies. Mrs. Annie Davies. She used to teach the infants. She was more like a mother to us a bit kinder... we always used to call her Annie, of course not to her face like. We had other teachers... there was Elsie Mainwaring, (probably an assistant in training) she was there.. She had these long red pencils and you used to get one in the back, you know...every so often if you messed about and it didn't half hurt too. She was there for several years..."* It was only long after Harry had left school and Tom Wood and Mrs. Davies had died that there was a great change in the turnover of teachers and the eventual closure of the school in 1979 for lack of pupils.

In our research, the oral history group was not proceeding in a nostalgic way for a golden past, rather we wished to see how changes that occurred in day-to-day life were recalled and perceived by people of different generations. Harry's memories remain an important source of information regarding people and places in Eardisland that he experienced from 1920. A lovely sense of community clearly seemed to exist around the school, the shops, the sports' field

and the personalities in the period he remembers. Fortunately, there is strong evidence that it continues to thrive today but perhaps manifesting itself in different ways to how once it did. It is impressive to think that there are now 20 organisations operating in the village which must serve to bind us into a thriving community with many opportunities to meet and share our own recollections of village life. Such community spirit has been of huge benefit during the present pandemic crisis.

It is always a great privilege to talk at length to Harry, who recalled his memories with a humorous gleam in his eye as he remembered some incident from the distant past. We were fortunate to include him in our film about Eardisland in 2006. Until the recent coronavirus epidemic, it was possible to bump into Harry in Morrisons (he now lives close by) doing his shopping. Sadly, he lost his wife Ivy in recent times. She was the daughter of a farmer at Sytches Farm in Eardisland. Harry and Ivy met at Pembridge Fair on Valentine's day in 1954 and were married for more than 65 years, receiving a message of congratulations from the Queen. Even at his great age Harry has retained his athleticism, no doubt arising from his years as a hard-working gardener. He could be seen taking a walk of about two miles or more on most days, until his sight began to fail. Then he took to walking 20 laps of his garden to compensate. Even on a chance meeting he still enjoyed chatting about his days in Eardisland which he recalled clearly. His recollections paint a lovely picture of days gone by and which remain important for our understanding of the changing social life of our community. On behalf of all in the parish, we send our many congratulations to Harry Davies on achieving his 100th birthday.

Paul Selfe

Editor's Note:

Paul suffered a stroke recently. At the time of writing Paul is in Hereford hospital. I am sure you will join me in wishing Paul the very best for his recovery. Our thoughts are with Lorna, family and friends.

EARDISLAND WEATHER REPORT

The weather in Eardisland for September brought some welcome rain with a total of 94mm (3.70 inches) recorded. Barometer pressures ranged from 29.34 to 30.00. Temperatures ranged from 13°C to 23°C and river levels remained steady at 9 to 11 inches.

The weather on Thursday 8th September consisted of a mixture of thunder and lightning and 36mm (1.41 inches) of rain.

October's weather saw the first of the winter's frosts, with temperatures ranging from 13°C to 18°C. The total rainfall recorded was 134mm (5.27 inches) with barometer readings of 29.3 to 30.06. River levels ranged between 9 to 12 inches.

The equivalent rainfall for 2021 was September 64mm (2.52 inches) and October 156mm (6.14inches).

Doug Tantrum reporting from Kingfisher House



THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION SERVICE IS LAUNCHED BY ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

As many people's minds turn towards the festive season, a Herefordshire charity is already looking ahead to the new year.

St Michael's Hospice has opened bookings for its Christmas Tree collection service, and is urging people to sign up before spaces sell out. The service covers a large area of Herefordshire, and parts of Worcestershire thanks to sponsors ABE Ledbury Limited who will help collect some of the trees. "We know that once the festivities are over, it can be a real pain disposing of a real tree," said the Hospice's Events and Community Fundraising Manager, Matt Ashcroft. "This service takes away that stress because we will collect your real Christmas Tree direct from your home. Each year, this service grows in popularity, so we would advise our supporters to book their collection early."

In January this year, St Michael's Hospice recorded its best Christmas Tree collection season to date with more than 1,100 trees picked up, helping raise £12,000 for the Bartestree-based charity.

The money raised helps St Michael's continue to provide free of charge palliative and end-of-life care to families across Herefordshire and beyond. Only real Christmas Trees can be collected by St Michael's. They are then recycled and shredded into chippings which can be used locally in parks or woodland.

Collections will take place 6th - 15th January. More specific collection information is available on the Hospice website, which is where you can book your collection, priced at £15 per tree.

You can book here:

<https://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/event/christmas-tree-collection/>

WEST MERCIA POLICE

ROGUE TRADERS

Be wary if someone knocks on your door claiming to be a tradesperson and that work needs doing on your property immediately. They may claim they have seen some loose tiles on your roof, or your gutters need cleaning, areas you cannot always check yourself

But door-to-door frauds can take many forms, including:

- Pressure selling
- Unfair contracts
- Overpriced or substandard home maintenance or improvements
- Phoney consumer surveys
- Bogus charity collections.

Such frauds involve promoting goods or services that are either never delivered to you, or are of a very poor quality. Fraudsters may also bill you for work that you didn't agree to. There are specific laws about door-to-door sales. Many are required to give you a 'cooling-off' period (where you can change your mind or request your money back).

Bogus tradesmen will offer none of these, and even if they do, you can be sure their 'guarantee' will not be honoured.

Protect yourself against bogus tradesmen fraud

- Always ask for identification before letting anyone you don't know into your house.
- Check credentials, including a permanent business address and landline telephone number. The mobile phone numbers given on business cards are often pay-as-you-go numbers which are virtually impossible to trace.
- Take control by asking the questions. Ask for references from previous customers or to see examples of their work.
- Don't sign on the spot – shop around. Get at least three written quotes to make sure you're not being ripped off.
- If in any doubt, ask the person to leave or call [Citizens Advice](#) on 0808 223 1133.

If you do decide to buy:

- Always get any agreement you make in writing.
- Beware when filling in forms or when speaking to the salesperson, that you don't reveal confidential details that a fraudster could use to assume your identity or take control of your finances. This may allow a fraudster to steal money from your account or order goods and services in your name.
- Usually, you have a fourteen-day cooling off period. So, if you decide to cancel the contract, act fast.

- Think very carefully about having any work done or goods delivered during the cooling off period. You may have to pay, even if you change your mind.
- Never pay for work before completion, and only then if you are happy with it.

COURIER FRAUD

Courier fraud occurs when a fraudster contacts victims by telephone, usually claiming to be a police officer, or bank official. The caller may also be able to confirm some easily obtainable basic details about the victim such as their full name and address.

- Victims are being contacted by fraudsters purporting to be from the “Fraud Squad”, who advise the victim that they are required to “catch fraudsters”.
- “Police money” is then placed into victim’s accounts and they are asked to drive to the bank to withdraw funds.
- They are then instructed not to touch the money and to place it into an envelope for collection.
- The victim is provided with a safe word which will be confirmed by the courier who collects the cash from the victim’s home address. The victim is also provided with a reference number through a fake 999 call, adding an element of validity to the scam.
- Following collection of funds, the criminals advised that officers will attend the address following the transaction, however, they never materialise. There are variations on this tactic, so be careful of anything similar.

Protect yourself

- Your bank or the police will never call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN by phone or offer to pick up your card by courier. Hang up if you get a call like this.
- If you need to call your bank back to check, wait five minutes; fraudsters may stay on the line after you hang up. Alternatively, use a different line altogether to call your bank.

For further information visit:

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

<https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>



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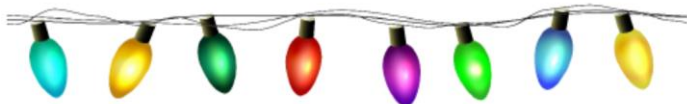
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Copy date for the next edition of the Eardisland Parish Magazine:

FRIDAY 6th JANUARY 2023

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SATURDAY 3rd December



**Lights On 4.30pm at
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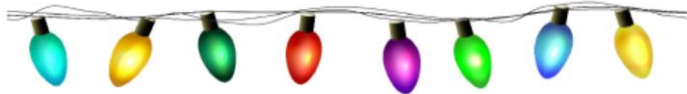
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