EARDISLAND PARISH MAGAZINE MARCH 2023 ISSUE 193



Thursday 9th March 2023. Spring - no comment!

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EDITORIAL

I am delighted to say that we have a pair of swans on the river and I look forward to the cygnets. Last year, the swans disappeared, presumed dead as a result of bird 'flu (more on this topic on page 11). Let's hope they have better luck this year. We also need to hope that this nasty disease does not evolve to affect humans — there have been two isolated cases of this in Asia, but it does seem to be extremely rare. The last thing we need is another Covid-type infection ripping through the world.

As I mentioned in the last edition, we have suffered several deaths in the village. In this respect, I have published an obituary for Jim Symonds on page 4 and a note from Angela Boulton on page 5.

Election day is Thursday 4th May (magazine copy date 5th). The elections are for Eardisland Parish Council and Herefordshire Council (rather oddly, it is not termed a County Council). It is my belief that it is a privilege to live in a democracy and with privileges come responsibilities. The principal one of which is to turn out and vote.

Following this belief, I have voted in every election in which I was qualified to vote since I was of voting age. The responsibilities also include making every effort to vote on the basis of knowledge about the candidates and their policies. Please vote.

Chris Biyand

EARDISLAND PARISH DIARY 2023

Saturday 18 th March	Litter Pick, p.34	
Saturday 25 th March	VH Pre-loved Attic Sale, p.20	
Sunday 26 th March	Save Our Rivers, p.25	
Thursday 30 th March	ETA Special General Meeting, p.27	
Sunday 2 nd April	Church Electoral Roll forms, p.29	
Saturday 8 th April	VH Afternoon Tea and Easter Egg Hunt, p.20	
Thursday 13 th April	Parish Council Meeting	
Friday 14 th April	VH Quiz Night, p. 21	
w/E 15/16 th April	Wildlife Area Visit, p.15	
Sunday 16 th April	Eardisland Community Garden Seeds, p.33	
Friday 21st April	VH Clay Vase Workshop, p.19	
Tuesday 25 th April	Closing Date, Election ID, p.11	
Thursday 4 th May	ELECTIONS	
Friday 5 th May	Magazine Copy Date	
Thursday 11 th May	Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday 13 th May	Plant Sale, p.34	
Thursday 8 th June	Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday 24 th June	VH Ceilidh, p.20	
Friday 30 th June	Magazine Copy Date	
Friday 7 th July	VH Quiz Night, p.20	
Thursday 13 th July	Parish Council Meeting	
Thursday 10 th August	Parish Council Meeting (if required)	
Sunday 27 th August	Duck Races, p.20	
Friday 1 st September	Magazine Copy Date	
Saturday 2 nd September	Eardisland Village Show, p.20	
Thursday 14 th September	Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday 7 th October	Craft and Produce Fair, p.34	
Thursday 12 th October	Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday 28 th October	VH Octoberfest, p.20	
Thursday 9 th November	Parish Council Meeting	
Friday 10 th November	VH Quiz Night, p.20	
Friday 17 th November	Magazine Copy Date	
Sunday 10 th December	VH Christmas Food and Gift Fair, p.20	
Thursday 14 th December	Parish Council Meeting (if required)	

A.J. "JIM" SYMONDS 1953-2022



Jim was born at Burton Mill in September 1953, the second son of Wilfred and Doris, a younger brother to Michael, growing up at Burton Mill in the early fifties where fish could still be caught in the brook, and bees in the orchard with fruit on the trees. Those early years were to influence Jim's life for the next sixty years.

After school at Eardisland and Weobley, Jim left to join his father and brother working for the Lugg Drainage Board - now the Environment Agency - carrying out flood prevention works to the rivers in north Herefordshire for nineteen years until an accident made him take early retirement.

However, this left Jim with time to spend with the bees, at first with his father in the car to various sites where up to fifty hives were kept, and later by bike cycling to Monkland, Ivington and Eardisland Village Shop for a regular supply of cake. Anyone calling at the mill with a homemade cake was made very welcome and the cake swopped for a jar of honey!

Jim would often be seen on one of his bikes, sometimes going to collect a swarm of bees with the travelling box strapped to the handlebars - he preferred a lady's bike - and with ten thousand bees on board if a Bidney tractor was coming towards him he was ready for a quick dismount to the safety of the hedge!

An interest in nature was observed on regular walks; seeing a goshawk in the lane, the clap of nightjars, moth-hunting over Pigmore Common at dusk, an otter in the brook not seen for thirty years ... all remembered by Jim and worthy of recall to anyone passing the mill.

Written by Robert Bowen, Dilwyn

'The Bee Man's Song' by Rudyard Kipling:

"Bees! Bees! Hark to your bees!

Talk to your neighbours as much as you please

But all that has happened to us you must tell

Or else we will give you no honey to sell."

HARRY DAVIES

My friend, Angela Boulton, sent me a short appreciation for Harry Davies which should have been in the January edition. I managed to leave it out. I apologised to Angela and print her contribution below. Angela has kindly writtem some of her memories of her time here on page 36, for which I am very grateful.

Ed.

Harry was our gardener at Arrow Lawn for 52 years. When we were all growing up he was our confident and friend. We all benefitted from his wisdom, knowledge, and work ethic.

He and Ivy were devoted to each other and together tended their livestock and enjoyed a simple country life style in Eardisland. I never remember Harry ever taking a holiday - he was just always there keeping an eye on all of us. In later years he was a dab hand in the bowling green.

Harry was quite simply the nicest man i ever met and we were privileged to know him.

R.I.P., Harry

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

 I am sitting writing this update looking out at the beautiful snowdrops blooming in abundance in my garden. The daffodils planted by the E-Team in the village centre are such a cheerful sight and much further ahead than those at this end of the village. Let's hope that the forecasted cold spell will not damage our trees and shrubs that are starting to bud.

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. **Eardisland Flood Response Group** will be meeting on Monday 20th March at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

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.

3. 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.

4. The **Parish Council Website** can be accessed at <u>eardisland-pc.gov.uk</u> with the community website continuing to provide all other information at <u>Eardisland</u> Community Website

5. Parish Council News Alert emails.

Keep up to date with news from the Parish Council by registering for news alert emails. Go to eardisland-pc.gov.uk, scroll down to the bottom of the page and complete your details in the space provided bottom left. This will enter you onto our "Mailchimp" email list. Emails are only sent out occasionally - we will not flood your inbox!

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.

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

P222872/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). P223529/FH - Lynch Court Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9AR - Proposed Stables.

P223495/F - Lower Hardwick Cottage Pembridge Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9HF - Agricultural field shed to store tractor, trailer, electric fencing etc. (Part Retrospective).

P221103/FH - Townsend Pigmore Common Pembridge Herefordshire HR6 9HF - Shepherds Hut to be used for holiday letting accommodation. P224070/FH & P224072/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.

P221357/FH - Lower Hardwick House Pembridge Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9HF - Removal of single storey rear extension. Proposed two storey and single storey extension. Extension to porch.

P222697/L - Lower Hardwick House Pembridge Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9HF - Proposed alterations and extension.

 $P230070/K-1\ Lynch\ Cottages\ Eardisland\ Leominster\ Herefordshire\ HR6\ 9BE-Removal\ of\ 1\ coniferous\ tree\ and\ grind,\ resulting\ stump\ out.$

P230154/F - The Old Workshop, Earlslaen House Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BD - Proposed variation to condition 2 of planning permission 220444 (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 dwelling, and associated works). To allow design change to finish of house/weatherboard.

P224038L - Middlebrook Pembridge Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9HL - Retrospective Listed Building Consent for external alterations.

7. 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

PARISH FOOTPATH OFFICERS

Do you enjoy walking the footpaths around the parish? Would you be interested in becoming a Parish Footpath Officer?

The Parish Footpath Officer (PFO) monitors Public Rights of Way (PROW) within the parish; liaises with landowners to ensure the PROW are in a suitable and legal state; volunteers on behalf of Herefordshire Council; and liaises with the Parish Council.

Ideally this role would be shared between 2 or 3 interested persons who would work together to keep our footpaths safe and well-signposted for residents and visitors alike.

If you might be interested, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Debbie Cottam - Parish Clerk parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk 07799 826779

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

Protecting Herefordshire's most vulnerable children

Local Authorities run many services, some you experience almost daily like highways, others perhaps not at all. The Council has a statutory duty to look after vulnerable children. These young people may need support or care as there is a concern for their health and wellbeing. Sometimes this means very difficult decisions to be made, including should a child be removed from his/her parent or family, with huge implications involved and life changing events for individuals. Many children will be placed on risk registers - sometimes before they are born.

This a very sensitive and pressured area requiring skilled staff and nationally there are real challenges in running Children's services. In Herefordshire we have 400 children in care, which is a high figure compared with other similar councils and there have been real concerns about the way the service has been locally run. Last year the Secretary of State following Ofsted concerns intervened and appointed Eleanor Brazil as her commissioner to oversee the service. Despite some recent small improvement, the Council's children's care department was still judged not to have the capacity or capability to run the services on their own.

The Secretary of State has retained her Commissioner Eleanor Brazil to continue to oversee Children's care services in Herefordshire. In the Statutory Declaration published on the $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ March, the Minister instructs Herefordshire Council to work and cooperate with Ms Brazil and an appointed improvement adviser until further notice.

This is the right decision given the long history of poor performance and particular poor response to Ofsted reports since 2019. Having external leadership, directly responsible to the Secretary of State, is the best way that the council's children's service can stabilise and sustain improvement, giving vulnerable children, families and carers the proper standards of process and support.

Going forward Worcestershire and Telford and the Wrekin councils will support the local services together with other national assistance. Longer term a lead local authority partner will be required.

Maintaining and sustaining improvement will be a challenge and at a financial cost. The current budget for these services for 2022/23 which was 54.5 million pounds but is projected by the end of this month to have overspent and be 63.5 million.

Every child matters and most importantly we have to secure better outcomes for the most vulnerable. This must remain the Council's most important priority.

The full report can be read at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/herefordshire-childrens-services-commissioner-report

Please report potholes and concerns; https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road

Report a flooded road or highway obstruction: 01432 26180

Report fly-tipping - it will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame by either calling the Contact Centre on 01432 261800 or by logging the fly tipping via the council website on the links below:

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk SgEGkleekL2ROFQ?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report a problem/98/fly tipping

Roger

ELECTIONS

There are a number of important changes that affect the forthcoming elections in May this year. The information below is from a briefing document sent to Parish Clerks by the Electoral Services Officer at Herefordshire Council.

The Elections Act 2022

On 28 April 2022 the Elections Act received Royal Assent, some of which is relevant to this May's elections –

- Requirement for voters to show ID at polling stations before a ballot paper is issued
- Requirement for Electoral Registration Officers to issue FREE 'Voter
 Authority Certificates' to electors who do not have any of the acceptable ID
 to allow them to vote
- Extension of accessibility to elections meaning Returning Officers must take all reasonable steps to provide support for those with a disability in polling stations.
- Reduction of subscribers on ward nomination papers.

Voter ID

From May 2023 individuals, who wish to vote in person, including those acting as a proxy on behalf of another individual, will be required to produce an accepted form of photographic ID to prove their identity before they will be issued with a ballot paper. The requirement for Photo ID does not apply to postal voters. This will apply at:

- UK parliamentary elections (after 5 October 2023)
- Recall petitions
- Police and Crime Commissioner elections
- Local government elections in England Including the District and Parish elections taking place on Thursday 4 May 2023.

We expect most voters will use their passport or photo card driving licence. A full list of acceptable forms of ID is as follows:

- a passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state, or a Commonwealth country
- a driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state
- a biometric immigration document
- an identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- a Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- a Blue Badge
- a national identity card issued by an EEA state
- an Older Person's Bus Pass
- a Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- an Oyster 60+ Card
- a Freedom Pass
- a Scottish National Entitlement Card issued in Scotland
- a 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- a Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- a Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a War Disablement SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- an Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland

Expired photo ID can be used as long as the photograph is still a good likeness of the elector. If an elector's name has changed and their name on the Electoral Register does not match their ID, they will be asked to provide evidence of this change such as a marriage certificate or deed poll. If they have not bought this with them, they will be asked the prescribed questions by the polling station staff.

Different arrangements are in place for electors registered anonymously, and we will be contacting them separately.

Voters without acceptable ID

The Government and Cabinet Office estimate that between 2% and 6% of voters will not have a suitable form of ID. This could be between 2940 to 8820 electors in Herefordshire.

Where an individual does not have an acceptable form of photo ID, they can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. This is a document containing an elector's name and photograph which will be obtained free of charge by:

- Applying online on the central government website www.gov.uk/apply-forphoto-id-voter-authority-certificate
- Contacting the Electoral Services office for a hardcopy application form
 Electoral Services Office
 Town Hall
 St Owen Street
 HR1 2PJ
 01432 260107 / 260191
- Applying in Person at the Electoral Services office

Applicants must be registered to vote to receive a Voter Authority Certificate. Upon application they will be asked to provide a photograph of themselves and their national insurance number. When applying in person, applicants do not need to supply their own photo, we can take this for them, but they will still need their National Insurance number.

The deadline to apply for a voter authority certificate for use at this election is 5pm Tuesday 25th April 2023.

Debbie Cottam Parish Clerk

AVIAN FLU – A SERIOUS DANGER TO ALL BIRD LIFE

Avian flu affects <u>all birds</u> – domestic, farmed and wildlife. A variant of the virus has now been found in otters, seals and red foxes. It is thought that these animals had fed on dead or sick wild birds infected with the virus.

The gov.uk website has a lot of useful information on feeding wild birds and what to do if you come across a sick or dead wild bird.

Feeding wild birds

You can feed wild birds but avoid areas that have premises where poultry or captive birds are kept. Wild birds can spread bird flu to captive birds.

The UK is in an avian influenza prevention zone (AIPZ). This means you cannot feed wild gamebirds within 500m of a premises with more than 500 poultry or captive birds.

If you feed wild birds in your garden, read advice from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Feeding garden birds | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology about keeping feeders and water baths clean. This will help to stop bird flu and other diseases spreading between different birds.

The UK Health Security Agency has said that the risk to the public from this bird flu strain is very low. It mainly affects birds. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water if you touch wild bird faeces or feathers. For more advice go to Bird flu - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Report dead wild birds

When to report dead wild birds and how to report them:-Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

You should use this service to report dead wild birds if you find:

- 1 or more dead bird of prey, gull, swan, goose or duck in the same place
- 5 or more dead wild birds of any other species in the same place

You can use this service to report other types or numbers of dead wild birds.

Before you start

You'll be asked:

- where you found the dead wild birds
- what type of dead wild bird you found
- how many dead birds you found
- your name
- your telephone number, so we can phone you for more information about the location of the dead birds if we need to
- your email address, so we can send you the results if the birds are tested for bird flu

If you want to submit a report without providing contact details, phone Defra on 03459 33 55 77.

You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

What happens after you report dead wild birds

When you report dead wild birds they may be collected and tested for bird flu or other cause of death. This helps to explain if diseases are present and in which types of birds.

The dead birds will be collected within 4 days if they're needed for testing. Not all dead wild birds will be collected. For example, they will not be collected if:

- dead wild birds in the same area have been collected recently for testing
- the dead bird is in a large body of water and the collectors cannot reach it from land

Report sick or injured wild birds

You can report sick or injured wild birds to the:

RSPCA on 0300 1234 999 if you're in England or Wales

Disposing of small numbers of dead garden birds found at your home

You can report small numbers of dead garden birds to Report Online - Garden Wildlife Health

If you find small numbers of dead garden birds at your home (domestic residential properties only) you can dispose of them in your household or municipal waste bin, or you can bury them.

If you dispose of a dead wild bird with your household or municipal waste, you should:

- 1. Pick it up wearing disposable gloves or a plastic bag over your hand.
- 2. Put the bird in a plastic bag and tie it. Make sure the bird does not touch the outside of the bag.
- 3. Put the bird in a second (preferably leak proof) plastic bag, along with the gloves or plastic bag you used to pick it up and tie it. Take care not to touch the outside of the gloves with bare hands.
- 4. Put it in your outside household or municipal waste bin.
- 5. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

If you bury a dead wild bird, you should:

- dig a hole at least 60cm deep to stop animals digging it up
- not bury it in a plastic bag (if you use a plastic bag to pick the bird up put it in your outside household or municipal waste bin)
- not bury it near any watercourses or in a place where it could contaminate local water supplies
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water when you've finished.

Information taken from the gov.uk website.

Debbie Cottam

EARDISLAND WI

The first quarter of 2023 opened with a visit from Hereford and Worcester Fire Service who provided us with a few stories and advice on fire prevention in our homes. Many of the members have since received home visits and had new smoke alarms installed and support with considering their escape route should the worst ever happen. February's meeting was an interactive musical event, with Cathy O'Rourke a musician and ex teacher, we celebrated the music of Burt Bacharach with a few songs, an interlude of jazz flute performed by Cathy and then Samba rhythms with a number of different musical instruments. The WI will end the membership year on 13th March with the AGM and a Beetle Drive.

The programme for 2023/24 is under construction and will be published shortly. The first two of the meetings of the new membership year will be moved from the second Monday of the month as there is a clash with Easter and the Coronation Bank Holiday Weekend.

Meeting dates for 2023 are 17th April, 15th May, 12th June, 10th July, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November and 11th December. Then for 2024 - 8th January, 12th February and 12th March. The topics and location to be confirmed later. New Members always welcome.

The Eardisland WI Committee

To the north of Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire there is a small village called Ugley. They have a Woman's Institute. It is called the Ugley Women's Institute. True!

Ed.

MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

The present Practice Population is 8700 patients which is served by 4 GP Partners and 2 salaried GPs. Dr Baxter is one of these salaried GPs but will be leaving at the end of April to take up a Partnership at another local GP surgery. The Practice also has 2 GP Trainees. They have already completed 2-4 years of their medical training at university and in secondary care (hospital). They wish to become GPs, so they spend 12-18 months with a training practice. They hold their own clinics but are supervised by a GP.

Between 10th November 2022 and 2nd February 2023, 11465 appointments were booked. Of those, 328 patients failed to turn up for their appointment. The Practice has asked if anyone changes their telephone number(s), please could they update their details by contacting the surgery. If you have a mobile phone, a text will be sent the day before reminding you of your up-and-coming appointment.

The Covid and Flu vaccination programme is coming to an end for 22/23 and over 3300 patients had Flu vaccination and almost 3000 Covid Boosters. The Spring COVID Booster programme has been announced but it is still in its infancy. Any patient 75 and over by 30th June 2023 and any child 5 and over who is immunosuppressed will be contacted in due course. Care Homes are being given priory from 3rd April and the rest of the cohorts from 17th April.

People between 70-79 are now eligible for a one-off shingles vaccination. If you are in that age group and haven't been sent an invite, please contact the surgery.

To access appointments outside surgery times that may be more convenient to you, please speak to reception at Kingsland. They can offer appointments under access run by Taurus Clinicians. These clinics will be at Weobley on a Monday evening. Also, alternate weekends between the Kington and Ryeland Practices.

Urgent Out of Hours Care is still accessed directly by ringing 111.

Breast Cancer Screening for women is a national campaign programme, but there is no national screening programme provided for Men's Health, especially prostate screening. The Practice has agreed to add health information regarding men's health to screens in the surgeries.

Practice Vision - the Practice is looking to review and update the services they provide. They would like to hear from patients what they feel would be good. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact me or Fiona Harper (Practice Manager) at Kingsland Surgery.

Our next PPG meeting is $\mathbf{11}^{\text{th}}$ May. If anyone has any concerns or questions, please contact me.

Diane Lee 01544 387685

WILDLIFE AREA VISIT



We would like to invite anyone from the village who is interested to visit our 7-acre wildlife area at Lower Hardwick on Saturday 15th or Sunday 16th April. Depending on the weather, we hope that by then many of the trees and shrubs planted for their blossom and berries will be in flower as well as the kingcups along the streams and other spring flowers.

Over 40 different species of native trees have been planted and there will be a quiz for children involving identifying some of them from their buds or blossom. The quiz will also encourage children to find which ponds have frogspawn (usually all of them), find vole holes, dip for newts, etc.

There will be a similar opportunity to visit in the summer when the wildflower meadow is in full bloom and there will be another quiz then. If you have been before you will be amazed by how much the trees have grown. The 2 hedges planted 5 years ago have recently been laid and some of the scrubby areas are thickening up.

No dogs please, to avoid disturbing the ground nesting birds – mallard, moorhen and snipe.

If you would like to come, please email dpalmer5k@hotmail.com or telephone 01544 388840, so that we have an idea of numbers for parking and for tea, coffee and cake. Please could you let us know which day you prefer and what time.

If you would like to visit but can't make it that weekend, please get in touch as we enjoy showing people around at any time.

Di and Keith

EARDISLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



I had hoped to have delivered Neighbourhood stickers to all of our members by now, but I have failed miserably, so I will ensure the remainder are delivered over the next week or so. New members would be most welcome to ensure that all areas

are represented and the more members we have, the more resources we can obtain, and hopefully we will be able to renew and add to the existing, now aging, Neighbourhood Watch road signs. The Spring round of Neighbourhood Watch Community Grants has opened so I will be finding out whether that might be a source of funding for those signs.

One of the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch membership is the regular emails from the West Mercia Economic Crime, and other units, on a number of topics ranging from fraud awareness and crime prevention, to requests for information to help solve crimes, and news of the arrest of several people involved in a nearby courier scam.

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 have any issues with the membership process, or do not have a computer, drop me a line or give me a call with your name, address and contact details and I will complete the membership process on your behalf. 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 DOVECOTE TRUST

Matters have changed little since our last contribution.

Our current displays upstairs will remain in place due to a variety of factors; the most salient being that no new presentations are to hand. Please come along to look at the current showing if you've missed it thus far, which endeavours to illustrate that Herefordshire has a longstanding record of military contribution and service.

Not only might that be quickly realised by visitors, but other items are on display, mainly relating to the past which parishioners and yet more visitors from surrounding parishes are likely to find interesting: well worth the time taken upstairs.

Trustees are mindful above all that the Dovecote is a village asset. Maintaining the structure of the building is the key objective, while making it useful supports that ambition. The Community Shop underpins all of this, and hopefully it will continue to do so for many years to come.

What would be supportive and satisfying would be a greater general interest in the "Heritage Centre" aspect, meaning some suggestions from interested parishioners relating to the upstairs space.

Comments please through <u>Eardisland_dovecote@btinternet.com</u>, or leave message in the Community Shop or red letterbox.

Hugh Vernon

EARDISLAND MEMORIAL WALKS

With a few problems last year, mainly confused visitors losing their way and sometimes due to defects outside our parish, this document is included at times along with brochure guides. I trust new walkers and supporters of the project will find it useful, while reminding everyone about its aims. Get in touch if you need copies; normally trifolded.

Footpath Walkers

Eardisland Memorial Walks

is a WW1 Remembrance project, commemorating Fallen soldiers whose names are inscribed on the War Memorial. Each has a path and memorial gate, to inspire recognition that they gave their lives for our country, it's customs and traditions, which include people's rights and responsibilities. The Walks are, unless appropriately signed, all using Public Rights of Way (PROW).

Especially in the growing season, some of the Walks (mostly outside Eardisland parish) are obstructed by growing crops, or wild growth and weeds – or uncut pasture. Eardisland Memorial Walks is not responsible for maintaining these paths, but endeavours to assure that access is not impeded, and that passage is safe.

Please be aware that:

Landowners and farmers are responsible for ensuring that PROW on respective properties are clear of growing crops, and for restoring footpaths after crops have been gathered. Pastures are not included in this regulation but please tread down the long grass and follow the line of the PROW.

The Herefordshire Council, through its Highways Authority, is responsible for the clearing of wild under/overgrowth (grasses, brambles), proper signage, etc, on all PROW within Herefordshire.

Please help us by reporting defects/problems:

Contact us via email: contact@eardislandmemorialwalks.org.uk (also in the brochure/guide), with a location. Use the Walk 'leg' figures as a reference, or, if it's an immediate safety issue, call Herefordshire Council (01432 261800) and be directed as necessary.

You might also support the project by reporting the location of damaged, unsafe or insurmountable stiles on Memorial Walks. This includes barbed wire hazards within 1 meter of the stile/gate.



Please help maintain the reputation of the Memorial Walks by keeping dogs on leads and under control. Paths around fields must be at least 1m wide, or 1.5m wide at least where the PROW crosses the field in question. Such widths enable walkers to maintain their course as well as to keep control of accompanying dogs on leads, restricting crop damage and offering space enough to enable walkers to collect their dog's faeces. Please do 'scoop the poop' which otherwise creates health risks when left amongst crops and pasture.

Hugh Vernon

Friday April 21st

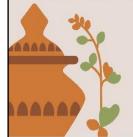
7-9pm

Clay vase workshop

Join Bryony Burn to make a fabulous clay vase.

EVHMC (charity 1108366) are running craft events throughout the year sponsored by the fundraising from the Village Show. These workshops will be a great time to start thinking about your 2023 show entries! The events will be fully funded and all resources will be provided, but numbers are limited so please e-mail ASAP if you would like to attend.

jo.evhmc@yahoo.com



GOING ABROAD?

If you are thinking of going abroad this year after the privations of Covid, there are various things to bear in mind. To start, there are various rules about your passport and the EU after Brexit. Basically, ignore your passport's expiry date and look at the issue date. Then, check the regulations for the country or countries you are visiting and see what they require. It is usually 3 months validity after the date you leave that country. It's easy to check this on the internet.

If you are going by car, you will need a UK sticker, and NOT the old GB sticker. If you have plates with the EU symbol and GB on the plates you can buy cheap UK stickers to cover the EU/GB symbol. Of course, you need your insurance certificate, registration document and a current and appropriate driving licence.

Many countries insist on carrying hi-viz jackets and warning triangles in the car. Again, check the regulations for each country on the internet – they are not consistent across Europe. Finally, remember that the alcohol limits are lower than ours at 50mg/l rather than 80mg/l.

Chris Bivand

EARDISLAND VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - CHARITY NO. 11083

We are now well into 2023. The current spate of coughs and colds has affected some village activities, but it looks as though we have perhaps turned the corner. Fingers crossed!

As you are all aware, EVHMC have to run fundraising events to meet the demands of the ever-increasing costs to keep the village hall operating. We held a very successful Quiz Night to start the year. It was well attended, and Reg Curtis did a great job as quizmaster. We now have a programme of fund-raising events and hope that everyone will enjoy them as much as they did the quiz night.

Saturday 25th March
 Pre-Loved Attic Sale

Saturday 8th April
 Afternoon tea and Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 14th April Quiz Night
 Saturday 24th June Ceilidh
 Friday 7th July Quiz Night
 Sunday 27th August Duck Race
 Saturday 2nd September Village Show
 Saturday 28th October Octoberfest
 Friday 10th November Quiz Night

Sunday 10th December Christmas Food and Gift Fair

All details for the above will appear on the village Facebook page and posters etc. in the usual places.

The obvious omission from the above list is a Coronation celebration. The Parish Council have called a meeting for interested parishioners to discuss and plan an event. By the time this goes to print the meeting will have taken place and plans will be made. EVHMC will play its part in whatever takes place, and we look forward to everyone meeting to celebrate this national milestone.

On a more mundane note, we have at last been able to afford a dishwasher for the village hall kitchen. After much deliberation and taking advice from other venues we decided to buy a commercial dishwasher as they have a short cycle and items cnd be rotated through the wash cycles quickly during an event. A domestic dishwasher will take more items, but the cycle is significantly longer and would involve more time at the end of an event. The commercial dishwasher does not work like a domestic dishwasher so we would ask all users to read the instruction sheet carefully. We hope everyone will find it as useful as we have!

We have welcomed three new trustees to the village hall committee. The energy and enthusiasm of the new trustees is wonderful; we also have more regular volunteers who contribute to the work we do. Thanks to all!

Carole Millin For EVHMC



EARDISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

The E&SG is a working group of the Parish Council. Anyone interested in making Eardisland a more sustainable parish is welcome to come along.

Trees & Hedgerows

The morning of Sunday 26th February was spent planting trees and hedgerows around the village. Thanks to the hard work of Andy Dunn (our tree warden) and Debbie Cottam (Parish Clerk) the group received £1600 from The Tree Council to fund six new trees and seventy five metres of wildlife friendly hedging, tree stakes and biodegradable hedge protection. Thanks also to Home Farm for providing straw, Wendy Cross for donating cakes, and the members of Dilwyn Young Farmers who came along to help.

The trees will provide food and shelter for a wide variety of birds as well as giving extra shade on the recreation ground as summers get hotter due to global heating. The new hedgerows on Parish Council managed land will produce fruit and nuts for parishioners to pick and give habitat to many birds and mammals.



We were joined by Julia, David, and baby Damir (originally from Odessa, but resident in Eardisland since October) in planting a Silver Birch tree on the Recreation Ground to show solidarity with Ukraine and refugees staying locally.

Plastic Free Eardisland

The E&SG group is 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. It's not about removing all plastic from our lives but reducing the use of avoidable single-use plastic.

We're in the process of contacting all our local businesses with an offer to help them to become one of our plastic free business champions.

What is involved?

It's a simple 4 step process, which we will support you in doing:

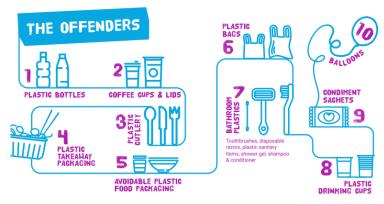
- Step 1: Sign up
- Step 2: Make a list of all the single use plastic in your business
- Step 3: Start tackling the list with the easiest items first (you can include thing you have already done)
- Step 4: Once you've removed 3 items you can apply to be a plastic free champion

What's in it for the business?

Positive local publicity and increased footfall – customers notice these things. Reducing pollution.

What sort of single use plastic might be removed?

Takeaway food containers / cutlery / plastic drinks cups / bottles, condiment or toiletry sachets, carrier bags and packaging, balloons and plastic bunting.



How to get involved?

Just get in touch and we can arrange to help you get signed up and start the process.

Free Winterproofing Materials

Almeley Parish Council's Environment Group asked us to take part in a pilot project supported by Herefordshire Green Network and funded by National Grid. Three parishes were supplied with a variety of insulation and draught-proofing materials to be given free to interested properties.

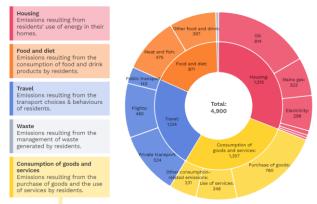
Thirteen houses have benefited so far, and we'll be reporting on what materials were most useful. The Almeley group will be assessing results to see if this project can be rolled out across other parishes before next winter.

The most popular product was a simple reflective sheet which dropped behind radiators on external walls. The manufacturer claims it can reduce heat loss through the wall by up to 45%, reducing carbon use and heating costs.

Parish Council Carbon Audit

Herefordshire Council and Eardisland Parish Council are both looking at ways to become carbon neutral by 2030. Estimates as to how much carbon the parish is responsible for creating vary according to ways of measuring. For example, much of the carbon produced by industry (mostly agriculture) in the parish is emitted during food production for people outside the parish.

The diagram below shows annual carbon emissions (in tonnes CO2) emitted because of the activities of residents of Eardisland Parish.



More detailed statistics can be seen here: https://impact-tool.org.uk/

As a first step the E&SG is going to be looking at the carbon emissions of the Parish Council's activities, to try and assess if reductions can be made. This is likely to include areas such as the Village Hall, buying of goods and services, and the limited influence the PC has on planning and transport. If anyone has an interest in helping with crunching the numbers, please get in touch!

Ben Woodcock b3nwoodcock@gmail.com 01544 388976

<u>'SAVE OUR RIVERS!' INCLUSIVE FUN SPONSORED WALK: SUNDAY 26TH MARCH, LEOMINSTER</u>

Volunteer citizen scientists regularly test the water up and down our local rivers to help map pollution sources. We urgently need funds to keep them supplied with equipment. Please take part in 'Save our Rivers' our sponsored charity walk on Sunday 26th March in Leominster and help us buy more water testing kits.

The walk will start from Grange Court in Leominster at 10.00 am on Sunday 26th March - clock change day and the return of British Summer Time.

The route is a tarmac circular route round the historic Grange greenspace and is suitable for everyone, including wheelchairs and pushchairs. Target distance is 5km. We welcome family groups and dogs and hope you will enjoy wearing costumes and fancy dress. All sorts of creatures are expected!

This is a fun event for a very serious cause, and all are welcome.

The Pavilion Cafe will be open, and entertainment is planned. There are free car parks a couple of minutes away at Etnam St and Broad St.

Please email volunteer@cpreherefordshire.org.uk to register for this event.

CPRE Herefordshire, a registered charity, has run a successful Citizen Science programme for over a year. Our volunteers regularly collect data on river pollution sources. The Environment Agency use this information as part of their plan to improve river health and revitalise ecosystems. Without intervention it is believed the rivers only have two years left before they pass a eutrophication tipping point.

Trish Marsh

Please see the poster on the next page.

Ed.





SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

EARDISLAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Thursday 30th March 2023 at 7.00pm in Eardisland Village Hall

AGENDA: PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

CHARITY DONATION FRAUD

Most fundraising appeals are genuine, so the risk of fraud should not put you off giving to charities. However, you should be vigilant and make sure you are giving safely to legitimate organisations.

Sadly, at times of national and international emergencies and disasters, fraudsters are always ready to take that as an opportunity to set up fraudulent "Charity" websites to prey on the public's generosity and take their money fraudulently.

They may claim to be raising money for a charity which is actually a fake or impersonate a well-known charity.

So, before donating online, on the phone or in person

- 1. Check the charity name and registration number at <u>Search the charity register GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>
- Check the Fundraising Regulator's online Directory to see if a charity has committed to good fundraising practice at: <u>Ethical fundraising</u>, <u>sustainable</u> giving | <u>Fundraising</u> Regulator
- If you are still unsure about giving, always ask the organisation for more information. Legitimate causes will be happy to respond and answer your questions.

Fundraising appeals with generic wording, such as "to help earthquake victims" should be approached with caution.

An appeal should always be clear on exactly what the money will be used for. When giving online, make sure the charity is genuine before giving any financial information:

- Type in the charity website address yourself, rather than clicking on a link, and look for the registered charity number on the website.
- Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails.
- Never respond to unsolicited messages or calls that ask for your personal or financial details.
- Beware of any online advertisements that just feature a mobile number.
- Ignore requests to donate through a money transfer company as this is a popular scam.
- Only donate to online fundraising pages created by a person or organisation you know and trust. If in any doubt, contact the charity directly.

When you meet a fundraiser in-person, check their credentials:

- Street collectors should wear an ID badge that is clearly visible.
- Any collection buckets should be sealed and undamaged. Most fundraising materials should feature a charity's name, registration number and a landline phone number.

• If in doubt, ask for more information – a genuine fundraiser should be happy to answer your questions.

If in doubt and you think that a fundraising appeal is fake, report it to Action Fraud online at www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Debbie Cottam Source: Action Fraud

ST MARY'S SPONSOR A LILY APPEAL 2023



Eardisland Church Flower Guild invite you once again to help sponsor the lilies at St Mary's Church this Easter. This could be to give thanks for a special occasion, to remember a loved one or for no reason at all!

A gift of £5 is suggested for each lily but lesser, or greater sums would be equally welcome and with your usual generous support we hope to have a wonderful display of flowers on Easter Day.

As usual the names of people and events being remembered will be posted in the church and any monies remaining after the purchase of the lilies will be used by the Flower Guild to help buy flowers to decorate the church throughout the rest of the year.

Sponsor forms are on the table at the back of the church and in the Community Shop.

Thank you, Wendy Priday Eardisland Church Flower Guild

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION

The annual revision of the church electoral roll is to be carried out during April this year. Anyone who is not already on the roll and wishes to be included needs to complete an application form. Application forms will be available in the church from Sunday 2nd April.

Mike Coleburn Treasurer

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?
Sunday 5 th March	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 12 th March	9.30am iSingPop	Eardisland
Sunday 19th March	9.30am Holy Communion, led	Eardisland
Mothering Sunday	by Archdeacon Derek Chedzey	
Sunday 26 th March	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 2 nd April	10.30am Palm Procession	Kingsland
Palm Sunday	with donkeys; service	
Thursday 6 th April	7pm Maundy Service	Aymestrey
Maundy Thursday		
Good Friday 7 th April	2pm The Last Hour	Eardisland
Sunday 9 th April	9.30 Family Communion	Eardisland
Easter Day		
Sunday 16 th April	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 23 rd April	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
St. George's Day		
Sunday 30 th April	10.30am Benefice Service	Eardisland

100 CLUB

If you are a member of the 100 Club, **now is the time to renew your subscription** ready for the first draw of the '100 club year' in April.

This is a club where the proceeds go towards the running and upkeep of our village church. Each member pays a yearly subscription of £15 and is then entered into a monthly draw. At their last meeting, the PCC agreed that the prizes should be slightly re-structured so instead of 4 prizes, there will now be 3.

Each month there will be one prize each of £30, £20 and £10. But unlike everything else, the annual subscription has not been raised in many years!

If you are not a member, why not join us and help towards keeping our church flourishing? New members are always most welcome – and if you wish, you can hold more than one number to increase your chances of winning. Several members even hold numbers for each of their grandchildren!

Cheques should be made payable to 'Eardisland PCC' and can be handed to any PCC member, dropped through my letterbox or left in the shop for collection. Thank you! I really would be most grateful if I have to do very little 'chasing-up' of subscriptions – if you would like to pay by BACS, please contact me for the details.

Annette Blyth Arrow Cottage 01544 388241

annetteblyth50@gmail.com

JULIE'S SABBATICAL

Rev Julie Read is at present halfway through a 3-month sabbatical. You may know that Julie was a music teacher before she joined the priesthood; her main instrument is the oboe. During her sabbatical Julie is travelling to various places, experiencing different styles of music and worship as well as enjoying being a musician again. No doubt she will return fizzing with ideas to share and use in our worship here.

While she is away, we are being well looked after by our benefice ministry team and visiting priests.

Our newest venture is **iSingPop**; all the children from Kingsland School are familiar with this singing and performing project which especially engages children and families in collective worship. Singing with actions, games, activities and crafts is very popular so come and join us **on Sunday 12**th **March** for a service with a difference following an Easter theme – and there will be eggs!

On Mothering Sunday (March 19th) our service will be taken by our Archdeacon, Rev Derek Chedzey so we look forward to spending time with him and enjoying refreshments afterwards.

Easter will fall on 9th April as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus; meanwhile we are in the forty days of Lent. The altar hangings are purple and there

are no flowers in church during this time. This is an extract from Julie's parish letter in 2019:

"The word Lent comes from the *lengthening* of days, and as the signs of spring are appearing all around us, we look to spring clean our lives from the cobwebs of old habits and hibernation. Lent in the spiritual sense is a time to stop and assess by either giving up some luxury and using the time and money to better ends, to start some new positive way to help others, to search for wisdom and truth, to stop and spend some time with God and engage with the deep meaning of life both for ourselves and for our world."

"You are all most welcome in Church always."

Annette Blyth Deputy Church Warden

COMMUNITY SHOP DRINKING TAP UPDATE



After sustaining some damage during the frost and low temperatures in late December, the tap is now almost repaired and ready to use. We are aiming to improve the area around it and make it look more attractive. We then hope to have a short opening event (look out for posters and adverts), and after this fresh drinking water will be available for locals and for visitors. It is particularly aimed at cyclists and walkers who we hope will fill up their bottles and avoid buying plastic. Very few villages provide this facility so we are hopefully trail blazing and others

will follow suit.

Welsh Water has supported us and have been cooperative and informative. We would also like to thank Ben Woodcock for his hard work filling in the hole and tidying the area. Thanks also to Dan Powell for sorting the repair. A very big thank you to Burton Court who gave a generous and much appreciated donation from the Beacon lighting event, which we put towards the installation of the tap. Eardisland Environment and Sustainability Group is helping us to promote the tap and to encourage people to use it.

Eardisland Community Shop Committee.

EARDISLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANTING SEEDS

SUNDAY 16TH APRIL FROM 10AM

All welcome (especially children) to come and join us for the first session of the year.

We'll be tidying up the beds by doing a bit of weeding, then planting seeds in the ground and in pots to take home.

All sorts of vegetables and flowers, including pumpkins and sunflowers.

Hot drinks and biscuits at about 11am.

Please bring a fork or spade if you can.



EARDISLAND IN BLOOM

As I type these notes there appears to be a feel of Spring in the air, which means it must be time to get back out in the garden. The E Team has returned to meeting up on Thursday mornings with a heavy workload to deal with. If you fancy helping us you will be most welcome, just muster around the dovecote at 10am, equipped with gardening gloves and perhaps a trowel.

Amongst a number of jobs to be worked on this year is a replacement arch at the bottom of the grassed area to the rear of the dovecote, as sadly the current feature is rotting. The rockery needs a good weed and then extra planting and even more perennials are required in the Manor House border.

During the course of the year, you will see a new local information board, which will feature very brief information on both properties and other buildings to be found within a five-minute walk of the village centre. This will replace the existing board which was formerly sited at the village hall. The cost will be borne by Eardisland in Bloom and has parish council approval.

LITTER PICK

The annual litter pick will take place on <u>SATURDAY 18TH MARCH</u>. Whilst it is a sad fact of life such an event is required, it is worthwhile and gives a feeling of satisfaction, if only for a day or two when an empty drink can or chocolate wrapper is found discarded!

If you can help, please muster around 10am near the dovecote. Please bring a yellow reflective jacket and gloves, although these should be available on the day together with grabbers and black sacks.

PLANT SALE

The annual Plant Sale is booked for <u>SATURDAY 13TH MAY</u>, from 10am to around 1230pm in the village hall. This year we are working with a new supplier but, as ever, are looking for donations. If you are able to help in this way, please bring anything you have to the hall, either on the day, or by prior arrangement with any E Team member. Refreshments will be available.

Phil Milchard

CRAFT & PRODUCE FAIR

The 7th annual fair is booked for *Saturday 7th October* and plans are already well under way. The event will run along the same lines as last year, with stalls both inside the church, in a marquee outside, or in the stallholders own gazebo. As per

arrangements for 2022 there will be two booking periods for those interested in a taking a stall.

Tuesday 14th March from 0900, for those living in Eardisland parish, OR anyone who was NOT a stallholder in 2022.

Friday 17th March, from 0900, for those who were stallholders in 2022.

Booking forms can be found on the parish website, **eardisland.org.uk** or by emailing **eardislandcfair@btinternet.com**. Alternatively, by phone on **07767781073**.

Please remember space is limited to around 50 stalls and demand will be heavy, so if you're interested in booking make a note of the dates in your diary.

Phil Milchard & Richard Kirby

THE END OF AN ERA

For the past twenty years, Eardisland Parish Magazine has presented a unique impression of a community magazine merged with a learned journal and enhanced by sophisticated editorship. For six editions a year we all received this anticipated treat delivered direct and free ... beat that!

Sadly, all good things come to an end. Our assiduous medieval historian George Alderson died in 2020, depriving us of his sharp witted perception into the early centuries of Eardisland's existence.

Now we have received shocking news of the death of Paul Selfe, historian and author, in December. He and George were the ideal complementary pair of historians: while George had one foot firmly in lost centuries, Paul was the chronicler of Eardisland life primarily in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Both these historians contributed to every edition of the magazine and were invariably unstinting in their praise for the accommodating editorship of Chris Bivand.

Now our magazine can never look the same again. Those of us who are regular readers will feel this and be sad. Local historians in years to come will feel the loss of a primary source of research materials.

Much of the material created and published by Paul Selfe exists for the intellectual benefit and health of future generations, and needs cataloguing and assessing. Hopefully younger residents will come forward to take up the torch.

In the meantime, thank you to George and Paul for so many hours of fruitful and fascinating reading and many wonderful conversations.

Barry Freeman

ARROW LAWN

A MID 20th CENTURY CHILDHOOD



My Great-Great Maternal Grandmother, Ann Haywood, bought Arrow Lawn at the beginning of the 19th Century - a portrait of her hung in the dining room, a rather severe looking lady in a lace cap. Somehow the house remained in the family until the end of the 20th century.

We were children of the RAJ:

how old-fashioned is that in 21st century Britain: our parents worked out East and our mother and the two Aunts — three feisty sisters, took it in turn to come home and care for us children. There were six pf us.

I well remember arriving at Arrow Lawn on a beautiful spring morning in May 1945. My mother, sister Meriel and our Nanny had been evacuated from Sri Lanka to South Africa in 1942 where we spent the remainder of the War. It was all so new and exciting to be finally 'home'. I also recall my mother's despair on walking into the garden and seeing her beautiful pre-war garden waist high in weeds. This was soon taken care of with the arrival of our wonderful Harry (Davies) who was to remain gardener for over 50 years. We never went short of produce.

Arrow Lawn was not a grand house; rationing was still on. There was no central heating, no fitted carpets, no television. There was the odd one bar electric heater and if you complained about the cold you were told to 'put on another jersey and run around to keep warm'. But it was an 'open' house - everybody was welcome, nobody was ever turned away and I just remember a stream of people coming and going — some short stays, some longer.

Richard, Caroline and myself being the three middle children all slept together and our night time companions were 'Sammy the Seal', 'Piglet' and 'Fluffy' the dog. Evening entertainment was presided over by Nanny: there was Whist, Racing Demon, Spillicons and Monopoly; and Caroline got so tired of Richard invariably landing on Park Lane that she became adept at pinching his money when he wasn't looking.

Church of a Sunday found us sitting together and not concentrating on matters spiritual because the Vicar, Rev. Rock, had a nervous twitch; he would jerk his head up into the rafters. We wondered if he was looking for God up there and we used to all bet on how many times he would do it during his sermon.

I don't suppose many people today will remember the winter of 1947, but it was the longest and coldest in living memory, and when the snow finally

melted, the village flooded, and we were evacuated in an Army Jeep. We spent fourteen days at the Swan in Eardisland being looked after by the landlady, Mrs Bishop. We all thought it a huge joke, particularly Richard when he found a dead fish behind the sofa at Arrow Lawn.

Trips to the dentist in Birmingham were quite an adventure - no motorways in those days, we all piled into a tiny pre-war Austin 7 motorcar AAW351 and named "Lucy Glitters", driven with great panache by my mother or one of the aunts.

At the beginning and end of our school holidays we visited our Great Aunt Patricia Blackmore in Kingsland. We walked the two and a half miles there and the two and a half miles back. Aunt Patricia was an upright Victorian lady who lived with her friend Miss Redgrave, and we were expected to make polite conversation with the two ladies. Peter was the favourite; he was rather cheeky and nearly always managed to make her smile while the rest of us looked on stony faced. We waited patiently for the Carrs chocolate biscuit tin to come out for that was the sign for each of us to take one, say our goodbyes and beat a hasty retreat! Aunt Patricia had a deaf and dumb maid called 'Jinny' and only Aunt Patricia could communicate with her.

During the l940's the mill was still a working mill and the miller was very patient showing us how things worked and answering our endless questions. (The mill refers to the mill which is the first house down Broome Lane from the Dovecote. It was known as 'Upper Mill'. It is believed to date from 1598. The building burnt down in the 1960s and finally the remains converted to a private house in the early 70s. Ed.)

We were the scruffiest of children; we played tennis and cricket on the tennis court; we roamed the fields picking wildflowers in summer and mushrooms in September, and were gone all day on our bikes with a bottle of pop and jam sandwiches. We spent hours playing on our own special island "Heron Island" near the weir, and it was there on the Arrow that Richard and Peter caught their first fish - the start of a lifelong passion for both of them. The highlight of Christmas was the party on Christmas night. The parquet floor in the barn was polished and an enormous fire one end lit (it usually smoked!). Everybody dressed up and about 30 people came aged between 8-80. We played games and the grownups danced to an ancient wind-up gramophone. The evening always ended around midnight with Peter Price producing his famous hot Punch.

Sadly, of the six of us only three now remain, but with the benefit of hindsight and a touch of nostalgia, the summers always seemed to be warm and balmy, and the winters cold and crisp. Happy days indeed for us growing up free in such beautiful countryside.

Angela M Boulton (Nee Evans — Blackmore)

EARDISLAND WEATHER REPORT

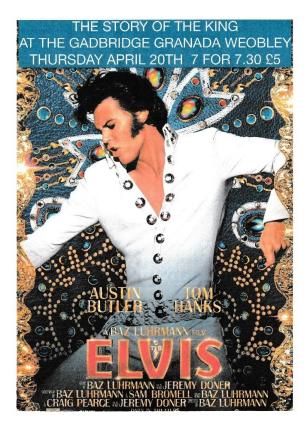
January continued to bring more rain with 95mm (3.71 inches) recorded, also more frosty mornings to - 7C. Temperatures from 1C to 12C were recorded and Barometer pressures of 29.00 to 30.3. With the heavy rain the river rose 50 inches on January the 8th but lowered to 11 inches by the end of the month.

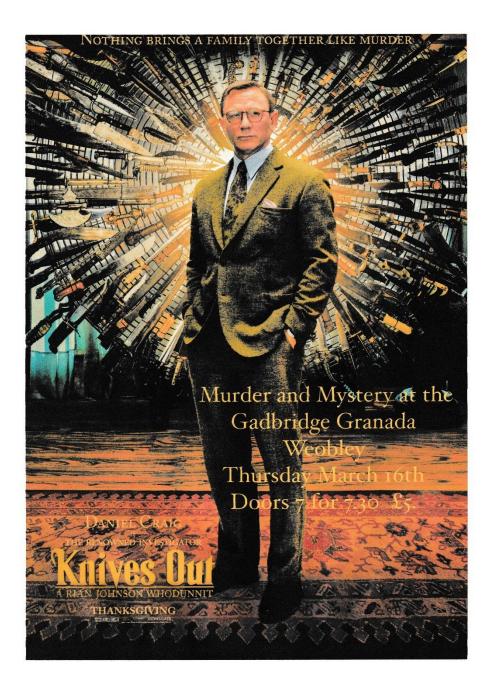
In contrast the rainfall for February was a mere 8mm (0.315 inches). Temperatures ranged from 8C to 16C with barometer readings 29.64 to 30.50. The river level ranged from 12 to14 inches. Storm Otto passed to the North on the 17th of February with no affect to our weather.

The equivalent rainfall for 2022 was January 32mm (1.26 inches), and February 93mm (3.66 inches).

Nature wise the swans are paying us a regular visit, (I wonder if they will nest this year), a pair of moorhens and dippers are frequenting too.

Doug Tantrum reporting from Kingfisher House





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CONTACTS

Editorial: CHRIS BIVAND

Arrow Bank, Eardisland, Leominster, HR6 9BT

1 01544 – 388375

Email: chrisbivand@gmail.com

Advertising: PATRICIA GILL

2 01544 – 388757

Email: <u>parishads@btinternet.com</u>

Distribution Manager: BARRY FREEMAN

2 01544 - 388226

Website: BEN WOODCOCK

Email: <u>ben@eardisland.org.uk</u>

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

FRIDAY 5th MAY 2023

TREES OF EARDISLAND

The Environment & Sustainability Group received funding to look at trees in the parish as part of understanding the importance of Eardisland's trees and how we can look after them. Details of all trees surveyed can be found on https://treezilla.org/

Austrian or Black Pine – Pinus nigra

Location: next to Arrow bridge

Height: 27 metres Trunk diameter: 124cm

Leaf area: 1017 square metres Life expectancy: More than 40 years Carbon Dioxide stored: 2141 kg to date Carbon Dioxide removed: 37 kg a year

This tree removes about the same amount of carbon each year as a car uses driving 200 miles, or 2 ½ days gas heating and cooking use for an average home

Norway Maple - Acer platanoides

Location: next to the millstream

Height: 8 metres Trunk diameter: 88 cm

Leaf area: 242 square metres

Life expectancy: More than 40 years Carbon Dioxide stored: 170 kg to date Carbon Dioxide removed: 11 kg a year

This tree removes about the same amount of carbon each year as it takes to produce 7 single use plastic bags.





Ben Woodcock b3nwoodcock@gmail.com 01544 388976