

# Bushley News

February 2024

*The Voice of the  
Village*

Nº: 641

As most of you know Chris Moss has now retired and left the county!

However before he left he magnanimously bequeathed the Bushley Village News his “old” printer. I say old but in comparison with our old printer, which apparently was second hand when we first acquired it, it is brand new!

Which is just as well because our old printer frequently suffered from paper jams and really needed regular, serious, servicing, all of which increased our running costs.



Chris kindly transported the printer (plus a number of new toner cartridges I might add) from underneath his stairs in the Vicarage to the Village Hall and all we had to do was get it into one of the back rooms behind the stage.

Which was no mean feat because we had to lift it up three feet or more on to the stage! A call for help was put out via the Village WhatsApp group and we soon had a ready supply of muscle to heave and grunt until the task was achieved.

So, many thanks go to Nigel, Ian, Vaughan, Sally, Ron, Kate and Merry plus Pod the dog who turned up to lend a hand lifting the printer in to place. I of course stood back and supervised from a safe distance, as you might expect.

The greatest vote of thanks must go to Chris for his very generous donation of the printer, which also prints in colour, so maybe we might experiment with that possibility in the future!

Ed.

# The View from the Pulpit

## When is Lent 2024?

Lent begins each year on Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter Sunday. This year, Lent will begin on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024.

Lent consists of six weeks leading up to Easter and ends either on Maundy Thursday (March 28th, 2024) or Holy Saturday (March 30, 2024), depending on the denomination or tradition you follow.

## How long is Lent?

Lent is 40-days long and begins 46 days before the Saturday of Easter weekend (Easter Sunday falls on Sunday, March 31, 2024) but is only observed Monday-Saturday each week because every Sunday is considered a celebration of the Resurrection.

The 40-day duration is symbolic and represents the time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry.

## When does Lent start in 2024?

Lent 2024 starts on "Ash Wednesday," which is February 14, 2024, and also happens to be Valentine's Day!

## What is "Ash Wednesday?"

On Ash Wednesday, worshippers attend a special church service where they receive ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. The ashes are typically made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The imposition of ashes is accompanied by the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" or a similar expression emphasizing mortality and repentance.

The ashes serve as a symbolic reminder of human mortality and the need for repentance. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. During Lent, Christians engage in fasting, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines as a way of preparing for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. The ashes on the forehead are a visible sign of humility, penance, and a commitment to a season of reflection and spiritual growth.

## When does Lent End in 2024?

Since 1969, Catholics have ended their Lenten fast on the Thursday before Easter, known as "Holy Thursday" or "Maundy Thursday." In 2024, this falls on March 28th.

Traditionally, however, Lent has ended during "Holy Week," on "Holy Saturday," which is Saturday, March 30, 2024.



The above is an excerpt from  
<https://www.christianity.com/>

# Bushley Parish Council

## Welcome

Bushley Parish Council welcomes (by co-option) two new councillors:

Elaine Vincent (Stokes Lane) and  
Julie McClean (Wood Street).

Both are long-time village residents and each hopes to help foster the inclusive community of Bushley and Bushley Green.



## Thanks go to Jennie Watkins for her Generous Initiative

Following discussions of a request from Bushley Village Hall for financial support with the annual maintenance costs of the defibrillator, District Councillor **Jennie Watkins** kindly offered a £150 grant from her **Worcestershire Community Fund**, in support.

## Bio-Diversity Policy

The parish council has recently adopted a bio-diversity policy (as required by the Environment Act 2021). Its aim being to raise awareness of bio-diversity concerns and work towards greater protection of our parish's bio-diversity needs, at all levels.

Jane Rolfe  
Bushley Parish Council Clerk  
Woodlea,  
Bushley Green.  
Tel N°: 01684 293834  
clerk@bushleyparishcouncil.org.uk

## Share Your Wildlife Support Ideas

Many villagers are already actively "doing their bit" to encourage and support our wildlife and environment. Simple changes can make all the difference, e.g. only cutting hedges when the birds have finished nesting (farmers and landowners are not permitted by law to cut their hedges between 1st March and 1st September); 'No Mow May' and sowing wildflower seeds.

If anyone has any suggestions to help encourage wildlife/insects further, please share your ideas (perhaps on the village WhatsApp group; Bushley News, or with a parish councillor) so they can be discussed at future meetings.

## Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The new Speed Indicator Device (SID) recently bought and installed by the parish council at the entrance to the village (from the A438), is already having a positive impact on driver behaviour. Data downloads from the SID record the number of 'hits' as vehicles approach and pass the sign and this can help inform the need for further traffic calming measures.

## Planning Application received from MHDC

**Ref:** M/23/01762/FUL

**Location:** Field Barn, Wood Street Farm, Bushley, GL20 6JA

**Description of Proposal:** Demolition of barn (with extant Class Q approval for conversion to

**Residential Ref:** 21/00966/GPDQ) and replacement with a single residential dwellinghouse

## Licencing Service for Rev Julie James

The Licencing Service for Reverend Julie James was held on Sunday 28th January, at St Gregory's Church Castlemorton, in the presence of the Bishop of Dudley, Rt Reverend Martin Gorick.

Julie James (who takes over from Chris Moss this month) was welcomed to Bushley Parish and St Peter's by members of the Parish Council and the PCC.



## A View from the Saddle

Well not exactly a view from the saddle, to be honest 'A view from the Marquee' outside the Farmers Arms would be more accurate!

Let me explain. The best made plans hit the rocks sometimes. The plan had been to visit Bredon School for a hot chocolate and a catch up with the Head and Erica, his PA then a gentle ride to the Farmers Arms. It was Burns Day. In the past we have visited 'Spoons' as it was the only pub that I could find that put on haggis, neeps and tatties to celebrate Robbie Burns. I decided to call Neil at the pub suggesting that there would be 8 hungry cyclists wanting a haggis for lunch. He spoke to his butcher and 'yes' he would do the business for us. The plan was coming together. Well Mrs D came out with covid and we decided that I should contain my enthusiasm. Rethinking the day through I felt denied of my haggis so the alternative was for me to lunch outside on my own! I am happy to report that Mrs D will be back on the road!

I now know what it is like being in a posh 'home' for the senior generation in isolation. Sitting outside I found a great book to read, my

beer, haggis and whisky were delivered to my table. I enjoyed visits from several of the cyclists and caught up with all the gossip. Conversation was no issue as the only noise outside was from the birds in the bushes! The haggis was the best I have eaten and that tot of whisky really hit the spot.

Medecineman reported that he had recorded 1007 miles in the previous 12 months which Thoughtful then suggested that would get us to Portugal, should we have a go? I am tempted, some challenge! I have cycled to Paris, admittedly 20 years ago, perhaps the extra few miles would be tough! In the last few weeks we have travelled through floods, wind and had icy conditions to contend with. I wonder what will come our way in 2024.

Back to Bredon School, Erica has asked me to pass on her thanks to the very kind tractor driver who rescued a lady in distress. She was travelling down Green Street early in the morning and came across a large tree across the road. He immediately got into gear and pushed the offending obstruction off the road and gave her an enormous smile as she continued on the journey.

Happy and safe cycling  
Keith Davis

### ***Bushley Village Hall Compliments***

It is always a boost to receive compliments especially for work achieved by volunteers. This last month Bushley Village Hall received not one, not two but three such compliments.

#### ***Glos. Botanical Illustration Group***

"Really hoping you can accommodate us, we voted Bushley Hall our favourite last year!"

#### ***Ledbury Pony Club***

"We found the hall to be lovely, clean and suited all our requirements."

#### ***Private Christening Party***

"We had an amazing time and party, thank you very much"

Thank you to everyone who supports the hall throughout the year.

## What's the Garden For?

It's been rather blustery and more than a bit wet so it's been time to delve into the books about gardens. I have been enjoying "Eccentric Gardens" by Jane Owen.

There's the grandeur of Stowe, and Stourhead, the follies and temples that adorn various 18th Century gardens. There's a house near here where outside are planted up some redundant lavatories. Trust us Brits to decorate our plots with all manner of things that may occasion the passer by to gasp and stretch his eyes.

That's what your plot, and my plot are for. It could be that we are deeply conservative and our gardens staid and conventional. Or not.

I have mentioned before that I have a shed that is a Homage to Derek Jarman. This all came about because the previous owners had painted the fences black and, when my shed was delivered in that peculiar eye-wateringly blatant orange, I knew it couldn't remain like that.

I grew up near Dungeness on Romney Marsh, acres of shingle but a plethora of interesting plants. I had known Jarman's cottage since long before he bought it, black weatherboard, with bright yellow windows. So that became the theme for my shed. That it has a plastic lobster for a door knocker and a metal seagull on the roof is deviating somewhat from the Jarman vision.

In "Eccentric Gardens" is the tale of a man, John Fairington, who built a garden of concrete animals for his somewhat handicapped son. There are horses, pandas, giraffes, A giant St Bernard complete with brandy barrel. The local butcher donated animal skulls.

When he died the garden was left to six charities who, in their snobbish way, decided that it was not worthy, this was "crude art" yet it was saved by another member of the family so that this work of love for a handicapped child was enjoyed by thousands. Look up "The Cement menagerie."

So, as we come into the new season we look at what our gardens are for us. Somewhere private, to enjoy, to relax, to favour wildlife perhaps, maybe to be productive in the veg growing line. Although private indeed, they are overlooked by neighbours, by the postman (a dying breed if today's news is anything to go by) who can tut at the lobster on the door, the cast-iron crocodile by the pond, the uncut stems of plants as we want to support wildlife. They grow, develop and above all change through the seasons, and give us joy and a bad back and sore knees.

Enjoy.

Penelope Tubbs

## In Touch With Nature

Back the week before Christmas the Song Thrushes started singing, their songs beginning before dawn and continuing throughout the day. This is a major indicator for the new natural year. Then, now two weeks into January I have seen Starlings and Blue Tits investigating nest boxes. Garden plants are also responding to the lengthening daylight, with the Hazel catkins expanding and relaxing being one of my favourite Spring harbingers.

The recent flooding that overlapped the changing year has proved to be the highest since 2007, though half a metre lower. The River Severn bursting over Bushley's protective banks, joining the water in the already flooded fields, having accumulated from the persistent rainfall and the inability of all the spring water from Sarn Hill to escape. Some though does flow North from Sarn Hill to find the brook at Queenhill which now will rise and fall with the Severn. Before the building of the weir at Upper Lode in the mid nineteenth century, the Severn flowing through Bushley and the brook would both have been subjected to tidal surges. Maybe this would explain the Lancelot Brown type lake that could appear in front of Pull Court, and the presence of marine plants around the brooks source on Eldersfield marsh? We are grateful to Thomas Telford who unlike modern planners, built us the bridge and raised embankment above the regular level of flood water; the embankment, oddly named "The Cuttings" probably due to the cropping of Osier shoots from the dykes either side for the basketry business.

Still with the floods, on a walk towards the water's edge I enjoyed watching Fieldfares bathing and a pair of Little Egrets loafing. Chris

Packham says there are now some 1500 pairs of these birds now nesting in the UK, having become extinct here, due mainly to their feathers being an essential requirement of the ladies fashion business, protection has allowed this recovery since the 1960s.

Tis the time to plant trees but give the species some serious thought whether bare rooted or not. Native Oak or Lime need an awful amount of room, also consider the soil type i.e. sandy, clay, wet, or well drained, then aspect, open, sunny, shaded or windy, most trees have a preference. In private gardens, small ornamental or better still fruit trees, apple, plum, peach, apricot, cherry or dwarf pear; bearing in mind houses change hands and everyone's choice is different. For a tree to complete it's job of extracting carbon di-oxide and fixing carbon it needs to live a full life before it dies and releases the carbon di-oxide within its self.

Just finished cutting the field hedges, all the berries have been eaten, mostly I suspect by birds. However, the wild rose hips are still plentiful being eaten for now by Wood mice, under almost every rose plant in the hedgerow there is a small conical pile of hip debris. Also noticeable in the hedgerow is the number of invaders since being planted in 2002, numerous Ash, Field Maple and Bramble, with odd Oak, Walnut and Honeysuckle; interesting to study this development.

Best sighting was watching the Fieldfares bathing.

Martin R

## View from Between the Bears

The weather has certainly been all over the place, as I suggested last month. Heavy rain from storm Henk over much of England and Wales caused the Severn and Avon to flood at the same time, a recipe for disaster for us. The Severn overtopped our protective bank by a foot or more, resulting in a rapid rise of the flood level in our meadows, reaching, then entering the cattle yards. The cattle were all moved to safety on other farms. The flood also resulted in the 'Cuttings', road from the Oxhey to Mythe Bridge being closed for a day, which hasn't happened since 2007. I know I've said it before, but if this sort of event is likely to happen more often, then the river needs to be better managed; maybe dredging here and there, but certainly clearing some of the overgrown banks, where trees are falling into the river. The water has to get past Gloucester into the tidal parts of the estuary, the sea essentially, as swiftly as possible. And now they are part way through building another 235 houses at Hempsted, one of the worst bottle necks!

The flood receded rapidly, over a week or more, after cold, dry weather, dry enough [just about] for us to plant wheat in the fields behind the Village Hall. I won't pretend it was a perfect job, but a chance worth taking. Sharp frosts for the next couple of days, then more rain, prevented us from getting the pre-emergence weed control sprayed on the fields, so not ideal. There may be a chance before the end of January, otherwise it will be too late.

Farmers are being urged to reduce, or at least manage, risk. This usually attracts a wry smile, as farming has always been a huge gamble. Government support [subsidies] have



previously provided a cushion against fluctuating prices and low production, often weather related. The latest scheme being rolled out in England is the Sustainable Farming Initiative. Details have been slow to come out over the past few months,

but the options are becoming clearer at last. It's complicated, that's for sure! Many options are available on their own or in combinations, mostly to encourage wildlife and improve soil health. The downside is that production is likely to fall, particularly after such a difficult autumn for arable farmers in particular. The best paying options seem to be that arable land is taken out of production. If a few thousand acres get planted down to a wildflower meadow mix, with low input costs and a guaranteed income for 5 years, who will be surprised? Well maybe DEFRA secretary, Steve Barclay, who still maintains it will help ensure the government commitment that the UK remains 60% self-sufficient in food production.

A smaller threat to food production might come from Biodiversity Net Gain, a planning requirement starting to be introduced this year. Housing or industrial buildings will be required to show biodiversity improvements of at least 10% on the habitat of the finished development. Ideally that would be on the same site, but can be on separate sites, giving farmers the chance to negotiate long term agreements with developers to provide BNG on a suitably sized site possibly many miles away from the new buildings. That sounds like a serious compromise from the original idea to me.

Continued on page 8



A reminder from the Health and Safety Executive to properly store, prepare and cook poultry products follows a rise in cases of food poisoning linked to Salmonella enteritidis detected in chilled and frozen poultry, and eggs produced in Poland. NFU poultry board chairman, James Mottershead said, "British poultry farmers are proud to produce to some of the world's highest standards and have to meet stringent food safety and environmental legislation. Even though we will always be a trading nation in food, we should not be allowing imported products to enter our food system which may not reach the same safety standards." Supermarkets take note please; checks are required, not just an assurance from a wholesaler!

Land Agents, Savills, report a 20% rise in land sales in 2023 compared to 2022, alongside an increase in farm dispersal sales. Big farms are getting bigger as commercial family farms find it increasingly difficult to continue; what a shame!

Tim Perry



The Bushley Village News is run for the community, by the community, your community and relies on voluntary donations from parishioners living in Bushley and it's environs as well as others who have been associated with Bushley over the years.

This month grateful thanks for cash donations to help pay for running costs go to:

- Elaine Guilding
- Peter Guilding
- Mary Dowling
- Edward and Heather Bloxham

If you would like to help but don't want to make a cash donation there are other ways you can help. For instance, we are always glad to receive a ream of good quality A4 paper.

Recently we were very pleased to receive a new, to the BVN, printer to replace our aging and failing printer which has now sadly gone to that place where printers live out the end of their useful life.

Another way, if you have something you think might be of interest to the Bushley community, is to write an article for publication.

Ed,

# Jottings of a Retired Country GP

## Autoimmune Diseases

Mention the name Alan Bates and two associated names come to mind – the Post Office and Horizon Computer programmes. It appears that Fujitsu, who set up the PO's computers, were able to tinker with the programme which caused the false accounting for the postmasters/postmistresses. For years the computer programme was thought to be foolproof. Was the problem an inherent glitch in the computer or the result of interference?

What has this got to do with medical problems that I usually write about, you may well ask? The ITV programme made me think along the lines of auto-immune diseases. How so? Because the immunity mechanisms that keep us safe from the insults of the outside world sometimes go wrong of their own accord. Known as autoimmune diseases, we do not fully understand why they misbehave - they are sometimes upset by our own misuse of drugs. You name it, there are plenty of insults we subject our bodies to that can upset the fine protective mechanisms of our bodies.

Blood is made up of serum, the liquid base, and cells, which live in the serum and are distributed around the body. Of the cells, the red cells carry oxygen while several different types of white cells look after our wellbeing. Some white cells lap up infecting agents (bacteria, viruses), others provide immunity which is one of the natural systems that protect us against diseases. Immunity can be boosted by vaccination when there is no natural immunity. But these clever systems occasionally get out of hand and start attacking their host – our own bodies. These rogue systems are the cause of autoimmune diseases. As an example,



Andrew Crowther

and also in the news, Motor Neurone Disease (MND) has hit the headlines. In the case of MND it is the outer casing of the nerves sending orders to the muscles that is damaged so that the nerves fail to send appropriate messages. The result is an inability to use those muscles.

There are many other such diseases. Rheumatoid arthritis, dementia, colonic gut disorders and skin disorders among them – affecting all areas of the body.

White cells produce chemicals known as antibodies which latch onto bacteria or body tissues and destroy them, which is fine if these tissues are unwanted invaders. It is a nuisance if they attack healthy, useful cells. Gradually researchers are finding ways of suppressing the damaging activities of our immune systems, but at a cost. As patients who have received a heart or kidney transplant know they have to take suppressive medication, usually for life, to prevent the donated organ being rejected. This is another example of the body trying to protect itself against foreign material. Multiple sclerosis, thyroid disease, juvenile diabetes and coeliac disease are all autoimmune diseases. In overall terms, these diseases are fairly uncommon, but being so damaging to the welfare of the patient they get a lot of publicity.

Like the Post Office scandal, we cannot ignore these diseases. They are nobody's 'fault', they are just evidence of our own automatic protection systems overreacting and attacking our own healthy tissues. Treatments are slowly becoming available. In the meantime, let us hope that medical science will be as successful as Alan Bates in sorting out these nasty problems.

Andrew Crowther



# Castlemorton Environmental Group

## Beauty and the Beast: Creating a Garden for Drought



CEG invite you to a talk by Jane Jordan.

After moving to a new house in a large plot in Hanley Castle, I had the opportunity to create my own garden from scratch. Being very aware of the impact our changing climate is already having in our gardens, I decided to put resilience at the heart of my plant choices. This is the story of how I made the front garden, filling it with a diverse range of drought-tolerant plants to provide beauty and interest through the seasons.

**Castlemorton Parish Hall Thursday  
29th February at 7:30pm**

*Entry £2:50 with tea or coffee and biscuits provided.*

**Thursday 15th February at 7:30pm**  
***The Great Escaper***

(12A-2023-96mins)

Bernard Johnson (Michael Caine) escapes from his care home to attend the 70th Anniversary of the D Day landings in France. Rene (Glenda Jackson), his wife, has to cover for him until he is safely on the ferry.

A heart-warming true story with real emotional heft.

Tickets £5 on the door, supper special £12. For advance booking call Beth 01531 631503 or Malcolm 01684 833297 or email [mortonmajestic@gmail.com](mailto:mortonmajestic@gmail.com).

Licensed Bar / Refreshments / Ice creams

The Morton Majestic is at Castlemorton Parish Hall WR13 6BE

[www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk](http://www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk)

## **STUDENTS**

**If you are a Student in Further or Higher Education and live in the Parishes of Ripple, Bushley, Queenhill or Holdfast**

**The Ancient Parish of Ripple Trust can help you!**

This charitable Trust is able to make financial grants to students in further or higher education towards the purchase of books and equipment necessary for their courses and may also be able to help with travel between home and college.

For details and an application form, send an e-mail to:

[\*aprtrust2023@yahoo.com\*](mailto:aprtrust2023@yahoo.com)

The Trustees will meet again in April to consider applications which should be received by  
**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

# *THE BUSHLEY DIARY*

## Your guide to Activities in the Village

### February

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Thurs	1	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	Village Hall
Thurs	1	Private Meeting	10:30 - 12:30	
Thurs	1	Upton YFC	19:00 - 21:00	
Thurs	1	Mobile Library (Note 3)	Note 3	Note3
Mon	5	Dance Club	9:30 - 12:30	Village Hall
Mon	5	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Weds	7	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Mon	12	Dance Club	9:30 - 12:30	
Mon	12	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Tues	13	Tewkesbury Flower Club	13:00 - 17:00	
Mon	19	Dance Club	9:30 - 12:30	
Mon	19	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Tues	20	Craft Club	10:00 - 12:00	
Tues	20	Parish Council	19:30	
Sun	25	Private Party	9:30 - 15:00	
Mon	26	Dance Club	9:30 - 12:30	
Mon	26	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Weds	28	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	

#### **Note 1**

For further details contact either Jason Kinghorn: 07971 084096  
or Rachel Perry: 07594 853620  
Bushley Village Hall website: [Bushleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://Bushleyvillagehall.org.uk)

#### **Note 2**

Craft Workshops are open to all. It helps if people book in advance but it's not essential.

For more details contact Lesley on 07920 260468

#### **Note 3**

The mobile library visits Bushley on the first Monday every month:

Time	Location
9:45am to 10am	Village Hall
10:05am to 10:20am	Tewkesbury Fields Care Home

If you have an item of news please send it for consideration to the editor at:  
[BushleyNewsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:BushleyNewsEditor@gmail.com)

The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editor unless signed Ed.

In accordance with editorial policy the editor's decision is final.

The Bushley Village News may also be viewed online at  
<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/Publications.aspx?ParishID=60>