

*The
Grapevine
online*

No. 322

February / March 2024



*Your news about your community -
Guarlford, Madresfield, Newland*

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*Front cover picture: Waxwings in Hall Green, 6th January 2024. For more information, turn to page 10.
Photographs on the cover and on page 10 are courtesy of Ian and Sue Wykes.*

Editor: Cora Weaver E: cora.weaver@talktalk.net

The Grapevine will be posted online in mid- January; March, May, July, September and November.

Articles for inclusion need to be with the editor by 10th day of those months.

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GUARLFORD

Guarlford Parish Website: www.guarlfordparish.uk

Churchwarden: David Fellowes

Verger: Vacant

Malvern Hills Trust representative: David Fellowes

Parish Council: Clerk: Mrs Gill Hollick, 2 Bamford Close, Guarlford WR13 6PF
Mob. 07816 533 251 E: parishclerkguarlford@gmail.com

Parish Path Warden: David Fellowes, Green Fields, Rectory Lane, Guarlford
Tel: 01684 574243

Tree Warden: Rev. Peter Hughes

Village Hall: E: guarlfordvillagehall@gmail.com

Village Hall Website: <http://www.guarlfordparish.uk/halltrustees.htm>

W.I : meets 7.30, Guarlford Village Hall, second Tuesday in the month. All welcome.
President: Di Rivers Tel ; 01684 572381 E: wifolk@guarlfordparish.uk



MADRESFIELD

Bell Ringing: Practice Mondays 7.30 at Madresfield Church; contact Geoff Titmuss
01684 572495

Churchwardens: Mr Christopher Bennett, Hayswood Farm, Madresfield, 01684 891047;
Mrs Elizabeth Palmer, 33 Hall Green Close, WR14 3QY 01684 575914

Secretary: Wendy Palmer 01684 899223 E: wendy.palmer@outlook.com

Treasurer: Situation vacant from Spring 2024 - church finance's enquiries to The Vicar.

Cricket Club: Secretary: Peter Hughes, Holly Lodge, Madresfield 01684 572649

Early Years Centre www.meyc.co.uk 01684 574378 (9am-2pm)
Mrs Alice Bennett 01684 574378

Movement Club: Children's gym, dance, drama and ballet 01684 574378

Parish Council: Clerk: Mr David Sharp, 20 Farley Road, Malvern Link 01684 573213
E: mrdasharp@btinternet.com

Madresfield C E Primary School: Head of School: Emma Rose Tel:01684 573620
E: office@madresfield.dowmat.education

Friends of Madresfield School : Chairman: Helen Morgan;
Vice Chairman: Hannah Willey; Secretary, Christine Warner ; Treasurer, Hannah Hollick ;
Press Officer, Tracy Williams

Madresfield Club : Secretary, Mrs Jo Morgan 01684 573363

Madresfield contd.

Parent & Toddler Club: Tuesdays 11-12; Gymini classes throughout Wednesdays;
Holiday Play Schemes; After School Collection & Care
Babies to PreSchool Care 8am-6pm daily

Movement Club: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at Madresfield Early Years Centre
01684 574378.

Parent & Toddler Groups run daily in term time at Madresfield Early Years Centre
01684 574378 or Mrs Elaine Ward 01684 565714.

NEWLAND

Malvern Hills Trust representative: Duncan Westbury

Parish Council: Clerk: Jacqui Barker, 114 Fruitlands, Malvern WR14 4XB 01684 567674
E: newlandpc1@gmail.com

*Newland Parish Council meets bi-monthly at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at The
Beauchamp Community (January, March, May, July, September, November)*



Community Support Officer: PCSO Martin Butcher

County & District Councillor: Tom Wells, 27 Upton Road, Callow End WR2 4TY
Tel: 01905 831752 07702 996203 E: talwells@btinternet.com

Malvern Hills Trust: Chase representative: Richard Fowler

Malvern Hub: for reporting abandoned cars and flytipping 01684 862151

Meditation Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm 01905 831048

Parochial Church Council: Rector- Rev. Gary Crellin 01905 830270

E: revgarycrellin@gmail.com

Vice Chairman: Mrs Elizabeth Palmer 33 Hall Green Close, WR14 3QY 01684 575914

Parishes' Administrator: Liz Edwards, 07726 927 046 E: oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: Ginny Pavey E: virginipavey@btinternet.com

Parish Website: www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk

WHERE TO FIND THE GRAPEVINE ONLINE

- * <http://www.guarlfordparish.uk/news.htm>
- * http://www.guarlfordparish.uk/vill_mag.htm This site displays past editions.
- * <https://www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk/useful-links>
- * www.madresfieldschool.net
- * <https://www.beauchampstleonard.org>
- * <https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/Publications.aspx?ParishID=94>

Report from Guarlford Village Hall

Happy New Year from Guarlford Village Hall

Christmas now seems a long time ago but what a lovely time it was in Guarlford. The Advent event at the end of November saw 50 ladies enjoy a lovely evening making beautiful festive door garlands while enjoying mulled wine and mince pies. The following day the hall opened up again for the Christmas quiz with Father Christmas, otherwise known as our quizmaster Richard, helped by his lovely family, Leesa, Alfie and Shanye. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed a supper of homemade vegetable soup, crusty bread and delicious puddings. The village hall was asked to send a Christmas tree to the Madresfield Christmas Tree festival so in keeping with their current theme the committee decorated a tree with small tools, bricks and roofing slates!!



The first Saturday in December saw the hall open for the well established Guarlford Christmas Fayre. So many people came along to help it made it a really lovely traditional village Christmas event. Even Father Christmas dropped by with presents for the children.



The following week St Mary's Church put on a super display of Nativity scenes so the village hall opened up again with delicious cakes and treats for all the visitors to the village

Our final Christmas event of the year saw a great turnout for **carol singing in Penny Lane**. Cath and Keith had created their **wonderful light display** again, this year to raise funds for Dementia UK. After lots of Christmas carols, accompanied by the Chase Brass Band, everyone adjourned to the hall for hot drinks and mince pies to warm up and wish each other happy Christmas.

January has brought the start of our next phase of renovations in the village hall. Following our fundraising success last year building work has now already started in the hall. The old kitchen has gone and we are already well on the way to seeing new, streamlined, hygienic, modern facilities installed, with a new serving hatch, which will make the kitchen easier for everyone to use.



Tessa Dorey sent this photograph of the amazing 3-dimensional festive landscape in Penny Lane. If you missed it in 2023, make a note to visit in 2024.

The next area to receive attention will be the staircase which is due to be removed later this month so that the stairwell can be insulated. A brand new staircase will then be installed with the stair lift fitted back in place.



Following this the main hall will be insulated and the leaky roof finally repaired.

The hall will mostly be kept open throughout the refurbishment although it is likely that it may have to close for a short period at the end of June. Work is expected to be finished by the end of September when there will be a celebration event.

On 23rd January there will be a **coffee morning** in the village hall sponsored by Guarlford Parish Council and Age UK. This will be open to everyone to come and have a look at the progress in the hall. Representatives from Age UK will be on hand to offer advice on **getting the most out of the internet** and if you are over 50 you may be eligible for a free home safety check.

There will be more events to follow, details will be on Guarlford Village Hall Facebook page but watch out for the Easter quiz in March.

Guarlford Village Hall Committee

FESTIVE MEMORIES FROM AROUND THE PARISHES

Walk of Wonder! (WOW!)

The **Walk of Wonder** took place around Madresfield village over the weekend of 9th-10th December. Almost 300 people, including pupils from Madresfield School and MEYC, enjoyed walking around the Nativity trail and experiencing the Christmas story in many wonderful and creative forms. Rev Gary's voice was also booming out at four of the stations this year (when the tech worked) adding a new dimension to the trail. Saturday's Christmas Reflection was made extra special with readings from Nick Wilkes and the voices of Madresfield School choir; the sound of the teachers and pupils singing 'Mary did you know' was just beautiful.

A BIG thank you to everyone who supported this event whether getting the church ready, decorating Christmas trees for the festival, creating stations on the walk or serving refreshments.

Kay Shuard, Email: kay@shuard.com T: 07702 733598
Vicky Whitehouse & Kay Shuard, Children & Youth ministers for the Benefice



Walk of Wonder
The Long Walk



Walk of Wonder
Shepherds by the fire.



Walk of Wonder
Mary has a visitor.



Callow End W.I Christmas tree



Christmas Tree Festival



Report from Guarlford Parish Council

Guarlford Parish Council met on Monday 11th December. At the meeting the chairman, Councillor Mike Huskinson, paid tribute to the late **Mr Dennis Hewins** who passed away in October. Mr Hewins had been the Parish Council footpath officer from 1997 until 2002. Condolences were sent to Mr Hewin's family.

Councillors discussed the recent **damage to the verges** in Clevelode Lane. This had been reported to Worcestershire County Council Highways department and it is hoped that the damaged verges will be reinstated in the near future.

On 6th December, Councillor Huskinson had made representation to Malvern Hills District Planning Committee on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of the application to fell the **large cedar tree** in St.Mary's churchyard. Councillor Huskinson reported that although no-one wished to see the felling of a large mature cedar tree which has been such a prominent feature of the village scene for so long, the Parish Council was of the view that the tree should be felled as soon as possible to preserve public safety. The application to fell the tree was refused by 6 votes to 5

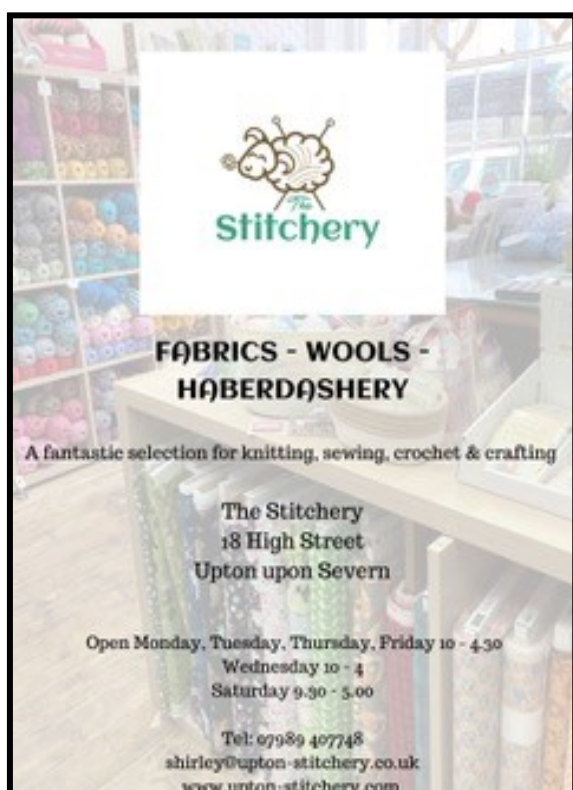
Councillors agreed to organise a coffee morning in the village hall in partnership with Age UK who would attend with home energy saving experts and the digital inclusion advisors.

The clerk presented a proposed budget for 2024/25 to the meeting. This was approved by the councillors which confirms that the precept for the coming year will remain the same.

Councillors discussed plans for another village celebration for Guarlford and agreed to begin planning for a community event for summer 2024.

The next meeting of Guarlford Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th March at 7.30pm in Guarlford Village Hall

Gill Hollick, Clerk to Guarlford Parish Council



HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Everyone is welcome to advertise their services in our *Grapevine*.

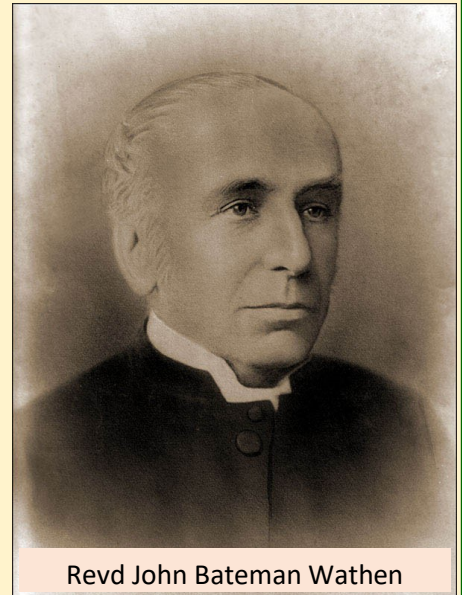
In return, we would like a donation to be paid to the *Grapevine* account. See page 2 for bank details.

Shirley has started the ball rolling with her advertisement on the left. **Many thanks Shirley.**

When there is enough money to be useful, a small team will decide which community project is supported with *Grapevine* funds. It might be new curtains for a village hall, prefect badges for a school or the hire of a digger to clear a pond.

REVD JOHN BATEMAN WATHEN 1821-1906

On retirement, people are often given cards and presents, but in 1905 the retiring rector of Guarlford, Revd John Bateman Wathen, was presented with something very special. The church of St Mary the Virgin, Guarlford, was built in 1844 as a chapel of ease for Great Malvern Priory, and various curates became the first incumbents. Revd Wathen came to the village in 1857 as a curate and was appointed as the first rector when Guarlford became a parish in its own right in 1866. He and his wife, Emma, cared for the village spiritually and practically for almost half a century. In December 1894 Revd Wathen also became the first chairman of Guarlford Parish Council.



Revd John Bateman Wathen

There are several memories linked with the family inside the church, including the carved oak pulpit, which replaced the original stone pulpit and was dedicated in memory of Revd Wathen on December 11th 1906. There are two stained glass windows commemorating his wife Emma (died September 1900) and her brother Charles Andrew (died January 1899). Revd Wathen, Emma and Charles are buried opposite the church door, together with other family members.

In the church there is a very poignant memorial connected with the Wathen family from the Great War - a plain wooden cross in memory of Second Lieutenant John Wathen Elton-Lloyd, Royal Flying Corps, who died aged 22 in France on 24th June 1917. The cross is basic and has simple metal labels recording John's details. It may well be the original grave marker, which was replaced by a Commonwealth grave in Choques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. John was the son of Dr Albert Eyton-Lloyd and Bertha (nee Wathen) of Alanwood, Avenue Road, Malvern. So he was the grandson of Revd Wathen, hence the connection with Guarlford.

In June 2023, three descendants of the Wathens came to visit Guarlford as part of their family history research. With them they brought this illustrated testimonial, 24 x 18 inches in size, which was presented to Revd Wathen, together with a purse on his retirement. The testimonial affirms that:

We the undersigned, past and present residents in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Guarlford, desire your acceptance of this address together with the accompanying purse as a token of the affection and esteem we have for you, and as an expression of the regret we feel at your departure, after nearly 48 years of ministration among us.



During these years, through your efforts, numerous improvements have been made in matters affecting the religious and educational welfare of the Parish. The Organ Chamber has been built; a New Organ purchased; the beautiful East Window has been added; the attendance of scholars at the School has been increased sevenfold and the School Buildings proportionately enlarged.

We shall miss your kindly sympathy; and your generous help will ever live in our memories. Though we could wish you were not leaving, yet we recognize that, at the age of 84 years, you have richly earned a rest, and we pray God that you may in your retirement, enjoy many years of health and happiness.

Among the subscribers to this testimonial and purse can be seen the names of families or their descendants still in the village today, for example **Beard, Bedington, Bladder, Bradshaw, Bullock, Hayes, Little, Medcalf, Panting, Price, Shinn, Sims, Tandy and Vivian**. A. E. Martin was the headmaster of the school.

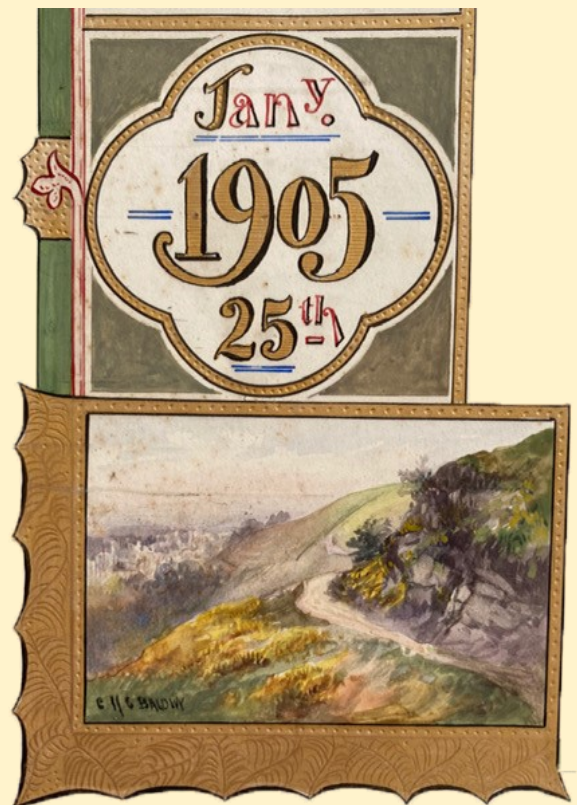
Included in the testimonial are three pictures. The artist was **Charles Henry Clifford Baldwyn**, who worked at Worcester Porcelain for many years and later became a freelance watercolour artist. We assume that he created the testimonial.



The picture on the left shows Guarlford church in 1905. Note the two large trees standing on either side of the church porch, where the humps are now, which were taken down in the 1980s when they had grown to a dangerous size. The bell tower, which was demolished, is still in place and the yews are much smaller.



Above: The field fence seems to be very close to the rectory's front door.



The third picture (above right) is of Ivy Scar, a popular landmark and tourist destination at the north end of the Malvern Hills

The Wathens had eight children, two of whom died in infancy. Their great grand daughter, Mary, told us that her grandfather, Percy Wathen, who was born in Guarlford in 1863, had fond memories of growing up here, and it comes over as a very happy place in his diaries.

(An interesting coincidence: when Angus and I visited St Mary's Church in Welwyn village, Hertfordshire, some years ago, we spotted the name Wathen among the list of previous incumbents. It turned out that this was indeed Percy, Mary's grandfather, who was rector of Old Welwyn from 1903-1930.)

Rosemary McCulloch



GUARLFORD W I

The members of Guarlford WI were very busy in the weeks running up to Christmas. This year our WI Christmas tree in the **Festival of Trees** at St Mary's Church, Madresfield, from November 25th, had decorations symbolising the titles of Christmas carols, many of them handcrafted, and was flanked by two knitted Victorian carol singers.

On Saturday 2nd December members were again busy, running stalls and providing refreshments at the **Guarlford Christmas Fayre**, raising funds for the further regeneration of the village hall where we meet. The members of the **Craft group** had been occupied for weeks making many and varied items, (raised £364), and the cake stall was full of tempting homemade treats (raised £154).

Our Christmas meeting on December 14th was a truly festive event in the beautifully decorated village hall, when Phil and Mike involved and entertained us in a **Victorian Christmas**. A tasty buffet supper followed, and the **Secret Santa** this year raised cash donations totaling £100 for **Zest4Life: Conversation and Laughter**, which meets at the Octagon Centre.

In January we go out for a **New Year lunch**, and on Tuesday 13th February Caroline Butcher will tell us about **The History of Hats**.



On Tuesday March 12th the subject of Mr Barrie's talk is **The Story of Portmeirion**. As usual the meetings will begin at 7.30 pm in Guarlford Village Hall and a warm welcome awaits.

Rosemary McCulloch

Financial Help for Those in Need

The **Madresfield Relief in Need Charity** is an ancient charity for the benefit of those living in the ancient parish of Madresfield with Newland. The charity is overseen by *the Charity Commission and managed by local trustees including Rev Gary Crellin*.

The Covid pandemic has made life very tough for many. The trustees would like to help anyone within our parishes who needs support during this very challenging time.

If you would like to apply for financial support, please contact Rev Gary Crellin through the contact details below.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

To make an application please contact:

Rev Gary Crellin, The Vicarage, 31 The Greenway, Colletts Green, Powick WR2 4RZ

Email: revgarycrellin@gmail.com

YOUR CHURCHES

Church Services - Each church notice board will have a list of services but you can visit the online calendar at <https://www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk>



QR Code for the Old Hills Malvern Churches

If you have a phone or a tablet, you can use it to scan this QR code, which will take you directly to the churches' website. No need to remember the www. address - scan and be teleported as if by magic straight to the website. Give it a go.



A Special Service for pre-schoolers, their parents & carers

You are warmly invited to join us at the

PreSchoolers' Services 1.30 - 2 pm

in St Mary's Church, Madresfield

on **Tuesday 30th January** for

The Storm on the Lake (learning to trust)

and on **Tuesday 12th March** for

Noah and his Ark



Do come along, sit on the carpet, sing songs and listen to a story.

Everyone is welcome.

**If you have to dial 999 or 112 and cannot speak
Dial 55**

PLEASE NOTE that, like hairdressers, butchers and European museums,
Rev Gary's normal day off is **Monday**.



Church Services and Online Worshipping Opportunities for Your Church in the Old Hills Malvern Churches

JANUARY 2024

Sunday 7th January

Epiphany/Baptism of Christ

9.30am *ACE Communion at GUARLFORD

11.00am *ACE Communion at POWICK

Sunday 14th January

Epiphany 2

9.30am *ACE Communion at CALLOW END

11.00am *ACE Communion at MADRESFIELD

Sunday 21st January

Epiphany 3

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at POWICK

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at GUARLFORD

11.00am Christingle Service at POWICK (*with Powick School Choir*)

5.30pm BCP Evening Prayer via ZOOM

Thursday 25th January

Conversion of Paul

8.00pm Prayers for Paul via ZOOM

Sunday 28th January

Epiphany 4/Candlemas

9.30am *ACE Communion at CALLOW END

11.00am *ACE Communion at MADRESFIELD

*(*Advent, Christmas & Epiphany Seasonal Liturgies)*

Midweek Communion at The Orchard Room in Colletts Green
Fortnightly on Thursdays from 10.30-11.30am

01905 830270 www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk

For Zoom Access codes and links, please contact us via
revgarycrellin@gmail.com or oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com



SCAN ME

Two Parties in Hall Green by Cora Weaver

On Saturday 6th January I looked out of my bedroom window and saw a line of parked cars on Hall Green. Someone was having a party. Just after 1pm, I walked up the road and the cars were still there. It was indeed a party - of people with jumbo-sized cameras oddly, yet apparently, looking for celestial bodies in daylight. On enquiry, it transpired that the party comprised twitchers from far and wide, all of whom had heard that there was another party in Hall Green - of unexpected waxwings. These colourful birds are native to Scandinavia and only fly this far south when their own food supply is insufficient for the population in their breeding territory. One twitcher from Worcester told me that the last time he'd seen waxwings in this area was in Kidderminster in 2019. This was a rare, if not unique, sighting in our area.



Sue and Ian Wykes from Stafford were at Slimbridge, when they learned of the Hall Green party and flew over for a sighting. They kindly told me about the birds and their habits and how they came here to feast off the mistletoe berries. They kindly sent me two photographs for *The Grapevine* (below and cover picture).



The flock swooped from one tree to another, occasionally dipping down to the pond and then soaring high. Waxwings are approximately 18cm in length.

FOR SALE AND WANTS



Guarlford Village Hall is available for hire for small gatherings.

For more information contact Gill Hollick on 07816 533251

Gardener required for a local attractive holiday let, to include regular mowing, strimming and upkeep of hedges.

Please contact Rosemary Boaz 01643 703761

E: roseyboaz@gmail.com



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