

Bushley News

May 2024

The Voice of the
Village

Nº: 644



Has anyone
heard the
cuckoo in
Bushley or
it's locale
yet?



According to some sources the 14th of April, sometimes known as **St Tiburtius Day**, is when one is first likely to hear the first cuckoo in our neck of the woods.

In latter years around this time of year I have been awoken, albeit politely, at 4:00am by my other half to strain my ears at the bedroom window for the cuckoo's song but, alas, not this year.

Interestingly there is some controversy about St Tiburtius Day.

According to the Tridentine Calendar, known as the Calendar of Saints, the saints Tiburtius, Valerian, and Maximus were three Christian martyrs who were definitely buried on the 14th of April in the Catacombs of Praetextatus on the Via Appia near Rome but saint Tiburtius's feast day is in fact celebrated on the 11th of August.

Ed.

The View from the Pulpit

Dear Friends,

The Church celebrates Ascension on the 9th May. As we celebrate the Lord's return to His Father in Heaven – His Ascension — we are being commissioned to go forth and proclaim the Gospel of life and love, of hope and peace, by the witness of our lives. On Sunday 19th May this year, Pentecost is when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit coming on to the disciples “like tongues of fire” (Acts 2:3). I find this image very dramatic. Wind and fire were the signs of God's presence with the disciples and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They had a new strength. And the church of Jesus was suddenly born and then revealed to the whole world. The disciples go off into world to speak of Jesus and of his Good News . They baptise all those who believe. The family of God, the church, begins, and grows in number even to this present day.



Working with the Benefice of Berrow and now the Benefice of Longdon, we are all presented by the challenges and the unique joys and hardships of rural ministry. It is good to remember the unwavering faithfulness of God, Deuteronomy 7:9, assuring us that He remains steadfast in both good times and trials. Living and working within our communities, it is through connections that we can engage with people and demonstrate God's love in the lives of the people we encounter. It is not just on an intellectual level but on all levels we embody God's love, mercy and grace.

Together, through worship, guidance, fellowship, discipleship, and prayer, we deepen our relationships as believers and give the opportunities for personal transformation. It is the different ways that we experience the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives that nourishes and strengthens us as a unified and vibrant community of faith .We are told about the fruit of the Spirit; to bear out with the Spirit within us. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

It is important to note that it says “fruit” not ‘fruits”. It means that we don't have to choose between having more patience or faith. We can pray for all the fruit of Spirit. I don't know about you, but I definitely need at least a few of them daily!

God in his love for us sent us the Holy Spirit so that, just like planting a seed, we can bear this fruit. We can experience a great sense of being loved and a deep sense of peace. I encourage everyone to nurture the Holy Spirit within you. In doing so, we can all bless and reflect the love of God with all those with who we come into contact. God is leading, guiding and equipping us in exactly the way we are needing for the day, each and every day.

So I pray: Holy Spirit, revive in us the memory of the gifts we have received. Awaken our desire to serve, to do good. Come, Holy Spirit and help the harmony of our communities, by showing us the way to build unity. Give us the courage to go out into our communities and show our faith by our actions of love, compassion, seeking justice, sharing and helping others.

Rev'd Julie

Tel: 01531 651795

Email:julie.m.james@btinternet.com

Services at Bushley

2nd Sunday 12th May
8.30am BCP Holy
Communion

*There is also a service at 6pm
Thursday 6th June to
commemorate D-Day landings
with community based in St
Peter's, Bushley for both Berrow
and Longdon Benefice.*

*For details of the Benefices of
Berrow and Longdon:
[https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/
resources](https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/resources)*

Bushley Parish Council

Bushley Parish Clerk is Retiring

The current Bushley Parish Clerk will be retiring at the end of June.

Anyone interested in taking up the position should email clerk@bushleyparishcouncil.org.uk for information on what the position entails.

This is a paid, part time role and typically requires 25 hours per month.

Those expressing an interest should be computer literate and have internet access.

Training can be provided and continued development throughout their period of employment will be supported.



Bushley Annual Parish Meeting

All residents of Bushley and Bushley Green are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at Bushley Village Hall commencing at 6.30pm

Tea and coffee will be served before the start of the meeting.

D-Day Celebrations

There will be a D-Day 80th Anniversary community commemoration on Thursday 6th June, at 6pm, held either in St Peter's Church, Bushley; the village hall, or the community garden (tbc) where following a short remembrance, a peace lamp will be lit.

In addition, on Saturday 8th June at 3 pm, a 1940s themed village tea party is planned at the village hall. Bring your own picnic and enjoy the 1940s themed, music for a patriotic party!

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

Planning Applications received from MHDC

Planning Appeal

Ref: M/22/01477/FUL

Location: Wood Street Farm Bungalow, Wood Street, Bushley, Tewkesbury, GL20 6JA

Description of Proposal: Demolition of barn and replacement with single residential dwellinghouse



Cricket Club News

Thanks to all who came and made Gardeners' Question Time and the Bluebell walk two successful events at the club last month especially Reg, Martin and the cake makers.

Cricket fixtures are due to start this month, but the outfield is still very wet. Home games look unlikely until late in the month, with away teams facing similar problems in most cases. Up to date news available on the club website.



Most things are on the club website or ring me on 07812 179002 or email: tim.perry22@gmail.com

Tim Perry

**morton
majestic** 

Thursday 16th May at 7:30pm
Rye Lane
(15-2023-82mins)

Here is a film that will leave you with a smile on your face, a spring in your step and confidence in the next wave of British film-making.

The debut feature film for Director Raine Allen-Miller opened at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival to critical acclaim. A classic story on losing love and finding new romance, but in so many ways elevated above the norm.

This movie also has a fantastic look with vibrant colours and great style.
<https://youtu.be/LZ9dZBfo4zY>

Tickets £5.00 on the door.

Licensed Bar / Refreshments / Ice creams

The Morton Majestic is at Castlemorton Parish Hall WR13 6BE

For advance booking call Beth 01531 631503 or Malcolm 01684 833297 or

Email: mortonmajestic@gmail.com.

www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk

Penny's Garden

Seed sowing

My tomatoes have sprouted and are littering a window sill, Cosmos ditto, but strangely the Runner Beans have failed to germinate. I was moaning about this at Pershore with my fellow volunteers as we potted on some plug plants and took cuttings from other things. Lo and behold, two of my fellows had had the same mysterious failure. What is going on? Usually, Runners are pretty fail safe and indeed the seeds remain viable for quite a few years. Mine were from a reputable company, and still within their best before date on the packet.

It got me thinking about seed sowing in general and about commercial practice. It doesn't matter if you or I put a few too many in a seed tray or pot. You're recommended to sow two courgette or pumpkin seeds in a pot, (sideways on so they don't rot) and take out the weaker one early on. With a tray of seedlings it's easy enough to remove the surplus and give the others breathing room and less risk of damping off. Commercially, however, the economies of scale mean that you try only to sow the right number. Pershore had a seed sowing Gizmo that had a big booklet with it that told you what size holes to dial in for any particular seed type so that only one seed was planted in each of the hundred or so plugs in a tray. This saves seed, and also aftercare—no need to take out unwanted seedlings where they have been planted too thickly.

When it comes to pricking them on one has the tray of plugs and another clever Dingus with plastic spikes on that correspond with the holes in the bottom of the tray and push the little plants out all at once. Then, like as not, you will be potting up into 9cm pots on a machine. The paddles whir round, the pots get filled and come along a conveyor belt and we volunteers plant at a great pace with someone at the end of the belt to whisk the pots off and shove them on a trolley. Nothing sentimental and contemplative about



commercial horticulture, folks, but that's what makes plants actually very cheap to buy.

Meanwhile, in the garden the broad beans—direct sown—are up and flourishing, and ditto the Ash tree seedlings that come in in droves. A mate at

Pershore wanted a *Paeonia ludlowii*, the yellow tree peony. I have two in my garden, great grandsons of one we had in Kent and they tend to give numerous seedlings under themselves which I can't bear to throw away so have a few in pots to give away. Then I found one that had escaped my notice and was lurking in that cunning way that plants have behind something else. Probably three years old. So, I dug it up, potted it and donated it to my mate.

Seeds are a miracle aren't they? A storehouse of energy for the new plant and all you have to do is sow them. Well, except for the Runner beans I suppose.

As well as seed sowing at Pershore we do a lot of propagation from cuttings and I was pleased to be able to donate some *Hydrangea petiolaris* (the self-clinging wall climbing plant) and was able to find enough material for 100 cuttings which will hopefully flourish with the right care and attention on a heated bench and with misting at various intervals.

No doubt they will ask me for some Brown Turkey fig later in the season as the two on the grounds of the College have been so massively pruned that there will be precious little cutting material from them.

Other seedlings that flourish at present, sadly, are dandelions. They blow in from everywhere and, although they look very jolly, I don't want them in my lawn particularly. Don't mind the speedwell and the selfheal, the self set cowslips but I draw the line at dandelions and thistle.

Penelope Tubbs

In Touch With Nature

As a child I remember being astounded, disbelieving even, when I learned that human beings are in fact animals. Just like the Hares, Swallows, dragonflies and other species we know so well, we evolved as a part of the natural world, deeply and inextricably connected to it. Somewhere along the line though, we have removed ourselves from nature.

18th April: I'm as yet to see a Swallow, yes, I know some have arrived. Ten years ago, I remember recording them arriving at 'Pool Cottage' in successive years, on April 6th, 5th, 4th, and 3rd, the last two years though we've been ignored.

Some local fields have only just lost partial water coverage, flooding that began last Christmas time. My last visit down to the Severn meadows on the 12th of April gave me views of Herons a Great White Egret and a Cormorant all fishing in the fields. Oh, and I did put up a Skylark, and heard his ascending song for about the first fifty feet before the wind took it away.

In the garden we are seeing the consequence of a series of dry summers, three thirty-year-old trees have failed to come into bud, died. We have suffered many losses in the past through Honey Fungus, but I don't think this is the current case.

More exciting is the abundance of wildflowers along the A438 between 'Green Street' and the 'Oxhey', this is how the greater countryside has to be. Slightly worrying is that roadside flowers might produce more windscreen splatter and kid people into thinking that insect populations were recovering.

Quite a cold Spring this year, with the winds chilling us even more, with the exception of bumble bees, insects have been reluctant fliers. I have seen most of the expected butterflies during the occasional warm sunny spell, so they are about.

The village pond on the 'Green' is starting to look a little more cared for, I will try and keep the rough grass and brambles under control throughout the summer. There are some more trees to clear when the water drops a little and the brash to burn if we get an easterly wind. The reeds that need controlling are supported by a spaghetti like matrix of rhizomes that are about 1.5cm dia. And as tough as boot laces. Native wetland plant seed has been scattered around the pools margin and a generous couple of clumps of Marsh Marigold planted from 'Georg's' pond at the 'Nook'.

The following from the introduction of Frances Tophill's book "Rewild Your Garden" 2020:

Spring cometh in with all her hues and smells
In freshness breathing over hills and dells
O'er woods where May her gorgeous drapery flings
And meads washed fragrant with their laughing springs
Fresh as new opened flowers untouched and free
From the bold rifling of the amorous bee
The happy time of singing birds is come
And loves lone pilgrimage now finds a home
Among the mossy oaks now coos the dove
And the hoarse crow finds softer notes for love
The foxes play around their dens and bark
In joy's excess mid woodland shadows dark
And flowers join lips below and leaves above
And every sound that meets the ear is love

by John Clare sometime in the 19th century

Best sighting?

Wish it had been a Swallow, still nice to see the Egret.

Martin R

View from Between the Bears

A cool but frost free [well almost] month at last brought some dry weather allowing the ground to start drying out and some field work to start. That was until the morning of 28th when over an inch of rain fell. [Sorry for the late submission Editor Phil, but I've been busy!] That has put the brakes on everything for a day or two at least. So it has been a record breaking time; the wettest 18 month period ever recorded in this country, more frequent floods and other extreme weather events. We heard about a Flood Forum event on the radio in Gloucester Road car park, so went along to hear what words of wisdom were on offer; nothing new, sad to report. Until the government departments get their heads together and realise that they need to get these huge volumes of water out to sea quicker, little else on offer will make much difference, in my opinion.

A Flood Recovery Fund was offered, but only to those areas affected within 150 metres of the watercourse causing the flooding; who dreams up these stupid schemes? Within a few days it was altered to include a much larger area of affected ground, up to a maximum of £25,000 per farm. While welcome, that is still a long way short of the loss and repair costs of most flooded farms, mainly because the flooding has gone on for so long, damaging permanent pasture as well as shorter term crops. This has a 'knock-on' effect on livestock farms, which may well be short of grazing and grass for silage and hay, a potential problem for next winter.

An option in the Sustainable Farming Initiative [SFI] scheme has been oversubscribed, causing the dreamers [see above!] to impose a limit of 25% on land taken out of food production for environmental reasons, bird and insect friendly cover crops mainly. Faced with the weather related problems regarding planting a



profitable arable crop since last harvest, some large farms have taken as much as 60% out of production. Probably not the best example of a farmer to quote, Jeremy Clarkson says, "I will be planting things that are not food in three fields.

They're good for my soil and good for my bank balance but it means I'm not growing stuff people can eat. But what if you want some bread? You'll have to buy a loaf made from wheat that was grown abroad. And how's that good for global warming?" How indeed! A 'wake up' call needed.

The papers are starting to report shortages to come, the latest I read were for wine and beer. Now that's starting to get really serious! Food we can obviously manage without, but alcohol? No chance! Wheat plantings are about 20% down, barley figures not yet available but probably worse. Potato planting way behind schedule [a month or more]. It used to be said that an early farmer never had to borrow from a late one; there aren't many early ones this year that's for sure.

Wheat prices are on the way up due to increased tension in the Black Sea, the main route for grain produced in Ukraine and parts of Russia. The conflict seems no nearer to a conclusion than when it first started. Vladimir Putin is so determined to 'liberate' Ukrainians that he is prepared to see thousands of deaths on both sides in a war similar to the trench warfare of the First World War. Is this not more to do with controlling an area producing a significant amount of the world's wheat? We saw it with gas, is wheat next? Our government should make 'food security' a much higher priority than it has been before.

Tim Perry

A View from the Saddle



April's weather is renowned for being changeable but this year it seems to have offered the Biker's Thursday outings only drenching rain or

punishing headwinds - or sometimes both! Thankfully the Dear Leader selected relatively short rides, lest his band of misfit Septuagenarians and Octogenarians flagged by the wayside. Starting the month first with a ride to the **Farmers Arms at Birtsmorton**; and then a week later the **Farmers Arms at Apperley**. Both are old favourites and both offer excellent value for money.

Among other crowd pleasers, the Birtsmorton menu offers an option of half chips/ half rice, with all curry dishes. However, while the staff there are thoroughly familiar with the vagaries of the Bikers appetites, even they look nonplussed when inspired by this combo, one of our number asked for his lasagne with rice! The requestor acknowledged it wasn't likely to catch on but argued vigorously that in nutritional terms, it was no more calorific than Lasagne and chips! Unflattering remarks were still being made about that particular gastronomic choice a week later at the Apperley hostelry, where the Bikers tucked into their excellent 2-course fixed price lunch, while being out-competed for noise levels by an adjacent table of 10 Gloucester rugby club old boys.

Having traversed the bucolic byways of the 3 Counties for over 20 years, there are few hostelries within a 2-hour cycling radius, that the BB's have not sampled at one time or another. So, it was something of a treat to visit the **House in the Tree at Boddington** in mid-April, which if not entirely new to them, hadn't figured on their itineraries for more than a decade.

Cycling into a very stiff south-westerly headwind, we approached via Wheatpieces and Uckington, skirting past Staverton, where planes and helicopters buzzed overhead so frequently it sounded like an episode from Channel 5's 'Challenge Anneka'. The pub itself sits within a large garden, adjacent to a sizable menagerie of pygmy goats; heritage pigs; colourful chickens and more – all of which were quietly passing the time despite the Bikers best attempts to encourage more exciting behaviour. Inside however, it was decidedly more active with legions of Cheltenham folk eating heartily at nearly every table, while waiting-on staff moving swiftly and seamlessly through the throng. Impressed by the extensive chalk board of ales and ciders, the Bikers made their respective drink choices before turning attention to the reasonably priced and sizable lunch menu. The suet pastry pies quickly became the standout choice for more than one, although the smaller plate version was more than enough for most appetites (bar the Artist's). That said, it was his significant Birthday that week and so chuffed was he at reaching his 3 score years and 10, he generously paid for all the beer – Result!

Our most recent visit was to the **Drum and Monkey** near Upton, which is under new management (of Rachael - formerly landlady at the Plume of Feathers), who provided a great welcome. We arrived after a circuitous route via Queenhill, Holdfast, Upton and Hanley Swan. Being the first decent spring day we'd had, some gorgeous scenery along the way was brilliantly illuminated – Worcestershire is perhaps an underappreciated county. Once finished, a swift ride back through Longdon and the Rampings brought us back to Base Camp and a stand out orange and rhubarb sponge at Sue's table (with an extra slice of delicious fruit cake for those that could manage it!

Happy and careful cycling
Vaughan Latter

Jottings of a Retired Country GP

Addiction

What is your idea of the condition known as 'Addiction'?

Most would think of drunks or druggies struggling with life under the influence of drugs. But the dictionary definition of addiction is that it 'denotes the state of being dedicated or devoted to something'. This definition goes back to the 16th century when it was a problem in the Far East, in particular the habit of smoking opium. But in Europe, the use of the term 'Addiction' has really taken off in the 20th century.

There are many well known (and publicised) drugs that can be addictive. By that we mean that once one is snared by the 'pleasures' of the drug it is very difficult to shake off the habit. Unfortunately, many addictive drugs become less potent as time goes by, and the addict needs more and more to satisfy his/her craving. They are well and truly 'hooked' on that drug. Then they turn to the stronger or fashionable drugs, many of which are more dangerous but may have perfectly good uses within the medical scene.



Take Nitrous Oxide, for example. Known as 'laughing gas' it was first made in 1772 by Joseph Priestley. After years of social use it was



Dr Andrew Crowther

adapted for medical purposes by Humphrey Davy in 1800 to dull the pain of operations. It is a very useful anaesthetic that is used daily in operating theatres and with oxygen as Entonox by paramedics. But it has been 'hijacked' by addicts who inhale the gas from small cylinders – then discard them in public places. But addicts need to use more and more to satisfy their addiction and there are frequent reports of overdoses leading to death because it causes one to stop breathing! How stupid is that?

But a kinder form of addiction was brought to my attention during a recent sermon – the addiction to a cause. The early Christians were so completely besotted with their mentor that they were unable to believe in the Resurrection. Whatever one's view of such events, there is no doubt that there are many religions throughout the world whose followers can be considered to have an 'addiction' to the cause. Some go to extremes during worship, rather like the effects of powerful drugs. So, can we think of these folk as addicts? By simple definition they probably are.

But returning to modern day addictions one must acknowledge the dangers faced by those who are 'addicted' to cigarettes, to excessive eating and even to the power of the internet. Like other forms of addiction there is a craving for more and more of the euphoria that nicotine, carbs or electronic gaming can induce. Smoke and the other dangerous fumes from burning tobacco damage lungs. Obesity damages hearts, joints and blood vessels. One can go on and on! The only safe 'cure' is to nip such addictions in the bud early on because the deeper the addiction the harder it is to shake it off. Do try to intervene early if you witness early misuse of these addictive agents.

Andrew Crowther.

QUEENHILL WI REPORT April 2024

There are more women than men who write and read crime fiction. So began a very interesting and entertaining talk about Crime Fiction that members of Queenhill WI enjoyed at their last meeting. The initial business meeting was short so there was no delay in introducing our speaker Andy Griffiee, former journalist and BBC executive and now author.

2017 saw a 19% increase in crime fiction sales, and this level has been maintained since then. Indeed a large majority of our members were familiar with the authors that were mentioned.

Andy's books have canals as their setting - he claims to have the distinction of being the first to write 'canal noir' - with 'Jack Jackson' as the detective. He gave examples of other crime fiction genre (Scottish; Scandi; domestic; historical; etc) before explaining how he develops his storyline. Additional stories relating to his earlier influences and work at the BBC rounded off an engaging talk, leaving us time to ask questions and purchase his books if we so wished.

As always delicious food, raffle, trading stall and catch-up chats completed a mild and dry (at last!) afternoon.

Our next meeting will be at 2.30 pm on Thursday May 9th when we will vote on this year's Resolutions and look forward to hearing Diana Scott talk of her Working Life. Come and join us!

Doreen Small



If you would like to book the hall for a village event contact:

Kate Briggs on
07878 749464

or for any other event contact:

Rachel Perry on
07594 853620

This lovely hall belongs to us, the villagers. It is managed by a small committee of trustees who value your support. We may get it wrong occasionally but open criticism certainly doesn't help the cause. Please remember we are volunteers who give up our own time. New committee members welcome.

Rachel Perry

If you have an item of news please send it for consideration to the editor at:
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>



An evening of
song in aid of
Cancer
Research



MUSIC FOR A
SUMMER'S EVENING
Performed by the
Orchard Singers and
Tapestry Choir

15th June 2024 at 7pm at Bushley Village Hall, GL206HT



Ticket price £15

To include interval drinks and nibbles
Complementary programme included



TICKETS FROM
MARIE RANDALL
Tel: 0773 807 8040 *or*
01684 833660
or email
contralto8@gmail.com

Cancer Research UK's research
has played a role in developing
8 of the world's top 10 cancer drugs



Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (11389466),
Scotland (SC041866), the Isle of Man (11035) and Jersey (247).



Together we will beat cancer

THE BUSHLEY DIARY

Your guide to Activities in the Village

May

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
	1	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	Village Hall
	2	Election Police Commissioner	6:15 - 22:15	
	3	Bredon School	9:00 - 15:00	
	4	Car park in use for 4 cars	TBA	
	5	Bulgarian Group	14:00 - midnight	
	6	Mobile Library (Note 3)	Note 3	Note3
	6	Community Garden open	10:00	Village Hall
	6	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
	8	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
	13	Community Garden open	10:00	
	13	Dance Club	9:30 - 11:15	
	13	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
	14	Tewkesbury Flower Club	14:00 - 16:30	
	14	BVH committee meeting	19:00	
	15	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
	17	Bredon School	9:00 - 15:00	
	19	Bulgarian School	9:30 - 15:00	
	20	Community Garden open	10:00	
	20	Dance Club	9:30 - 11:15	
	20	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
	21	Craft Club	10:00 - 12:00	
	21	Parish Council	19:30	
	22	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
	22	Bredon School	10:30 - 16:00	
	23	Bredon School	10:30 - 16:00	
	24	Bredon School	10:30 - 20:30	
	27	Community Gardens Open	10:30	
	27	Dance Club	9:30 - 11:15	
	27	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	

Note 1

For further details contact either Jason Kinghorn: 07971 084096 or Rachel Perry: 07594 853620
 Bushley Village Hall website: 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