

# Bushley News

October 2024

The Voice of the  
Village

Nº: 649

As a professional reporter some times it must become a real battle to rise above the desolation that real world suffering contains and report accurately and compassionately the facts.

Just imagine the anguish that **Jeremy Bowen** or **Frank Gardener** may have witnessed in our world as they saw what man is capable of doing to fellow man.



Not that I am drawing parallels with professionals like the afore mentioned and yours truly.

However this month I have to report to you the unimaginable trauma of **Henry Dunn** (ref page11) a young man whose left arm was crushed in a farming accident.

This touched me very deeply. With out going into details, I have suffered my own fair share of “aggressive surgical procedures having a life changing affect upon me”. The latter being the surgeons own words and it was scary indeed at the time.

However it left me in no doubt of the indomitable nature of the human spirit.

**Illegitimi non carborundum!**

# The View from the Pulpit

Dear Friends,

Dear Friends,

As I look towards my retirement in 2025, I have been reflecting on this clerical life; that it is both individual, corporate and just how many people have pre-conceptions about it. Church was not part of my childhood or teenage years. It was illness and the death of my mother that brought me into contact with church folk in the 1980's. Getting to knowing parishioners is key to this role and being equally known by them. I have been a parishioner myself, a P.C.C. member, Lay Chairman of 12 rural churches, a Church Warden, and a Non-stipendary priest in different Deaneries whilst working full-time in teaching. Since 2014, as Rector of the Berrow Benefice, and now adding four extra parishes to the roles, it is the most hard but important tasks; trying to meet and get to know people in these very scattered communities.



Each day, beginning and ending in prayer, can be different and unpredictable. One minute receiving the devastating news of a death in a family, to the report of the sudden appearance of a black sheep and her lambs grazing outside one of the churches. Where did they come from? Or being contacted as a seemingly an expert on the donkey population of this area.

The life of a country priest is the highest calling a priest can aspire to. Christians describe Christ as fully human and fully God, in the eternal mystery of the Trinity, God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus was very human when in the scriptures he gets angry, cries and I imagine even laughs. Coming alongside people in these rural hamlets can be through different circumstances; being trusted by people at particular times in their lives is hugely humbling

I would be delighted if more people came to church on a Sunday. I realise that after several generations of being unchurched, many people will have other priorities on a Sunday. When we do gather together as a 'Body of Christ', we pray for all our communities. Faith and wanting to go to church isn't going to happen overnight. Many struggle to know what is expected in church, an environment they are not familiar with. Our Wedding Ministry in this Benefice in particular has been a joy and a blessing as we guide couples at a very significant point in their lives. Being part of the school community is equally important.

Being a priest today is a challenge, but the priesthood remains an immense and precious gift, entrusted to us. It's an honour and a joy, because the priesthood is all about God's love for us in Christ. As we step forward in the future, with both the Benefice of Longdon and Berrow, may we pray for wisdom, understanding and inspiration in taking forward of vision of the Kingdom of God in these communities.

Rev'd Julie James

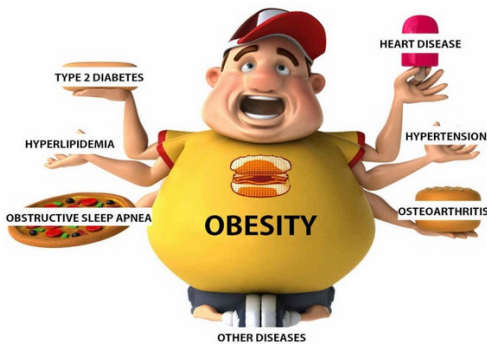
Blessings and continued prayers.  
Rev'd Julie James  
Tel: 01531 651795  
Email: julie.m.james@btinternet.com

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

# Jottings of a Retired Country GP

## Obesity

A lot is being written about obesity, much of it to do with new drugs that might be able to help patients lose weight. This type of treatment is of marginal help at best because few are able to keep slim after finishing the treatment. The information that the drugs might reduce the risk of other diseases is also a marginal sideline. And why is the Health Service being asked to spend large sums of scarce cash on what for many is a way of life? Losing weight is beneficial to the health of the individual, but why risk the many dangers in the first place?



We are never going to solve this problem without tackling the root cause of excessive weight, and that must start in childhood. The measures that have been tried over many years to get youngsters not to put on weight in the first place have been the correct approach to this epidemic. Look around any supermarket to see both the cause and effect of poor nutrition among so many of all ages. If only the adults realised how much danger they are in from heart and lung diseases, from arthritis, and from many illnesses such as diabetes - they might try to influence the younger members of their families. What can be done to help the next generations?



Dr Andrew Crowther

Education from a very early age is essential but this depends on family input which has been missing for so many for so long. Children cannot be expected to understand the danger of being overweight, but adults can be persuaded that the problems they are facing in later life can often be attributed to their weight. The joints between our major limb bones wear out more quickly if they are put under too much pressure. This is known by athletes who push themselves to the limits of fitness but later in life have to have joint replacement surgery. If patients are physically fit otherwise, an operation will probably go smoothly. But putting an obese patient to sleep means that the anaesthetist has several problems keeping the patient alive. This is why some surgeons are refusing to operate on overweight patients – the risk to their lives of a general anaesthetic procedure is greater than the aching hip that is making life difficult.

We know that “it is no good shutting the door when the horse has bolted.” So with obesity - it is too late once it becomes a lifestyle.

Somehow parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends need to encourage the young not to eat excessively, and to develop a taste for nutritious foods. If overweight youngsters enjoy active sport they should be reminded that they could do even better if they were not so large. Experience tells us that it needs a lot of work to get them to change. But if the NHS waiting lists are to come down we must stop adding yet more people with preventable problems in at the bottom end of those lists. The solution is in a bit of understanding and common sense, not relying on more money being available from government, which does not have a bottomless pocket! .

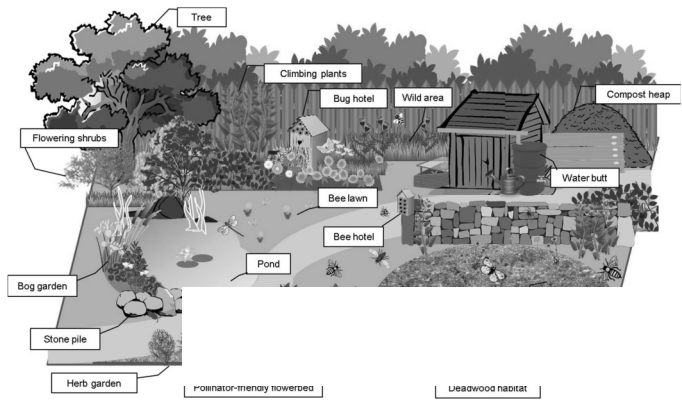
Andrew Crowther

# In Touch With Nature

It's a bright sunny morning, the 12th of September, I'm stood on the bank of the pond looking across to the "Green" beyond. There is a cool north westerly breeze blowing over from the malverns; Swallows, dozens of Swallows skimming low over the cut grass. They are urgently feeding on insects that are kept close to the ground by the wind, the birds flying in groups and singularly from both left and right, cutting great arcs as they rise and fall over the wildflower area. The very next day they were all gone, starting that journey that will take them below the Sahara Desert in Africa. Still with migrant birds, in the garden, trees and shrubs are searched for insects by Chiff Chaffs, these birds will also soon be departing for warmer climes.

We didn't really need "Butterfly Conservation" to tell us that butterflies are in trouble, just open your eyes. Why? Yes, we had a wet cold Spring, but numbers have been falling anyway, Climate change mmm, you've noticed no doubt that recently there have been lots of Red Admirals about, well most have come over from the continent. Then of course there is the poor farmer to blame for pesticide use, or should that have read 'contractor', generally I think farmers looked after their land better. If all aspects of a habitat niche are present, insects can recover their numbers very quickly, even quicker than the proverbial rabbit, so the butterflies fortunes may be just seasonal.

Insects generally are in steep decline and make no mistake we need insects; they are the best recyclers of organic matter, the best pollinators and the best pest controllers. On this point I'll mention again the fabulous dung beetles doing their bit in the horse's paddock. The biggest are the Dor beetles who dig a finger sized hole in which they bury dung and lay eggs, the grub



hatching from the egg recycles the dung then spends two or three years underground feeding on organic matter before pupating, then away we go again. These beetles along with a multitude of smaller relations have been and still are busy.

I want to make an analogy which you might like to question. When I was a lad in Bushley there were no Buzzards no Sparrow Hawks no Red Kites no Ravens no Hobbies no Peregrines and few Magpies; today we have them all to see in their various seasons. The recovery of these species was enabled by an act of parliament to stop the persecution [killing] and in the case of the corvids simple economics. I'll add for interest that back then we did have Kestrels and Little Owls, but of course these are strictly open countryside birds that feed mainly on invertebrates, and there just isn't enough.

Best sighting? For the second year running a high-flying skein of wild geese flying from west to east.

Martin R

## In The Bog Garden



The bog garden is not actually intentional, but the recent heavy downpours have meant that great areas are underwater. Or anyway saturated.

The Groundsmen were here today and there were swathes that they couldn't mow; and even where they did, were ruts from their large mower. Meanwhile a neighbour is having building work done and it isn't possible to drive a van round the back to do the necessary unloading.

But soft Autumn flower colours are here, and things are still growing apace. Time for cutting back in places where plants have flopped while still leaving seedheads and stuff for our feathered and other friends.

At Pershore we have been putting the stock beds to bed. It's an area with a whole lot of shrubs that are grown purely for us to take cutting material. Where Pershore is suffering is that there are not enough staff to keep up with all the work needed to keep their potted up sales items in good trim.

Gardening is expensive in terms not only of money but also time. Been reading about the economics of Stately Home and Park gardening, and very expensive it was to have, say, Capability Brown come and do the engineering and planting that was needed to keep up with the Lord Joneses next pile along.

I got the groundsmen to move to seedling Hawthorns which were impacting a sightline into the row of trees near the ditch. We are aware that the Ash trees along there will have to come out, so these are going in as eventual replacements. "Do you want some water to water them in?" I enquired. They fell about laughing and said they thought Good Old Mother Nature would see to it.

Time to choose some new bulbs—gardening is

all about building the future. Time also to plant, oh not rice exactly, but some broad beans. I don't do brassicas, me, as there are too many pheasants around. The Runner beans have finished in my garden and need to come out.

Then there is the shed to paint. I spent some time repairing various holes in the walls with woodrot hardener and then filled with bodgeohjollop. Went into the shed today—and no water on the floor. Result. It's not very aesthetically pleasing but it keeps the tools and the mower dry. Mind you, to get to that job I had to cut back a huge amount of honeysuckle and fig. Things have grown enormously this year and it's a race to keep up with it all.

Another wonderful benefit was lunch today; dish of mushrooms from the field at the back; splendidly delicious.



Penelope Tubbs

## View from Between the Bears

We went to Moreton Show, always held on the first Saturday in September, on a very suitable day; not too hot, dry underfoot, enough showers beforehand to stop a lot of farm work, allowing a pleasant break

without pricking the conscience too much. The over-riding sentiment was that the harvest had not been great, but not as bad as feared, but the surface of the ground was now very hard above sticky 'putty' underneath; difficult conditions to cultivate a seed bed. Now, as I write this on Monday 23rd, it is raining, I've just emptied 6 inches out of the rain gauge, 4 of them falling in a short space of time on Friday. This is very bad news for anyone part-way through preparing ground for planting this coming month; shades of last Autumn coming to mind. Also bad for harvesting maize, which was only just getting under way. The ground will struggle to dry much under a crop of maize, so mud will be brought out onto roads and fields will be left rutted, not ideal!

Will the rain be enough to cause flooding? It has already caused flash floods in the worst affected areas, and river levels are sure to rise as a result. At the time of writing, the upper reaches of the Severn have not seen the heavy rain we have had, but the Avon catchment has, so a moderate flood is likely to cover the meadows on the way into Tewkesbury, but not Bushley. However, watch the on-line forecasts if you are concerned, as things can often change quite quickly, probably by the time you read this it will be clear what is going to happen.

Fairness in the food chain is one of the things being investigated by EFRA [Environment, Food and Rural Affairs] committee chairman, Alistair Carmichael. It is one of a number of enquiries put off by the General Election. Of great concern is the under-spend in the DEFRA [add 'Department of the', to the above] budget in England, partly caused by the late roll out of details of the environmental schemes offered as an alternative to diminishing agricultural



support schemes of previous years. Recent reports state that DEFRA underspent by £358m over three years and the Treasury is now asking for at least £100m back to help fill the infamous 'Black hole' in the finances." We know what

the Labour party said in opposition about 'rolling over' underspends", said Mr Carmichael, "We know the budget for the Environmental Land Management Schemes is not big enough, but if you start handing some of that money back to the Treasury, we will never see it back again." As an illustration of the reduction in income from the Basic Payment Scheme to ELMS and SFI [Sustainable Farming Incentive] payments; Upland grass farms are on average 63% down, Lowland grass farms 58% down, Arable farms 45% down. Questions are also being asked about late payment of the £50m Farming Recovery Fund, offered after last winter's floods, intended to help the farms worst affected. NFU President Tom Bradshaw comments, "Our farmers and growers are much loved and valued by the public who rank our job as one of the most important and well respected professions, second only to nursing. 91% also believe that farming is important to the economy and 85% believe we should increase our self-sufficiency in British food."

There could well be another dark cloud on the horizon if the UK continues with its ambition to join the Pacific Trading Group including Australia, Japan and USA. What that promises for British farmers I dread to think.

On a similar theme, it now seems that 34% of British farm businesses have diversified at least part of their operations away from food production to boost incomes. Popular projects include farm shops, artisan products, camping sites, storage and solar farms. Who can blame them?

Tim Perry

## **Bushley Parish Council**

- The Parish Council would like to thank ***Nigel Nicol*** for his hard work over the summer months, painting and maintaining village assets including the telephone box at the Bushley Green bus shelter and the bench on Bushley Bank.



- Data from the Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) units in Bushley and Bushley Green reveal that drivers are largely adhering to the speed limit, or reducing their speed before reaching the cameras. There has been a slight increase in traffic through the village during school pickup and drop off times but nothing drastic.
- For those that didn't see it, September's issue of Tewkesbury Direct reported that new owners are soon to open the nearby petrol forecourt and service station on the A438.
- The refurbished Ledbury Road Service Station will offer fuel from Total Energies and a general groceries shop, including take-away cakes, sandwiches /wraps and fresh coffee

### ***Daniel Hinde***

Bushley Parish Council Clerk  
Northway  
Tewkesbury

Tel N<sup>o</sup>: *contact via email or on-line form only*  
clerk@bushleyparishcouncil.gov.uk



This month thanks go to **Lesley** for donation of A4 paper for printing the Bushley News

and to **Colin**

for clearing the drains on Stokes Lane after heavy rain to clear the road of standing water.



## Harvest Roving Supper in Bushley on Saturday 5th October

Not sure what this is? Read more to find out.

Do you fancy having a nice meal and meeting some new people in the village? We do, which is why we are hoping to get this off the ground. Don't worry too much about how it works, that will all be explained at the start of the evening when you will be given details of where you are going. Couples and singletons are all welcome to join in.

The cost will be £25 per person. For that you will be able to enjoy a three course meal with pre-dinner drink, wine & soft drinks with your meal and tea & coffee after dessert. Each course will be hosted in different locations in Bushley starting and ending in the Village Hall. You can walk or drive (drinking responsibly of course!) and at each course you will dine with different people, meeting new and familiar faces.

We have some volunteers to host starters and main courses but could do with a few more. We are looking for homes that can host a course for 6 to 8 people. If you are unable to host you will be asked to supply a pudding or a cheeseboard for the final course in the Village Hall. You will be given a financial contribution towards your dishes and all the drinks will be supplied.

As well as being a social event, we hope to raise funds for the Village Hall and for a local charity which we will choose on the night from recommendations made by yourselves.

Please book your place on the Roving Supper using this google form <https://forms.gle/K3GHMZWLf9wb9s86> or if you would prefer to speak to someone about it contact Alison Peake on 07789 371521 or [alison@twyning.net](mailto:alison@twyning.net)





## A View from the Saddle

Earlier last month, research scientists revealed Ozempic (the Type 2 diabetes and obesity drug) could be used to slow down the aging process.

However, for some Englishmen of a certain vintage, the joyous exuberance of youth can be recaptured without recourse to pharmaceuticals - they just buy a new electric bike! And so it was for three of the Bushley Bikers, who each arrived at our outings in

September, mounted on such steeds.

Our Dear Leader was first to transition at the beginning of the month, taking delivery of an electric Ribble trail bike as a belated birthday present to himself.

It has a plethora of functions and a pearlescent paint job that gives it more swagger than a Harley Davidson Electra Glide. He grinned with boyish delight at the prospect of distant horizons now coming back within his cycling reach.

Not to be outdone, by the second week Medicine Man had purchased a classy Merida machine in metallic anthracite livery. It has enough va-va-voom to power him up to British Camp in record time - so the smile on his face was as wide as a crocodile's.

In week three, the Architect completed the electric triumvirate, arriving on a head turning, wallet draining, technology laden Orbea bike. Designed in the Basque Country, (where they know a thing or two about hills), it features Bluetooth connected gears and the profile of a thoroughbred.

Small wonder then that the Artist and I were discombobulated by all this change. As traditional push bike riders, we are used to leading this particular peloton of senior friends up the hills of south Worcestershire, so we didn't welcome all their talk of "legs feeling 20 years younger", but it hasn't been all plain sailing for them.

As reported in September's BN, the Dear Leader first mounted his new bike in the car park of the Pilot Inn at Hardwicke, where an amused group of vehicle borne supporters gathered to send him on his inaugural ride. The route home started flat along the bank of the Sharpness canal but things took a turn at Maisemore Hill. Unable to modify its settings without the relevant App on his non-existent smartphone, he found himself stuck in \*eco mode\* on the steepest incline. The Artist cruised past, his laughter echoing down the hillside. Choice words were subsequently exchanged with the Ribble customer services team!

The following week as we made our way to the Duke of York at Berrow (via Birtsmorton and Hollybush), Medicine Man's bike battery unexpectedly gave out - this despite the salesman's assurances that it was fully charged and good to go! In week 3, The Architect unveiled his own glistening machine, having spent a week programming its sophisticated gearing software; and evaluating the best way to stow his wet weather clothing without disturbing the bike's svelte lines. It didn't stay clean for long though, as by the time we reached Tredington, the skies opened up and a cloudburst had both riders and bikes soaked - thankfully no short circuit sparks appeared.

Despite it all, there was a sense of triumph in the air, as the promise of steep hills and the open roads west of Malvern once again become an achievable target.

Happy and safe (electric) cycling.  
Vaughan.

**Nota Bene:** Sad to report this month that Trevor ("Brumieboy") - a former Bushley Biker, sadly passed away. He will be much missed by all his family and friends.

## STUDENTS & APPRENTICES

If you are a student or an apprentice and live in the Parishes of Ripple, Bushley, Queenhill or Holdfast, the Ancient Parish of Ripple Trust can help you!

This *charitable Trust provides financial support* for students who are enrolled at a university or college offering courses beyond A-level and will also give grants towards apprenticeship training following secondary school. This support can be used for books and equipment necessary for course work and may also cover some travel expenses.

For details and an application form, please send an e-mail to:  
aprtrust2023@yahoo.com

The Trustees will meet again in November to consider applications which should be received by  
**Friday 1st November 2024**

Rachel Perry

## Queenhill WI Report

Every two years, our WI presents a Craft and Produce Show that celebrates the skills of its members. This was the year!

Vegetables, cakes, plants, flower arrangements, craft items, art, calligraphy and photographs all had examples we could admire. The hall looked very attractive and a fitting place for cups and awards to be presented for the best scores in several categories. Special mention must be made of Anne Spears who was the overall winner for her excellent entries.

The usual meeting followed and we were so pleased to hear from Jane Foley, one of our members, about her recent visit to China to see her son. It was those personal impressions and experiences that fascinated us- so much better than tourists' and advertising reviews.

A delicious tea, a raffle and the usual friendly conversations completed an enjoyable meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday October 10th at 2.30pm when Jennifer Rigby will talk about Shakespeare's Women. We look forward to it.

Doreen Small

## A Bushley Man Prevails Against All Adversity



Henry Dunn is from Bushley.

In November 2022 during his gap year, whilst working at a cattle station in Australia's Northern Territory, his left arm was crushed by a farm machine. Latterly the arm had to be amputated after an eight hour, 500km (310m) journey to hospital with an improvised tourniquet.

Fortunately Henry has a very positive mindset, "When I came home, rugby was no longer really an option for sport, so I walked into my local CrossFit in Tewkesbury."

This led Henry to qualify for the Adaptive CrossFit Games and to compete in the games on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

His family flew to San Antonio, Texas, to cheer him on and witnessed him come 6<sup>th</sup> in the World Rankings.

Congratulations Henry!

### ***A Message from Henry:***

A huge thank you to everyone in the village who has supported me. I've had an incredible experience competing in San Antonio Texas, a competition that took place over 4 days with 7 gruelling events and finishing in 6th place overall in my category. To think just 22 months ago I woke up in Darwin hospital with my arm amputated not knowing what life would be like from that point on.

Since then I have worked extremely hard in my physical and mental rehabilitation and never did I think so soon after my injury I would be competing in the world finals of the adaptive CrossFit games.

I'm excited for the next chapter and for those of you who wish to follow my journey please check out my Instagram: [life\\_in\\_my\\_own\\_hand](#)

Again a huge thank you to you all.

Henry

# *THE BUSHLEY DIARY*

## Your guide to Activities in the Village

### October

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Tues	2	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Fri	4	Cricket Club Social Evening	19:30 onward	Bushley CC
Sat	5	Roving Supper	TBC	
Mon	7	Mobile Library (Note 3)	Note 3	Note3
Mon	7	Community Garden	10:00 - 12:00	Village Hall
Mon	7	Dance Club	9:30 - 10:30	
Mon	7	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Tues	8	TBC	TBC	
Weds	9	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Sat	12	Bushley Cricket Club	TBC	
Mon	14	Community Garden	10:00 - 12:00	
Mon	14	Dance Club	9:30 - 10:30	
Mon	14	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Tues	15	Craft Club	10:00 - 12:00	
Weds	16	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Sat	19	Trafalgar Dinner	15:00 - 23:00	
Sun	20	First Aid Course	8:30 - 15:30	
Mon	21	Community Garden	10:00 - 12:00	
Mon	21	Dance Club	9:30 - 10:30	
Mon	21	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Tues	22	Tewkesbury Flower Club	2:00 - 4:00	
Weds	23	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Mon	28	Community Garden	10:00 - 12:00	
Mon	28	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](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)

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

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<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/Publications.aspx?ParishID=60>