

# Bushley News

March 2025

*The Voice of the Village*

Nº:653

There's no place to me like old Bushley  
There's no place I love half so well  
The dearest old spot in this country  
The home of my birth I must tell.  
Old time has been passing so quickly  
It don't seem so long to me now  
Its close upon half of a century  
Since making my first little bow.

Oh fair are her beautiful green fields  
That lie in her peaceful old vales  
And bounding the silvery waters  
Of Severn all studded with sails.  
And standing out grandly behind them  
A view that is one of the best  
The majestic Abbey of Tewkesbury  
The pride and the joy of the West.

And what of her glorious old woodlands  
Through which I've delighted to rove  
The Queen of them all is old Sarnhill  
Her sisters fair Aggborough and Grove.  
Fond memories are crowding before me  
The glories of big shooting day  
The "draw" that was quickly soon followed  
View Holloa's hark forward away.

Oh! oft have I stood on the fire piece  
And gazed on my favourite view  
When the hills before and behind me  
Have rivalled the sky with their blue.  
And oft have I wandered at nightfall  
And gazed on the scene that I love  
With beaconing lights all around me  
That revelled the bright stars above.

I'm thinking again of my childhood  
I eat on a dear parents knee  
Who told me his sporting old stories

A famous old sportsman  
was he.  
I toddled behind on his  
coat tails  
And happy was Father  
and Son  
And learnt all the crafts  
of his calling  
The sport with the dog  
and the gun.

The sounds that I heard in my Boyhood  
Are still most familiar to me  
The triumphant note of the Pheasant  
When reaching his perch in the tree.  
The partridge's call to his comrades  
The whirr of their wings as they fly  
The horn of the hunter is sounding  
His musical pack in full cry.

The beautiful views that I've gazed on  
Though hidden for ever from me  
Still bring me the fondest of memories  
And visions delightful to see.  
A sportsman I've been by my calling  
A sportsman I ever will be  
And never oh never I'll murmur  
For God is still good unto me.

There's no place to me like old Bushley  
Oh truly I love her alone  
My heart is now beating with pleasure  
Once more I can call her my own.  
Oh! beautiful fairylike Bushley  
I'll lay my head down on thy breast  
Not only for now but hereafter  
My home and my haven of rest.

Frank Isaac Bloxham



## The View from the Pulpit

Dear Friends,

As we enter into the season of Lent, we begin to fix our eyes on Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ. Journeying with his passion from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday morning is a way of renewing and deepening our hope in all that God can do as we are drawn into the mystery of Jesus. One of the difficulties with Lent is the great array of temptations and we sometimes see Lent as a sort of test and enter into it seeing it more as a six-week obstacle course of spiritual and physical challenges to be mastered or endured. Maybe we are trying to prove to others and to God how good we are at overcoming challenges and not giving into temptations, rather than the working of God's grace in us, helping us to take a step along the path God is leading us towards, it becomes a celebration of our own ability and strength.

In the gospel of Luke 4.1-13, we see that the temptations that Jesus faced in the wilderness were not about whether he would achieve personal triumph through them; the Devil was testing the Sonship of Jesus, he was testing whether Jesus was truly an agent or servant of God. And what we see in Jesus resisting the devil is not about Jesus or His personal glory we see the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth Grace and Humility working through Him.

So therefore the focus of Lent is not about the test, and challenges that we overcome but on using the time to allow God to use the test and challenges as a way of renewing us. It is about taking time to

remember that we are not alone; the Holy Spirit is with us to renew us and help us to play a part in our journey of life and faith. The season of Lent invites each of us to take stock and prayerfully consider our life and calling, and how we use our gifts and talents, both as individuals and as a whole Church, and to be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in us and in the world around us.

Whether we have given up something for Lent or have started to do something new. God's truth happens to us when the coverings of illusion are stripped away and what is real emerges into the open...The Spirit promises to bring us into truth by stripping away some more of the insulation and barriers which have separated us from living contact with reality, the reality of God, the Kingdom of God, and our true self.

At the heart of the Christian story is the belief that God made the world and everything in it out of love. Jesus came to live and die for us so that we can understand God's words to him as being meant for us, too: We are beloved by God, created in God's image and we are to live our lives in that knowledge.

Let us look to meeting Jesus anew as the disciples did on the road to Emmaus.

With God's blessings this Lent,

Rev'd Julie James

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Please support the community's local church if you are able.

## 1954 – 2025



Thank you to everyone for doing Jill proud! Kim Fikry

If anyone would be interested in viewing the archive, please email, see back page.

## Spring Into Action

The hellebores are flourishing; and I notice how on frosty mornings they decide to lie down and shelter until their blood gets warmed up, so to speak. I do know how they feel.



Sadly, a pottery bowl on my garden table which is planted with sedums has succumbed to the frost. I am minded to put the sedums onto the roof of my log store—well they will

have two chances as my splendid Gardener Bob used to say.

There was a lot of chat on Gardeners' Question Time a bit ago about leaving dead stalks and general untidiness for the use of our little friends like lacewings and ladybirds. But it's a compromise—which bits to leave and how untidy can we allow it to be?

Then there are various plants that need splitting with throwing away the centres which are past their best work and replanting healthy bits. Some of them, as Bob also said, are a bit rampant "Dig it all up and you'll still have enough."

The ground in places is still very wet and on my clay soil I have to be careful not to compact it by walking on it. Roll on some fine weather.

Then there is the Mighty Fig to prune. Things in this garden flourish like mad and if you are not careful you can't move for plants rampaging all over the place.

Time to plot what is going to go where, which veg to plant, which exciting new plants to indulge in. Perhaps I shall indulge in going to a garden centre—if you can fight your way through all the gifts and such you CAN find some plants.



Crocus

Mustn't grumble—it's a lovely plot and a solace in these dark days.

The Mulberry is getting pretty mighty too. I'd better find the pruning saw and have a bit of a hack at that.

Lots of muck spreading to go on under the fruit bushes and on the veg plot.

As I was typing that the red Kite flew over. Aren't we lucky to live where we do?

Meanwhile, I can admire the snowdrops, the crocuses and a few early daffodils from the comfort of my own home. And when out and about watch that faint spring colour appearing as the buds on the trees start to swell.

Happy gardening.

Penelope Tubbs

### Queenhill WI Report February 2025

Every member at our meeting had watched the Antiques Roadshow sometime; most of us were regular viewers. It was, therefore, with a great deal of interest and curiosity that we listened to our speaker Robert Arley who had extensive knowledge of what went on behind the scenes. As a member of the production staff, with a long-standing association with this programme and others on BBC and ITV, he was in the best possible position for answering our questions and enlightening us about the planning processes. He was simply excellent and we thoroughly enjoyed it.



What we see on television is just the tip of the iceberg. It was fascinating to hear about coping with the 1,500 or so people who turn up at the events and are willing to queue for hours; matching items brought in with appropriate experts; organising the filming; and editing down to the last detail- and the last fraction of a second. And, of course, it is important to be positive as well as realistic in valuations. We know that we will look more closely at so many aspects we heard about in next Sunday's programme!

Left: A possibly antique vase?

The business meeting that preceded the talk was conducted efficiently and covered a range of issues and future plans. We ended in the usual way - enjoying refreshments, raffle and conversation.

Our next meeting will be at WI Hall (WR8 0QZ) on Thursday 13th March at 2.30pm when David Warnham will talk about Droitwich Canal Restoration.

We hope to see you there! Doreen Small

### **Bushley Parish Council**

Planning Reference APP/J1860/W/25/3359816

Change of use of existing building and land to private equestrian trainer use. **Location:** Wood Street Farm Bungalow, Wood street Bushley. Previously refused, is being appealed.



Roadworks between 19/05/2025 to 06/06/2025

**Location:** Between Mythe Bridge and the turning for Bushley.

The road will be closed for ONE DAY in date window above as it is being resurfaced.

There will then be subsequent closures for a FEW HOURS at 24 hours, 48 hours, and 7 days after for carriageway sweeping. After these closures there may be further closures as required for replacing any lining or cats eyes. Dates and times are weather dependent and therefore can not be more specific.

The road will not be closed constantly for 3 weeks but will be closed intermittently within that period for short durations.

**Daniel Hinde**

*Bushley Parish Council Clerk*

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<https://bushleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

**1st Bicycle 1817**  
 Laufmaschine - German for -running machine  
 It didn't have any pedals, had to be propelled by the rider



## View from the Saddle

Michael Bublé has his '*Beautiful Day*' and Bill Withers his '*Lovely Day*' but on our first February ride the Bushley Bikers had their Glorious Day! With a surprisingly bright sun promising the spring yet to come, it warmed our backs from the start, making for a joyous morning traversing Worcestershire's winding lanes – a real tonic.

We'd been given leave to access Queenhill via the Bredon School grounds, and so we quickly headed northwards to Brotheridge Green and Hook Bank before turning south-westwards and zigzagging our way towards our ultimate destination - **The Robin Hood Inn at Castlemorton**, which we haven't visited for quite a few months. Before then though, we had to pit-stop for 15 minutes on the slopes of Hill End, while Medicine Man brought his surgeon's skills to bear on yet another puncture; probably from a thorn left in his front tyre after our last outing.



Left: A possible selection of Robin Hood's hats?!

Nonetheless, for those not involved with the running repairs and with zero traffic, it was a fine spot to sit and enjoy the vistas across to Longdon Marsh. And then a horse and rider approached from lower down the hill. Now I don't know much about horse riding but I do know there are generally two sentient beings involved (the rider and the horse) and this particular horse did not like the look of our six High-Viz jackets, one little bit. Result - he put down anchors at all four corners and no amount of encouragement from his rider would get him to move closer than 20 feet!

As if this was a regular occurrence, the rider who was clearly experienced, simply turned her steed around and had him walk backwards (dressage-like) up the hill, so he didn't have to look at us as they passed by. Then, turning forwards again, she waved cheerily back at us and explained that had we actually been riding our bikes rather than lounging on the wayside, it wouldn't have been a problem. It was certainly a remarkable example of horsemanship (or should that be horsewomanship!)

Not always do the Bikers consider themselves well satisfied by the gastronomic fare served on our Thursday outings but in February, we have been on something of a winning streak. The Robin Hood had a 'Specials' board that included a large and very tasty pheasant bal-lontine, alongside other unusual dishes. It was quite excellent with the Actor reckoning it

was the best meal he had had in a pub for many years – and he has had a few of those.

Then the next Thursday we travelled north to **The Swan at Newlands**, where another series of crowd pleasers were on offer, including an exceptional venison casserole and a curry done 3 ways. That was followed a week later by a long lunch at the ever-reliable **New Dawn Inn at Norton**. Its '2 courses for £20' menu again hit the mark and provided some compensation for the return journey, as the bitter northerly wind that day cut through us like a knife.

Week 4's sudden climatic change provided a different challenge. The icy blasts of the previous 2 weeks were replaced by an equally strong south-westerly, that was warm as a hairdryer and so temperatures jumped from 3 degrees to over 13. Accompanying rain squalls made for gutty riding around the further reaches of Tewkesbury District and several impromptu stops were needed to don wet-weather gear; or remove gloves and buffs; or wipe down / dispense with spectacles.

In anticipation of the squally weather, The Dear Leader selected **The Tudor House Hotel** for lunch. It's proprietors from 1939 until 1977, were the Bigland family who ran it as an unlicensed hotel (locally known as the 'Quaker Hotel'). However, such abstinence has long since passed and the Butty Bach and lamb pie combo, caught the attention of more than half of us. Then, it was just a short 10-minute dash back to base camp, for some of Sue's delicious fruit loaf cake.

Happy and safe cycling – Vaughan Latter



Thank you for the very generous donations received from the following in the last month:

**Mary T: £20 and Mary & Les D: £20, also Kim F: 1 paper ream and Lesley H: 2 reams**

Donations are required in order to keep the Bushley News in print though we are considering an opt-in approach for hard copy delivery in future. If you have any comments on this, or would like to make a donation, please contact [BushleyNewsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:BushleyNewsEditor@gmail.com).

Also, please contact the Editor if anyone deserves a thank you/shout out for community action at any time of the year. 'Community' works best when we all work together!

## Jottings of an Urbanised Retired GP ENT?



The medical acronym ENT defines one of the specialist groups of surgeons who solely work on the Ears, Noses and Throats of their patients. In this season of coughs and sneezes it may be appropriate to unwrap some 'false information' about this part of your anatomy.

Ears first. The wax that builds up in the outer canal of the ear is there to trap dust particles before they land on the delicate Tympanic Membrane, also known as the eardrum. If the amount of wax builds up and hardens it can reduce your hearing but do be careful about trying to remove it from this delicate part of the ear yourself. The drum itself can be torn by injudicious poking or shock waves from a slap on the head or nearby explosion. If left alone it will usually heal but may need reconstructing. In the middle ear (behind the eardrum) three little bones, the Ossicles, transmit sound vibrations to the cochlea in the Inner ear. The joints between these bones can develop arthritis and seize up – a cause of deafness. The Cochlea is a coiled tube and contains fine hairs. Damage to these hairs can cause deafness or Tinnitus, which can be temporary or permanent, but is difficult to block out. In the same area, deep inside the bones of the skull, are three semicircular canals filled with fluid that let your brain know your orientation; or to put it another way, where you are in space. Damage to these from infection or a head injury can cause loss of balance.

Next the nose. The main function of the channels in your nose is to warm the air you breath. Curved shelves lining these passages allow air passing over them to warm up so that it is more comfortable to breathe in cold weather. Smell sensors in the nose detect many smells which augment the taste buds on the tongue, which can only detect three different tastes. Nose bleeds usually come from one of the many blood vessels on the septum in the middle of the nose. Firm pressure on the outside of the nose for at least five minutes (longer if you are on blood thinning drugs) usually stops the bleed. If it doesn't stop you may need help from the ENT specialists. Occasionally cancers develop within the nose – a problem in ancient times when snuff was regularly snorted! If your nose seems to be constantly blocked it may be due to polyps from the sinuses in the cheek bones but could be cancer. It is worth getting it checked.



A nose,  
'tis the  
season for  
a sniff!

Finally, the throat. Tonsils used to be removed because of recurrent sore throats, but the tonsils are rarely to blame. Viral infections are usually the cause and tonsils, which are lymph glands, are there to mop them up. But an abscess, a Quinsy, does need treatment with antibiotics or possibly surgery. Most sore throats and productive coughs are caused by viruses and therefore do not respond to antibiotics.



The vocal cords in the throat, which give you your voice, can be damaged, infected or suffer old age when they may grow polyps. These will alter your voice and may be benign or cancerous, but need inspecting by the ENT surgeons.

ENT is a speciality dealing with a small but rather important area of our bodies. Much can be done to alleviate problems, but most will resolve themselves, given time – a common theme of mine.

Andrew Crowther



### In Touch with Nature

The first three weeks of February really hung on to Winter, only light frosts at night but with daytime temperatures staying in low single figures, venturing out was challenging.

In spite of the cold the Robin has been the top singer in the garden; showing up wherever I started any sort of work. Lots of sightings of Barn Owls recently, just a single pair I suspect and always to be seen have been the Starlings, large flocks gathering on the local farmland, attracted by the harvested Maize fields, which have replaced the winter stubbles. Before the 1970s, stubbles were the winter-feeding grounds for lots of different farmland birds, then cereal cropping moved to winter sown varieties and the winter stubbles were mostly lost. A very exciting, confirmed sighting at the Ledbury Road end of Green Street was a Bullfinch, a male with his bright pink breast and white rump.

Moles, very active, mole hills popping up everywhere, so the ground is not too cold for the worm population to be close to the surface. Moles excavate tunnels at levels where the worms are active, worms emerge into these tunnels and before they manage to burrow back into the soil, they are collected by Moldywarp.



Mole

Our local nature reserves have taken a bit of a hiding recently, falling foul of the country's frenetic house building program. The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Coombe Hill Canal reserve is overrun with people from the new housing. I recently received a letter from our MP the contents mostly congratulating herself on influencing the planning decision to reject a 300-house development next to the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Tiddesley Wood, now sadly overturned on appeal. Perhaps we need to accept that Nature Reserves are no longer the preserve of wildlife alone, these dwindling wild places are more and more in need of our respect, whenever we're out in the countryside, control your children and other animals.

Best sighting, 20<sup>th</sup> February, almost 10' warmer.

Martin R

## View from between the Bears



February started the same way January had been; cool, damp and grey. Many places recorded no sunshine at all for a couple of weeks or more. We have had a few brighter days since then but not many, and, as often is the case at this time of year, bright days are followed by cold, frosty nights. That's still an improvement on damp and grey as far as I'm concerned.

It's not what we would call healthy weather; coughs and colds in humans and greater risk of pneumonia in housed cattle. It's a bit of a balancing act; you need good ventilation without draughts, particularly at lying down level, and not as warm as you might imagine. You really don't want to see sweat on their backs as that would leave their coats damp and more susceptible to cold. For several years now we have chosen to clip a strip about 6 inches wide along their backbones to keep them cooler when housed, a bit like unzipping your coat. It's also better for any 'pour-on' wormers or other similar treatments they might need. The cattle trade is incredibly strong at the moment for all classes of cattle and calves. Numbers are down as a consequence of fewer milking cows, and demand remains strong despite higher prices and pressure to help limit climate change.

Lambing season is upon us and dog owners are being reminded to keep dogs under control, preferably on leads, around

livestock. It's not just about attacking sheep and lambs. Heavily pregnant ewes can lose lambs [often days later] if chased, and new born lambs can get separated from their mothers in a

crowded field just by a dog appearing some distance away. Ewes are accustomed to being herded by sheepdogs so naturally tend to run away. They're not the brightest of animals [some of them] and often fail to find their own lambs again or try to claim another ewe's lambs, causing great confusion. Easier all round to keep your dog on a lead if sheep are in the field.

I was surprised to hear, from a chicken farmer, that the UK still only produces about 60% of the chicken consumed in this country. Major suppliers are Canada and the Far East, where, no doubt, they adhere [not!] to the same stringent regulations that UK producers have to. There is likely to be greater regulation, on top of existing rules, over the use of livestock manure on fields to reduce pollution in rivers in future making their job all the harder. They have already invested a lot of money into their businesses over many years. It's a shame that the water companies have not invested at the levels required to 'clean up their act'!

Crops planted in the autumn have had a bad time too; a lot of wet weather before plants get well established is never good. Many, that were planted in good conditions early on, suffered with heavy rain, and other crops, which were planted late because of wet fields, have never really got

going. There won't be many fields of wheat half way up your wellies at the moment, as might normally be the case. The next few weeks will determine how many fields, or part fields, will need replanting; not a cheap option as spring seed will be in short supply. Fertilizer remains expensive so the option of 'pushing on' a thin crop isn't great either. Maize will be a favoured option for planting this spring; plenty of seed, it can be planted well into May, it doesn't need a 'break crop', and there are a number of uses for the silage or harvested seed. As often as not it will end up in a 'digester' creating gas for electricity production, an option which pays pretty well and consistently.

I doubt it's just us on this side of the 'pond' who worry about what President Trump is going to say next. A deal with Putin to end the war in Ukraine looks increasingly likely, however unfairly negotiated. DEFRA secretary, Steve Reed, is said to be in favour of a trade deal with the US. He stressed that a 'fair' deal would benefit the UK economy, but Labour's approach would protect British farming interests adding, "We will not follow the Tory practice of undercutting British farmers in those trade deals." Lord help us!

Tim Perry

## Bushley Cricket Club Events

### First Friday Quiz: 7th March 2025

More brains than Homer?

Test your knowledge and skills at our fun quiz night at Bushley

Cricket club on Friday 7th March at 7.30pm.

£5 per person including light bites.



### Gardener' Question Time: Friday 4th April 2025



We are very pleased to say that Reg Moule has once again agreed to come to the **cricket pavilion** to provide the answers to questions from the audience on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm**.

Reg is on local radio regularly and many of you will have seen him with us before.

The evening is always different, interesting and amusing, and, I think, good value at **£5 on the door**. Card payments can be made at the bar, which will be open all evening. **Refreshments**, tea, coffee and cakes, available in the interval, are included in the price. Hope to see you there. More details if required 07812 179002. Tim Perry

**Bluebell Walk:** Date in April to be confirmed. Look out for details next month.

## **THE BUSHLEY DIARY**

*Your Guide to Activities in the Village (See Notes below)*

Day	Date/Month	Event	Time	Location
Sun	02-Mar	Private Concert	09:30 - 15:00	Bushley Village Hall
Mon	03-Mar	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Wed	05-Mar	Pilates	09:30 - 10:30	
Thu	06-Mar	Hand Bells	18:30 - 19:30	St Peter's Church
Fri	07-Mar	First Friday: Quiz	19:00 - 23:00	Bushley Cricket Club
Sun	09-Mar	Church Service	08:30-09:30	St Peter's Church
Mon	10-Mar	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	Bushley Village Hall
Tue	11-Mar	Tewkesbury Flower Club	13:00 - 16:30	
Wed	12-Mar	Pilates	09:30 - 10:30	
Thu	13-Mar	Hand Bells	18:30 - 19:30	St Peter's Church
Mon	17-Mar	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	Bushley Village Hall
Tue	18-Mar	Craft Club	10:00 - 12:00	
Wed	19-Mar	Pilates	09:30 - 10:30	
Thu	20-Mar	Hand Bells	18:30 - 19:30	St Peter's Church
Mon	24-Mar	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	Bushley Village Hall
Wed	26-Mar	Pilates	09:30 - 10:30	
Thu	27-Mar	Hand Bells	18:30 - 19:30	St Peter's Church
Mon	31-Mar	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	Bushley Village Hall
Wed	02-Apr	Pilates	09:30 - 10:30	
Thu	03-Apr	Hand Bells	18:30 - 19:30	St Peter's Church
Fri	04-Apr	First Friday	19:00 - 23:00	Bushley Cricket Club

### 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 details, contact Lesley: 07920 2604668.

### Note 3

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

Time	Location
09:45—10:00	Village Hall
10:05—10:20	Tewkesbury Fields Care Home

If you have an item of news please send it by 20th of the preceding month 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.

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