

# Stock & Bradley *Chronicle*

Feb. 2020.

Worcestershire



## FEBRUARY 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b> 3 pm Songs of Praise Baptist Chapel 6.30pm Holy Communion Bradley Church
<b>3rd</b> 9.30 am Art Class VH 7pm-9pm Parish Council Airband Meeting VH	<b>4th</b> 5.30 pm Dog Training VH	<b>5th</b> 12.15-12.30 pm Mobile Library Staddle Stones SG 10.30 am Breakaway VH 7.45 pm Gardening Club VH	<b>6th</b> 7.30 pm Scottish Dancing VH	<b>7th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>9th</b> Walking Club meet at church at 10.00.am
<b>10th</b> 9.30 am Art Class VH	<b>11th</b> 5.30 pm Dog Training VH	<b>12th</b> 10 am - 12 noon Drop In VH 2 pm K&D W1 K&D VH	<b>13th</b> 7.30 pm Scottish Dancing VH	<b>14th</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>16th</b> 9.45 am Holy Communion Bradley Church 3 pm Communion Service Baptist Chapel
<b>17th</b>	<b>18th</b> 5.30 pm Dog Training VH		<b>20th</b> 7.30 pm Scottish Dancing VH	<b>21st</b> 7pm Hanbury Countryside Show Quiz VH	<b>22nd</b>	<b>23rd</b>
<b>24th</b> 9.30 am Art Class VH	<b>25th</b> 5.30 pm Dog Training VH	<b>26th</b> 10 am - 12 noon Drop In VH	<b>27th</b> 7.30 pm Scottish Dancing VH 7 pm Crime Prevention Evening K&D VH	<b>28th</b>		

# Editorial

Cheer up, we are already half way through winter, I know we have all developed web feet but it could have been worse, imagine if all that rain had come as snow! Spring is on its way, snowdrops and cyclamen are flowering their hearts out, the daffodils are sending up shoots, even the tulips are showing some leaves.

It will soon be time for the Rugby fans to enjoy the 6 Six Nations Championship, it starts on February first, with England playing their first match on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. It's a good job there is not much gardening required to be done whilst these matches are on.

14<sup>th</sup> February is of course Valentine's Day, so to all you Romeos, don't forget or there might be a few disappointed Juliets. At the end of the month is Shrove Tuesday, an opportunity to practice your skills at tossing a pancake or two, a simpler game than rugby!

The long tail tits are frequently seen in our garden and I saw my first flock of fieldfares this week. They used to be a common sight as also were the red wings, perhaps it is not cold enough to encourage them to come these days. We have had a nuthatch in the garden from time to time but haven't seen one for some time now. It would be interesting to hear from readers what birds you have seen in your gardens, drop me an email and we can publish the results.

Best wishes for what appears to be an interesting New Year.

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Thanks to everyone who filled a shoe box for Teams4U in November, also to everyone who donated the 20 or so presents to Redditch Night Stop at the Carol Service, they were delighted with them.



Many articles in the Chronicle are contributed by members of the public. They remain the responsibility of the writers and neither the production team nor the publishers can be held responsible for the views and assertions contained therein.

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# Church Services at Bradley Green

## FEBRUARY

**2nd 6.30 pm**      **Living Communion**    **Barbara**

**16th 9.45 am**      **Living Communion**    **Wyn**



Dear Friends,

The snowdrops are just coming out on the grass bank between the churchyard and Hanbury road. There are 6 or 7 weeks of meteorological winter until spring starts on 1st march. The weather might have different ideas, of course.

The Christmas decs are long gone and the trees off to be chipped. But the Nativity scenes stayed up in Church until the 2nd February and the Feast of Candlemas.

Both the snowdrops and the Nativity scenes are simple signs that all is not what it seems. It's a grey windy and chilly winter's day as I write this. But beneath the surface things are stirring in the hope that the lengthening days will bring the necessary warmth and the strengthening light will work its magic and cook the seeds and soil into the amazing dish we call spring.

All around are lots of worrying news stories. Barely a fortnight old, already 2020 has brought us the reality of what climate change really means in Australia and the increasing chance of major conflict in the Persian Gulf which could, in fact, engulf us all. As I write things have quietened down between Iran and the U.S. and at the same time we look at the return of a functioning Stormont optimistically.

By the time you read this we shall have officially left the E.U. But no one knows what that will actually mean.

In the parish many people struggle with health issues and we hear bad news and some good.

The recent election should have reminded us all that politicians are just human beings with none of the magic of snowdrops. Sometimes they get it right. Often they don't. Snowdrops always get it right.

The Church, as a human institution, lurches into a new decade still split over many things, not least human sexuality.

In short, things are just as they have always been, and if we want to look for meaning (something many have given up doing) then we might need to look more at the snowdrops than at the human institutions of government or Church. Both are made up of you and me, one way or another, and we need to find our connection with the snowdrops, with the soil, with the living earth. We are made of the dust. So science tells us. So the Jewish-Christian tradition tells us too.

Hope is right here, right now. It is in silence more than noise, it is in listening rather than talking. Let that hope empower our 2020s.

Best wishes,

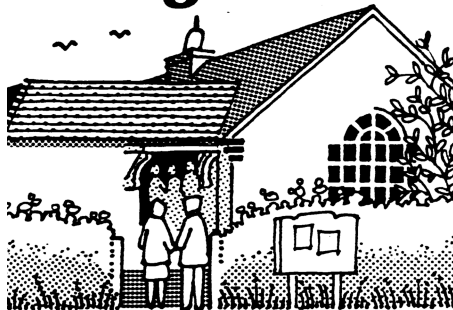
Wyn

VILLAGE HALL bookings contact  
Rachel Cresswell on 07854 483684

# Village Hall

## Village Hall Committee

Chairman Mel Bates,  
Vice chairman  
Treasurer Stella Wallis  
Caretaker Rachel Cresswell  
Jan Bates, Karen Devereaux  
Barry Newton, Liz Farquharson  
and Wendy Ralphs



**100+ Club** The draw for the Stock and Bradley 100+ Club for December 2019 and January 2020 has been made by Mr Bryan Allbut on 19th December 2019. The results were as follows:

December 2019:

1st Prize: - No: 74 Mrs Julia Rainbow

2nd Prize: - No: 5 Mr Bob Fish

3rd Prize: - No: 102 Mrs Anne Heath

January 2010:

1st Prize: - No: 83 Mrs Rita Tolley

2nd Prize: - No: 124 Mrs Sylvia Clay

3rd Prize: - No: 165 Mrs Kate Pask

## WALKING CLUB

Walking Club will meet at Bradley Church at 10am on Sunday  
9th February.



## FLYING THE FLAG

We have a number of flags that can be flown to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, exam success, memorable dates etc. A minimum of £5 per day will get your flag flown for any event.

5th February – Breakaway

Sue Fletcher (01386 792779) will fly flags in February 2020

Stella Wallis 01386 793350



## STOCK AND BRADLEY GARDENING CLUB

### NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 7.30pm

Our speaker for our February meeting is Simon Gulliver, and he will give a talk entitled 'Colour Through the Seasons'. Simon is the Gardens and Parks consultant for the north-west region of the National Trust. He worked for the Birmingham Botanical Gardens for 10 years and for Plant Heritage, based at Kew.



For this meeting, the theme for our members' monthly competition will be 'Five Snowdrop Flowers - the same or five different'. Our speaker will act as judge, and every entry will win a point, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd will be awarded additional points. The member with the most number of points in the year will then be awarded a prize of a £20 gift token at the December 2020 meeting.

Please note that the £5.00 annual subscription becomes due on 1st January 2020, and that because we met for the dinner event in January, unpaid subscriptions should now be paid at the February meeting. Please make cheques payable to 'Stock and Bradley Gardening Club'.

### The following event - Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7:30pm

Our speaker for the March meeting is Timothy Walker who will give us a talk entitled 'The Subtle and Exact Art of Pruning'.

The theme for the members' monthly competition will be 'A Small Arrangement from my Garden'.

*Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £5.00 for 2020. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.*

*If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 01527 821156.*

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## MEADOW FARM NURSERY AND GARDEN, FECKENHAM

Rob Cole

In the last issue of the Chronicle I told the story of how we built the nursery here at Meadow Farm in Feckenham and I will continue this month with the story of the garden.

Towards the end of summer 1999, we began physically setting out the garden, only to find that the reasonable soil on the northern side gradually deteriorated into awful subsoil towards the southern side. Knowing that we had such dreadful soil to improve, we had 30 trailer loads of cow manure delivered in September 1999, about 75 tons, and stacked it in the field to rot down. That would keep us busy for a bit when we came to use it. We also had 15 tons of composted waste delivered – brilliant stuff, just like peat. We would be well armed for when we had time to start creating planting beds.

From April to October we were selling at a plant sale nearly every weekend, sometimes on both Saturday and Sunday, and at Bank Holidays on the Monday, too, so creative activities were much reduced and we concentrated on growing and selling. The light evenings of course gave us the opportunity to carry on until late in the day, and we would finish each night as the rooks flew in to the nearby wood for the night.

From the beginning of 2000, we were able to concentrate more on the garden construction, and on the meadow where we planted hundreds of Snakeshead Fritillary bulbs and seed raised cowslips and primroses, and Meadow Cranesbill, all raised from the seed of local native plants.

We built an 18ft x 10ft greenhouse in the garden, built a low, curving, retaining wall on the embankment below the house, restructured the driveway to the rear of the house (more hardcore and gravel!), built a pergola for roses and clematis, laid some new timber steps, created a Hellebore bed and an alpine area, dug two ponds and reconstructed a piped land drain as a surface stream feeding the two ponds.

The following winter, we laid out a traditional long border and continued barrowing, this time manure (now well rotted), compost, and gravel all incorporated by double digging. Just one side of the border took another 89 miles of walking between us – but the improvement was worth it. Diane was also busy with paving slabs again, creating paths and sitting areas by the pond.

The next project was a lych-gate styled entrance to the garden, planting 1000 snowdrops, and a small woodland area in part of the meadow to increase the range of habitat. Further projects included a Silver Garden, a Summerhouse Garden and a Yew Courtyard

Garden. Work on the garden has continued ever since by way of maintenance and improvements and we have been having group visits to the garden almost since the beginning.

The pleasure which our garden and nursery have brought us is immeasurable and we have met so

many keen and enthusiastic gardeners at our plant sales and via our garden visitors.

Those twenty years have been a busy time and we are often asked if we would do it again. You bet we would, but now only on a much smaller scale.

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## **What's On this month in FECKENHAM**

### **4th THE FECKENHAM SESSIONS**

Traditional Music - Rose & Crown - 8pm

### **7th MRS LOWRY & SON (PG)**

FeckenOdeon - Village Hall - 8pm

### **13th FECKENHAM WI**

Valentine's Needle Felting.

Village Hall - 7.30pm

### **29th 3 DAY OF THE CONDOR (15)**

FeckenOdeon - Village Hall - 7.30pm

### **MARCH...**

### **28th HARP & A MONKEY present THE VICTORIANS**

Village Hall - 7.30pm

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## BREAKAWAY

Tuesday 3rd December 2019

The weather was bright and sunny and DRY - what a treat after the last few days. It raised everybody's spirits.

Our committee arrived at 10.00a.m. to get the Village Hall ready for our Christmas Meal.

The tables were laid and the cutlery and glasses were polished. There was an interesting quiz on each table, plus our menus so that we could remember what we'd ordered!

Soon the tables and window sills were decorated with a mixture of greenery, candles, pine cones, and baubles. The colour scheme was red, green and gold with crackers and serviettes in red.

An excellent raffle was set out with 3 lovely winter planters plus cosmetics and bottles of 'plonk

Our committee worked hard and by 11.00a.m. We had time for a quick coffee while we waited for our 40 guests.

The caterers arrived and set to work in the kitchen.

Rita made several announcements namely:-

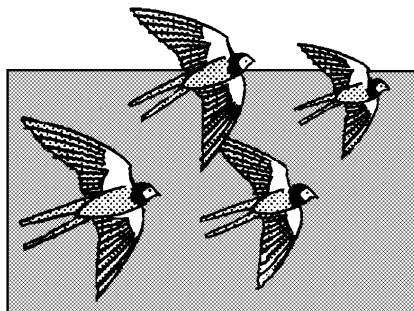
We have been discussing the March 2020 Lunch. Menus will be available in February.

There will not be a Bring & Buy in March but we would appreciate donations of prizes for our Raffles (perhaps there will be some unwanted Christmas Gifts?) These can be handed in at the February or March meeting.

We then heard an amusing poem about someone trying to get fit enough to run a 10K Marathon. She didn't complete the run but supported the event every year by manning the "water station".

The Quiz which was a little more difficult than usual was won by Mary Waring.

It was then time for our meal. The main course was a choice of Roast Beef, Turkey,



Poached Fillet of Cod, and a Vegetarian Bake served with all the trimmings.

The sweets were Christmas Pudding, Lemon Sherbet Meringue Roulade, Treacle and Stem Ginger Tart, or Fresh Fruit Salad.

There was a selection of wines and fruit juices served by the committee.

We followed this with tea or coffee and mints.

After much gossip and laughter it was time to say thank you to our caterers - the Four Seasons - we will be seeing them again in March.

Rita wished everyone "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". She also thanked Judy Brevitt for organising the event, the committee for decorating the hall, and Pat, Pip, and Pam Fletcher who came along as extra helpers.

Menai thanked Rita and the committee for an excellent year. It was then time to say Goodbye until 2020 and to start "the Grand Clear Up".

I am sure that everyone had a really good time and we look forward to next year's programme.

### Future Dates

5th February 2020 - 10.30a.m. - David Howe - "70 Years of Desert Island Discs"

4th March 2020 - 11.30a.m. - Spring Lunch at the Village Hall

Remember Gifts for Future Raffles

1st April 2020 - 10.30a.m. - Leigh Walton - Travels with Martha (Europe)



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# Rush Farm



A rather subdued week on the farm. A period without rain ended abruptly on Wednesday night. The farm is now wetter than we have ever experienced. The ground is so saturated the water can do no more than lie in vast puddles.

More positively, generally all seems well both with the cattle and sheep. Two weeks previously we had welcomed a new bull calf which was more than can be said for his mother who needed to be pressured to feed and care for her calf, a fact which may have implications for her future. The unwilling mother is unfortunately no more willing to accommodate her calf, but she does have milk and the calf is somehow growing. Attempts to help matters homeopathically continue.

We went south at the beginning of January to deposit Bacchus with his new owners and to collect Laxfield Piper, nicknamed Dwaine! All went very smoothly, Bacchus entered and left the trailer very calmly, and Dwaine, bribed by a handful of haylage, was happy to board the trailer, but even happier to get out as he smelt a cow bulling.

Interestingly, following an in house discussion as to whether it was worthwhile drenching the cattle for worms- something we have never done, the issue came up on the Pasture Fed site. The discussion was useful in throwing some light on why worming cattle is rarely necessary on

any farm but even less likely to be needed with cattle raised as they are here.

A different source- seemingly reputable- has come to the conclusion that cattle have friendship groups and can recognise a friend when shown photographs. Fortunately, or otherwise, this memory seems to have a limited life- absence leads to forgetfulness not a strengthening bond. Less surprisingly, cattle grow better, produce more milk and are happier when there is a strong bond with humans.

Yet another source sadly informs us we have to have a six month TB test. No date has been fixed yet but probably it would be best to get it out of the way early and before lambing.

As last year we have had to use a lot of straw for bedding and had to buy in another load this week. The resulting composting and use of BD preparations adds value to our soils, but it must not be forgotten that it is at the expense of other pieces of land.

No date has been settled for scanning the ewes but contact has been established, and they somehow have clean fleeces. The same cannot be said of the lambs, though despite their dirty fleeces they seem to be holding their condition- indeed the last batch that went may have been a little light but all but one were grader3L.

Efforts to reduce the 'lake' on field 6 having failed we are hiring a machine to insert land drains which can generate a force of 3000 pounds per square inch, and drive itself forward. If that fails to solve the problem, we shall have no option than to lay a new land drain running into the river. The 'Lake' in field 5k is of less concern since it was created under the HSL scheme though

it has never before held water for such a long period.

It is now 14 years since we took over the farm and I have written to the Board of the Society summarising these past years and indicating that the time has come for the Society, as our landlords, to support us with some capital investment. With the obvious climatic changes that are taking place we need to be able to house all our stock at the same time. We also need limited financial support for the re-fencing of the farm. Such investments obviously add value and enable any

tenancy to remain viable whatever the future may hold.

We do of course face a new threat other than Brexit. Veganism has been held by the courts to be a philosophical belief and so subject to protection. Add to that the attack on eating meat and the threat worsens. There seems to be no understanding that intensive meat production poses a totally different threat from that raised on organic farms, and as we saw over Brexit, if the media 'Gangs up' on a view, they have enormous influence.

---

## Kington with Dormston WI

### "Inspiring Women"

#### December Meeting

President, Mrs Alwyn Stanley, summed things up perfectly when she thanked the entertainers at the end of the December party. After a long, wet autumn and months of political stalemate and with a general election on the following day, members were more than ready for an evening of cheerful fun.

The entertainment was provided by the locally based Harvington Ukelele Band. The band consisted of around 30 members mainly playing ukeleles with backing rhythm from Derek Smith playing the double bass. There were special solo effects from some players with instruments such as a banjo.

WI members were provided with percussion instruments and encouraged to join in the singing of a wide selection of music ranging from seasonal favourites to hit songs of the past decades. Minds were kept firmly on the music and all cares were put to one side.

By the time refreshments were served to all present, everybody was ready to tuck into the festive fare. Many smiling faces left the hall at the end of the evening.

#### Forthcoming events

Future meetings to be held at Kington and Dormston Village Hall  
Prospective members and visitors are most welcome.

Wednesday 12th February at **2.00pm**: In House

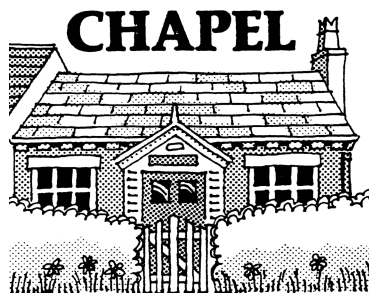
Wednesday 12th March at **2.00pm**: Christmas Boxes and Cushions

In addition to the monthly meetings, members are able to join a wide range of visits, courses, talks and social events.

Members may choose to meet for a social gathering at 10.30 am on the last Friday of the month at Auntea Ritas at Flyford Flavell.

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## **News from Stock & Bradley Parish Council**

### **Speed Checks in Stock & Bradley**

Two checks were carried out in January by PC Warren Edmunds one in Bradley Green on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January and the second in Stock Green on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

PC Edmunds monitored 100 cars in an hour in Bradley Green and 57 in Stock Green which would suggest that almost 50% of the cars going through Bradley Green are coming from the Inkberrow direction.

PC Edmunds was very impressed by the VAS as it recorded exactly the same speed as his speed gun and commented that he believed that it was "a major contributor in reducing the overall speeding through the village" and was the "most advanced he had seen".

The Parish Councillors would like to thank PC Edmunds for making Stock & Bradley a regular village for his speed checks.

### **Second VAS to be installed in Stock & Bradley**

The Parish Council are now in the process of ordering a second VAS for the village, this means that Stock & Bradley will each have a VAS permanently situated in their 30 mph area; we are also ordering two more posts which will enable the VAS's to be moved to different positions as well, as we were informed this also helps reduce speeding.

## **Airband Information and Update Meeting**

**7pm, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**

**Bradley Green Village hall**

As you may know Airband are in the process of taking orders and installing ultra-fast Fibre-to-your-Door in both Stock & Bradley, come along to hear the latest news and implementation plans – refreshments will be provided.

## **Are you concerned about the increase in Rural Crime?**

**Crime Prevention Open Evening**

**7pm, Thursday 27th February 2020**

**Kington & Dormston Village Hall**

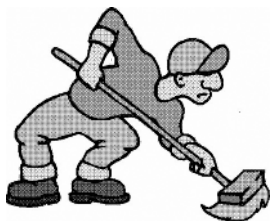
You are invited to come and hear about initiatives to improve the security of your home, property and belongings.

Mike Simpson, Rural Crime Officer will be present to answer your questions and concerns.

Please put the following dates in your diary:

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March,**

**Annual Village Litter Pick**



The Parish Council are organising the Annual Village Litter Pick on the Morning of **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**, so please make a note in your diary and come and support this worthwhile activity. Teams will meet at 10.00 at the Village Hall Bradley Green or at the Phone Box in Stock Green, we will supply all equipment required, if we get enough support it will only take an hour or so out of your day.



As usual pickers, tabards and gloves will be provided, but return them please



**Join the Parish Council for the Great British Spring Clean  
20 March - 13 April 2020**

**This is the country's biggest mass-action environmental campaign.**

Keep Britain Tidy want to inspire over 600,000 people to join forces to clear litter pollution from our streets, parks and beaches.

**We're counting on you to help make the Great British Spring Clean even bigger and better in 2020!**

Next Meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 in the Village Hall

[RogertheClerk@outlook.com](mailto:RogertheClerk@outlook.com)



Rous Lench and Inkberrow Royal British Legion branch would like to thank all those who contributed to the £9100.24 raised for the Poppy Fund in 2019. This amount includes poppy boxes in shops and businesses, individual donations and our loyal band of house to house poppy collectors. Also included are proceeds from our three coffee mornings and Remembrance Service Collection. Chris Bonehill, Poppy Co-ordinator.



# FUNDRAISING FASHION SHOW

18TH MARCH 2020 AT 6.30/7PM

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