

Stock & Bradley **Chronicle**

May 2020.

Worcestershire



Jean Margaret Purbrick of Orchard Cottage, Bradley Green who sadly passed away on 12th March surrounded by her loved ones.

She was born on 30th August 1935, sister to Philip and dearest daughter to Kathleen and Geoffrey Andrew in Cottingham, East Riding of Yorkshire. Wife of Rod, mummy to Alison, Jane and Anne. Granny to Kate, Laura, Ben, James, Christopher, Hannah and Aaron.

Her original ambition was to be a nurse but she followed in her mother's footsteps and graduated in Institutional Management for large scale catering. She obtained the position of Catering Manager at Nottingham Teacher Training College where she met Rod and they were married in July 1963.

Due to Rod's job, she spent most of her married life moving around the country with her children to wherever Rod needed to be based. From Cornwall to London to Birmingham to Harrogate from where she moved to Bradley Green in 1991.

She raised her girls to be strong, independent women, attending many different schools and universities between them. Helping with the grandchildren was something she made a priority - especially when Jane had twins. She had a great sense of humour and the girls often had hysterical giggling fits that left their stomach muscles aching.

Jean was an excellent cook and her recipes will live on and the family will treasure each meal she taught them to cook.

She loved to draw and paint taking great pleasure in the art lessons in the village hall with Malcolm Brooks where she learnt many new techniques. She recently shared out her artwork and her family have some to remind them of how special she was and how it's never too late to try something new.

Jean was very fond of gardening and flowers in particular. Her spring garden at home was a delight to behold. Recently her favourite hobby was watching all the birds on the feeders; gold finches, chaffinches, long-tailed tits and woodpeckers in particular.

She was talented at knitting, crocheting and sewing and she proudly made the altar kneelers for the village church. She was an avid reader of books and liked to share her library and talk about the stories. She helped to run the library at the village Drop-In group.

Family holidays were mainly taken in Cornwall, Devon and France and when Rod retired, they enjoyed cruises in the Fjords, the Baltic and the Mediterranean. Her favourite holiday was the Isles of Scilly and the love of this special place lives on in her family.

Jean was the kindest and most genuine person you could ever know, with never a bad word to say about anyone. The love Jean felt for her family and friends was constant and will never end. She was loved by everyone who knew her. She was a very special person and will be greatly missed. She has left her family with so many happy memories that will help them all smile again.

"Beneath around you and above are the arms of every lasting love".



Editorial

Sitting in the garden on Easter Sunday writing this enjoying the sunshine and the plants bursting with life all seems well with the world and yet it is in a state that we have never

known it before. Some time ago in conversation we said we wondered whether these days people would volunteer in a time of crisis as all the young men and women did in the world wars, now we know that that community spirit is still there. So many people have volunteered to help the NHS in whatever form is required of them.

The doctors and nurses and all the back- up staff, together with lorry drivers bringing much needed supplies, shop workers and refuse collectors are all doing their jobs and keeping the country working. They are doing a splendid job for us all for which we must be thankful.

What has all this taught us, that the pace of life was too fast, that we can manage without things {including toilet paper} that we thought we had to have, that we need to think of the needs of others, either by offering help or just a kind word to someone living alone. As hard as it is to not be able to meet with family and friends we need to be aware that our careless actions may result in someone else contracting this awful virus.

It has also shown how in adversity people can show great humour for we all need to be able to smile and enjoy a laugh, and then there have been such exceptional people such as Captain Tom, who himself is amazed at the result of his endeavours, and of the generosity of the public.

Another three weeks of lockdown but we will survive to enjoy life again, we will appreciate things that before we just took for granted. Stay safe and keep well.

CHRONICLE - Because of current limitations in delivering the Chronicle the printed edition will be limited to subscribers and on request.

The Chronicle is on line, search **Stock and Bradley Parish Council** and look for **Publications** and is sent by email to contributors - if you would like to receive the emailed version or a printed copy please send your details to **sbchronicle@gmail.com**

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.

Cover -Goldcrest at my bedroom window - photo DW

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Church Services at Bradley Green

NO SERVICES FOR THE TIME BEING



Dear Friends

I hope you are keeping safe and well and that where you are unable to get out yourself that your neighbours, family or friends are making sure you all you need.

Times such as these make us ask serious questions and ponder what we think is really important - and what isn't.

For some their faith has been a great help, for others perhaps they question how a loving God "allows" these things to happen. There are answers to such questions - but they are difficult answers that demand much of us.

Whilst Christians must engage enthusiastically with the ways we can help our neighbours - near and far - we know that there are many of all faiths and no faith who do these things too.

Our gift to the world is, in some ways, a hidden one - it is to love, to remember the forgotten, to pray and hold the whole world, human, animal, plant, and the good earth herself, before God, in the sure faith that God is in every place, as well as acting with us to practically relieve other's needs.

God does not "allow" suffering, and God certainly does not send it as a test. We demand to be free and that means we live in a universe where every creature is free to live and try to survive and propagate its own species. The Coronavirus is not evil, it is simply doing what comes naturally to it, as it does to all living things, to work to survive. It has no idea that means that many of its human hosts die in the process.

What God does allow is for us to use the opportunity to love, to act, to change the way we live as individuals and as a society so that we ensure that the sick are cared for and healed, and that all who are victims have their suffering relieved as much as possible.

Whilst we all miss being able to meet in our lovely church buildings many of us have discovered new ways of meeting on the Internet. If you have a computer, laptop, tablet or just a smart phone you can join in. One or two come in pyjamas and I love taking a service with a mug of coffee to hand! If you email me on wynbeynon@gmail.com then I will send you the information.

If that isn't possible, or it doesn't appeal, don't forget that there are excellent resources on TV and radio - broadcast services and religious programmes.

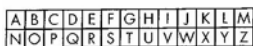
May God bless you where you are, may you keep safe and grow in grace through these strange days.

best wishes,

Wyn

Alphafit from April

Each letter of the alphabet has been removed from the grid just once.



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STOCK AND BRADLEY GARDENING CLUB

GardenClub cancelled until further notice

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



The Plant Heritage Plant Exchange

Rob Cole

Plant Heritage is a national charity devoted to conserving garden plants, especially those which have become rare or unobtainable through nurseries. Each year they hold a Plant Exchange scheme for members.

As long standing members, we have had about 90 plants from the scheme over the years, far more than we have donated back. But because we have the opportunity of bulking up these plants on the nursery and spreading them around, we feel we are doing our bit for plant conservation.

Some are now included in our stock range of plants for sale. Many are still being bulked up on the nursery or in the garden, some have been lost, and some have even been stolen! We had a reasonable number of *Schizostylis coccinea* 'Red Dragon' propagated for sale, and then the whole batch was stolen from the nursery early one Sunday morning. We found them for sale that same day at a local car boot sale at 50p each - the police, three months later, decided not to prosecute due to lack of evidence.

Some we have deemed to be coarse and not worthy of the ornamental garden, amongst them *Ribes menziesii*, *Sambucus caerulea*, and *Echinops tournefortii*. They may be rare but we can't grow everything and prefer to stick to the more beautiful plants! They might be rare, but it's often because nobody wants them.

Some plants have come to us with probably incorrect names. *Aster novi-belgii* 'Royal Blue' was the softest pale blue, semi double, about 80cm high and free of mildew. Our best guess is that it might be 'Porzellan', but we have not offered it for sale because of the doubt. The *Helonium* 'July Sun' which we received is possibly 'Bressingham Gold' - it is certainly identical in all respects. It is bright yellow, very floriferous and very tall - over 1.8m (6ft) this year.

The hose-in-hose form of *Primula veris* which we received turned out to be plain cowslip when it flowered, but we eventually acquired the correct plant from elsewhere, and have been able to donate a correct one to the Plant Exchange.

Most, however, have been beautiful. *Clematis* 'Dulcie', *Narcissus* 'Butter and Eggs', *Narcissus* 'Lune de Miel', and *Aster* 'Beechwood Rival' spring readily to mind, and we are very pleased to have them all through the generosity of the national Plant Heritage members.

VILLAGE HALL bookings contact
Rachel Cresswell on 07854 483684

Village Hall Committee

Chairman Mel Bates,

Vice chairman

Treasurer Stella Wallis

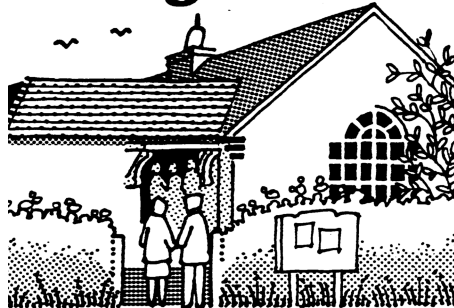
Caretaker Rachel Cresswell

Jan Bates, Karen Devereaux

Barry Newton, Liz Farquharson

and Wendy Ralphs

Village Hall



Village Hall AGM and Annual Parish Meeting ??

100+ Club

The draw for the Stock and Bradley 100+ Club for April 2020 has been made by Mr Scott Newton on 14th April 2020. The results were as follows:

1st Prize: - No: 44 Mr Adam Dankenbring

2nd Prize: - No: 35 Mr Reg Hughes

3rd Prize: - No: 60 Mrs Hilary Grundy

Please note : Winning members for March and April will receive their prize money as soon as possible.



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The number of theories as to why people collect is probably as large as the variety of items people collect and any collector bothered about their activity can plump for the explanation most comfortable to them.

The hard facts are limited and probably impossible to determine exactly. What does seem to be universally true is that some 30% of the population are collectors; that this is in no way a gender issue and that it seems to be built into the human psyche.

I am a collector of books, of recorded music and stamps. I suspect that my 'drivers' are not straightforward and vary over time. When I say I am a book collector it has nothing to do with First Editions or signed copies.

At one stage it certainly had something to do with a strange fear of having nothing to do and since the local library sold tired or unread copies at 'peanuts' this I found irresistible. And since my taste has always been eclectic and my reading speed excessively fast, everything I bought got read and since my memory by a freak of nature was all encompassing this did carry with it social advantages. I distinguished between this kind of accumulation and ensuring that I also had a wide range of professional literature to enable me to do my job.

But by this stage in my life all is slightly coloured by the realisation that I probably don't have enough years to do all I want to and that my academic reading is solely to meet my own as yet unextinguished curiosity.

My poor wife has to live with my vast accumulation of vinyl and cd's. I admit they are everywhere and range from all genres of classical (except for serial composer), through light music, jazz and country and western. I would like to believe that the number of disc I have never actually listened to is small in number. The range of music I enjoy essentially records our life except for the big gap covering the music generated from the early sixties to children reaching maturity. In truth unless I am really interested my attention span makes listening to folk music tedious.

So where does stamp collecting come into all this. At Christmas my father would get out his stamp album and would talk about the stamps, the countries they came from and the background to the design. In a way they were an educational toy which certainly widened my horizon and stimulated the curiosity that was away there in later life indeed until I retired I was no more than an accumulator with the thought at the back of my mind that if I hoovered enough up I would have the basis to enable me to move first to being a stamp collector and then become a philatelist.

Dad collected stamps in the era when it made sense to have a whole world stamp album. I never asked him why he collected but then for his generation there was no television and, however middle class you were, money was limited. I still have a few stamp catalogues from his collecting days but these were basic and not specialised. The energy I give/ gave to philately he devoted to exploring local history - a significantly more worthy pursuit since he shared it in talks and booklets and in establishing a large group of likeminded persons.



For myself initially I accumulated stamps from the countries I had lived in or visited but did nothing with them for years - family and work obviously had first priority.

I suppose the first country whose stamps I collected seriously was Bosnia- Herzegovina but even here my interest was restricted to the period of Austrian occupation from 1878 until the collapse of the Austro- Hungarian in 1919. I not only collected stamps but postmark and field post stamps and indeed played my part in the translation of the first significant description in English as to that territories postal history.

Why this territory. Well in the first place the Balkans had never seriously figured in my thinking and so my level of knowledge of the history of the region let alone its geography and commerces were slight indeed though I had read Rebecca West's two volume work 'Black Lamb and Grey Falcon' and secondly to be honest this was an unfashionable area so prices of stamps were low.

Suddenly the need to know more about the Ottoman Empire, the tensions between Austro-Hungary and Serbian Croatia and Bosnia became a necessity and what an eye opening learning experience that was. The track of the Austrian military could be followed through the postmarks of cards from serving soldiers and the stamps of the period from 1906 were among the most attractive in the world.

But on top of all that I had to learn about the printing process, the machines used to perforate stamps and the various papers used. I also recognised for the first time that skull duggery was basic to the hobby. Eminent Austrians with clout persuaded the authorities to manipulate the perforating machines so that to collect the whole set some 1700 stamps had to be collected.

You cannot understand this part of the world without realising the Croats are Roman Catholics, the Serbians are Russian orthodox while Bosnia is around a third Muslim. To that has to be added the two big brothers lurking in the wings - Russia and Austro-Hungary, a history which saw the Ottomans enslaving young men to form their Janissaries, a geography of deep valleys each populated by a distinct clan and a built in readiness to fight.

Eventually reaching the stage where these stamps became interesting to others and so, expensive, and in truth there were few gaps in my collection I moved on to explore and collect the stamps of the Malay Arc of Islands.

These territories which are geographically very close to Australia are very much a Muslim world. Nonetheless traders from many parts of Europe found their way here of which the Dutch and British were the most successful. Over several hundred years the literature is full of stories of adventure and conquest. The Dutch who conquered Indonesia seemed to approach colonialisation in a different way from the British who used their time honoured approach of putting English capital into funding trading companies. So territories like Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo came into existence and of course Singapore.

All territories actually leased from the original ruler. In the case of Sarawak an English family actually ruled for three generations.

These are areas where stamp collectors have to proceed with great caution. For example the British North Borneo Company, producing attractive stamps, realised that sales to Philatelist's could earn a healthy income and since they were independent of the Crown, were not illegal. Far more stamps from this territory were

sold in London rather than in the territory. The establishment of the Universal Postal Union offered new opportunities to rook gullible collectors. Over prints abound and determining which may have been postally used can be very difficult.

But actually the charm of the early stamps from this period was that they were printed from engraved stones. The stamps came in panes of 100 and since the stones were individually carved no one stone was identical to another. Plating stamps is a fundamental activity of the hobby for many collectors and let us not forget it all started in Kidderminster with the birth of Sir Roland Hill.

Personally I do not collect modern stamps but many do since countries use their postal issues almost as an adjunct to their efforts to increase tourists. This actually is not new. Indeed many countries use their stamp issues to enhance individuals nationalistic feelings, to promote propaganda as well as make money. Think of a territory like the Caymans with a total population of just over 60,000. Even allowing for tourists the need for stamps for postal use is minute but issuing their stamps does meet the criteria above.

To respond to this flow of what are often miniature works of Art now, people collect so-called thematics stamps featuring insects, birds, seashells, animals, churches and almost everything you can imagine. Such collections may be decried by the hard core of conventional philatelists but this is I think mistaken though it does not interest me. Collecting the stamps of countries you have enjoyed visiting is perhaps as useful a spur to the memory or the countless photographs taken without actually taking in the view.

We all collect to meet our own needs and interests. It should not be regarded in the same way as stocks and shares because stamps only have value if other collectors want them and moods change rapidly. Prices in catalogues are generally very misleading.

If they have any reality it is only for stamps in absolutely prime condition. And this means no missing perforations, designs well centred and unmounted mint but the mint needs to not show the effects of sunlight or fingerprints. If the stamps are used, the requirements are as stringent - postmarks which are tidy but not so tidy as to suggest the stamps have been cancelled to order and actually postally used. Remember also they are selling prices. The reality is that if you sell your stamps the going rate for used is around 12.5% of catalogue value, for mounted mint perhaps 25% and for unmounted stamps prior to say 1939 45% . Collect for pleasure not for your pension. Think of the beauty of the artwork, the incredible technology behind the production of stamps and the history of the countries they come from and you may well find it a most satisfying activity.

I confess I have sold stamps when family financial needs required it but I have built up years of experience, including awareness of the market. Generally if I can cover my initial costs plus inflation I am very happy. I have had the odd strike of luck when I have made a small 'killing', but very few such and often by chance not by any clever thinking on my part.

Adrian Parsons



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A Birthday for May

This birthday is particularly apposite for Florence Nightingale was born on 12th May 1820, 200 years ago, in Florence, hence the name. Her parents were wealthy, her father was a banker and they were able to spend quite a time abroad. Florence's father believed that his children should have a wide education, she had a flair for mathematics, studied science and learnt languages. Most young ladies of that period had a very restricted life, a circle of social activity with the purpose of finding a suitable gentleman to make a 'good' marriage.

Florence believed that she was spoken too by God and that she should do important work for those who were suffering. She wished to become a nurse but such activity was seen to be demeaning, dirty, work, not suitable for a person in her position. She respected her parent's wishes. She turned down an offer of marriage after a nine year courtship, because she feared it would interfere with her calling to be a nurse.

In 1847 she met Sidney Herbert in Rome, and they became lifelong friends. She travelled through Greece and Egypt and whilst in Thebes she had a calling from God again to do good for Him. It wasn't until 1851 that she managed to persuade her father to let her visit a Lutheran religious community in Germany where she received training in caring for the sick.

In 1853 she took up the position of Superintendent at the Institute for the Care of Sick Gentlemen in Upper Harley Street.

By 1854 Sidney Herbert was Secretary at War and he persuaded Florence to collect 35 nurses to go out to Scutari to help care for the soldiers injured in the Crimean War. The patients were in poor condition for it took two weeks to sail from the Crimea to Scutari, many had amputations, and the hospital offered little comfort. The conditions there were appalling, the hospital was filthy, men sleeping on the floor in their own excrement, rats and bugs everywhere. Her first task was to clean everything, clear out the drains and repair the toilets. There were no decent clean sheets, no bandages, the food that was supplied was very poor. She contacted the press at home and raised money to allow for purchase of medical supplies and food. She set up a hospital kitchen and trained her staff to care for the wounded. The main cause of death was from infection but with improved sanitation and nourishment the death rate fell but even then compared with other hospitals the rate was still very high. Florence had no formal medical training and the knowledge of bacteria was still not known. It was her care for patients, particularly her evening rounds of the ward with a lamp to enable her to see, that she earned the name of The lady with the Lamp.

On her return to England, Florence, who had become quite famous, began collecting evidence to put before the Royal Commission on the Health of the Army stating that the high death rate in the military hospitals was due to poor living conditions and she turned her attention to sanitary designing of hospitals and the introduction of sanitation in homes. The medical and military staff were not happy to accept her criticisms and her solutions, but she persevered.

In 1855, the Nightingale Fund was established for the training of nurses to recognise her war work. It was generously supported. There was £45,000 pounds at

her disposal with which she set up the Nightingale Training School at St Thomas' Hospital in 1860. The first trained nurses started work on 16th May 1965 at the Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary, now called the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery and is part of King's College London.

She wrote a book 'Notes on Nursing' which became the curriculum for the Nightingale School but it was also meant for home nursing, hygiene being foremost with such things as the thorough washing of hands and utensils.

She trained Linda Richards who was America's first trained nurse who returned to America to set up a training school there, and also in Japan.

By 1882 several Nightingale trained nurses became matrons throughout Britain and also in Australia.

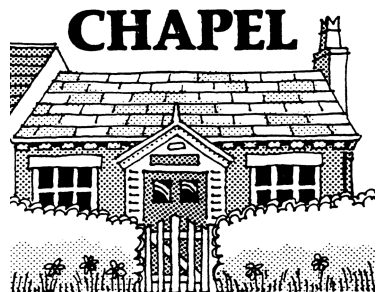
In 1883 she became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross and also many other awards.

Unfortunately she suffered from poor health and for periods was bedridden, but her output of work was phenomenal in the field of hospital planning and in social reform. Her last few years were difficult as she lost her sight and also her mental acuity. She died on August 13th 1910 peacefully at home in London and although there was an offer for her to be buried in Westminster Abbey this was refused and she is buried in East Wellow in Hampshire.

What an amazing impact this life has had on all our lives and of so many since her day, she must have been a most formidable lady, inspired by a desire to serve, to quote 'her zeal, her devotion, and her perseverance would yield no rebuff and to no difficulty. She went steadily and unwearyingly about her work with a judgement, a self-sacrifice, a courage, a tender sympathy, and withal a quiet and unostentatious demeanour that won the hearts of all'.

This surely describes the work of the NHS today of which she laid the foundations.
.Country correspondent

STOCK GREEN BAPTIST CHAPEL NO SERVICES FOR THE TIME BEING



COVID-19

As we enter the next 3 weeks of lockdown here is an IMPORTANT summary of some of the confusing advice:

1. You MUST NOT leave the house for any reason, but if you have a reason, you can leave the house.
2. Masks are useless at protecting you against the virus, but you may have to wear one because it can save lives, but they may not work, but they may be mandatory, but maybe not.
3. Shops are closed, except those shops that are open.
4. You must not go to work but you can get another job and go to work.
5. You should not go to the doctors or to the hospital unless you have to go there, unless you are too poorly to go there.
6. This virus can kill people, but don't be scared of it. It can only kill those people who are vulnerable or those people who are not vulnerable people. It's possible to contain and control it, sometimes, except that sometimes it actually leads to a global disaster.
7. Gloves won't help, but they can still help so wear them sometimes or not.
8. STAY HOME, but it's important to go out.
9. There is no shortage of groceries in the supermarkets, but there are many things missing. Sometimes you won't need loo rolls but you should buy some just in case you need some.
10. The virus has no effect on children except those children it affects.
11. Animals are not affected, but there is still a cat that tested positive in Belgium in February when no one had been tested, plus a few tigers here and there.
12. Stay 2 metres away from tigers (see point 11).
13. You will have many symptoms if you get the virus, but you can also get symptoms without getting the virus, get the virus without having any symptoms or be contagious without having symptoms, or be non contagious with symptoms.

14. To help protect yourself you should eat well and exercise, but eat whatever you have on hand as it's better not to go out shopping.

15. It's important to get fresh air but don't go to parks but go for a walk. But don't sit down, except if you are old, but not for too long or if you are pregnant or if you're not old or pregnant but need to sit down. If you do sit down don't eat your picnic.

16. Don't visit old people but you have to take care of the old people and bring them food and medication.

17. If you are sick, you can go out when you are better but anyone else in your household can't go out when you are better unless they need to go out.

18. You can get restaurant food delivered to the house. These deliveries are safe. But groceries you bring back to your house have to be decontaminated outside for 3 hours including Pizza.

19. You can't see your older mother or grandmother, but they can take a taxi and meet an older taxi driver.

20. You are safe if you maintain the safe social distance when out but you can't go out with friends or strangers at the safe social distance.

21. The virus remains active on different surfaces for two hours ... or four hours... six hours... I mean days, not hours... But it needs a damp environment. Or a cold environment that is warm and dry... in the air, as long as the air is not plastic.

22. Schools are closed so you need to home educate your children, unless you can send them to school because you're not at home. If you are at home you can home educate your children using various portals and virtual class rooms, unless you have poor internet, or more than one child and only one computer, or you are working from home. Baking cakes can be considered maths, science or art. If you are home educating you can include household chores to be education. If you are home educating you can start drinking at 10am.

23. If you are not home educating children you can also start drinking at 10am.



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IN THE TIME OF QUIET

No one's told the daffodils about the pause to Spring
And no one's told the birds to roost and asked them not to sing
No one's asked the lazy bee to cease his bumbling round
And no one's stopped the bright green shoots emerging through the ground
No one's told the sap to rest, deep within the wood
And stop the sleepy trees from waking, wreathed about in bud
No one's told the sky to douse its brightest shades of blue
And stop the scudding clouds from puffing headlong into view
No one's asked the lambs to still the springs beneath their feet,
To stop their rapid rush and quell each joyful bleat
No one's told the stream to halt its gurgle or its flow
And warned the playful breezes, not to gust and blow
No one's asked the raindrops not to fall upon the earth
And fail to quench the soil in the season of rebirth
No one's locked the sun down, or dimmed the shimmer of the moon
And even in the darkest night, the stars are still immune
Remember what you value, remember who is dear
Close the doors to danger and keep your family near
In the quiet all around us take the time to sit and stare
And wonder at the glory unfurling everywhere
Look towards the future, after the ordeal
And keep faith in Mother Nature's power and will to heal

BOB FISH

My family would like to join me in thanking all our friends and neighbours in Stock and Bradley for their wonderful support and encouragement over the past two weeks. Such acts of kindness, offers of help, cards, letters and words of sympathy were so comforting. The sight of so many of you, who were not permitted to attend the funeral, standing at the roadside to wave farewell to Bob was particularly moving and humbling and such an outpouring of love will be remembered fondly for ever. What an amazing community we live in.

Thank you and bless you.

Marg

