

Stock & Bradley **Chronicle** *August 2020. Worcestershire*



Parish Council News
Annual Village Litter Pick
Saturday 12th September

The Parish Council are organising the Annual Village Litter Pick on the Morning of **Saturday 12th September**, 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 please return them please



Be part of the Great British September Clean Up

From 11th September to 27th September 2020

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

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



Wheelie Bin Stickers

We have some 30 mph wheelie bin stickers, if you would like some please e-mail your name and address to RogertheClerk@outlook.com

Next Meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 9th September at 7.30 in the Village Hall

.....
.....
Chronicle Appeal . . . Please post TODAY Thank you!

It's that time of year again when the Chronicle seeks your help to continue providing copies free to residents. Your support, however large or small, is very much appreciated.

Donations to 'Stock and Bradley Chronicle' should be sent to
The Editor

Mrs Jan Bates, 'White Cottage', Stock Green, Redditch B966SZ
or Treasurer

Mrs Mary Waring 'Staddle Stones', Stock Green, Redditch B966TB

Editorial

At last there is a little light at the end of the tunnel, slowly life is beginning to return to some form of 'normality'. Hopefully this movement will continue without a second spike of Covid. It was fortunate that whilst people were on lockdown the weather was good, I can't imagine how many people would have been seriously depressed if it had been cold, wet and grey. Now there are museums, National Trust properties and zoos open for us to visit. Barbecues are going to be overworked, at last giving the men a chance to do a bit of cooking!

I was disappointed with the questionnaire results, seriously does no one care what does or doesn't go in to the Chronicle. I upset someone considerably recently as a result of the poem (it was meant to show how so many endangered species are being culled for dubious reasons) but at least it meant someone had read the Chronicle and felt very strongly about an article, that is better than no response at all.

It was suggested that we put in more information about residents of the two villages but unless someone gives me some information this is not a viable suggestion. A small number of people said they might be prepared to send me some material and for that I say 'thank you' please let me have it.

It is no good looking back, but when you read the history of the Village Hall and how money was raised to build it, the dances, the whist drives and the fetes you can see how much life has changed. Although the villages are the same, perhaps a few more properties, there is less community spirit because everyone lives their own busy life and so I think we have lost that feeling of companionship, how sad!

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 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 - Rose Just Joey - photo Nicky Colson

EDITOR - MRS JAN BATES, 01386792414 White Cottage, Stock Green, Redditch B96 6SZ
TREASURER - MRS MARY WARING, 01386792134 Staddle Stones, Stock Green, Redditch B96 6TB
PRODUCTION - DAVID WARING

PRINTED AND BOUND BY Parish Magazine Printing
PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH STOCK AND BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

COPY DATE - 14th Email : sbchronicle@gmail.com

Church Services at Bradley Green

NO CHURCH SERVICES FOR THE TIME BEING

SERVICES USING ZOOM

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10.30am for 11am

TUESDAY HOLY COMMUNION 8pm for 8.15pm

Fortnightly Contemplative Prayer (First and Third Thursdays) 8 for 8.15pm

Meeting ID: 686 311 6347 Password: 777



Dear Friends,

This is the first magazine issue to be delivered since the beginning of Lockdown. I hope you have fared well... but I know from the funerals I've done over the past months that local families have lost loved ones to Covid-19 and that many, if not most, families know, are or at least aware of, victims and their families. I lost an old family friend, aged 95, just last month.

It has affected everybody. But not equally, The poor and those of certain racial backgrounds - often races from the poorest places and with underlying negative conditions - have suffered the worse. Into this came the murder of George Floyd by an American policeman. I have no qualms about calling it murder as the whole event is clearly recorded on video. Black lives matter. The response "all lives matter", or worse still, "white lives matter" is sickening because it means people willfully ignore what is being said.

This cartoon sums that 'reactionary reaction'...



Christ Straub Chainsawsuit.com with thanks

Or as Jesus would have put it... the parable of the good Samaritan... We must care disproportionately for those who need it, whoever they are.

Covid19 has shown up the best in our society, Thank you! And the worst... and the jury is still out as to which will dominate in the future.

Best wishes, Wyn

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



Stock and Bradley Village Hall

“100+ Club” 2020/2021

Rules

1. The Annual subscription to the Club will be **£15**, payable in advance.
2. No monies received by the Club will be refunded.
3. A draw for ONE prize of **£30**, ONE prize of **£20** and ONE prize of **£15** will be held monthly for ELEVEN months from August 2020 until June 2021, inclusive.
4. There will be an Annual Social Event in July 2021 at which the final Main Draw will take place with ELEVEN cash prizes as follows
1 @ £100, 2 @ £50, 3 @ £25 and 5 @ £10
5. ONLY FULLY PAID UP MEMBERS will be eligible to take part in the Prize Draws.
6. Each Member will be allocated a NUMBER and will be notified accordingly.
This Number cannot be changed.
7. A Member may have more than one Number.
8. Winners of the Monthly Draw are eligible for all subsequent draws.
9. Members can only win ONE prize in the Final Annual Main Draw.
10. In the case of any dispute over the interpretation of the Rules, the decision of the Promoter is final.

Stock and Bradley Village Hall

'100+ Club' 2020/2021

Reminder

For new and existing members of the Stock & Bradley 100+ Club

This club has members throughout the two villages and beyond.

Through an annual subscription of £15 per person the maintenance and refurbishment of the Village Hall is supported. The club is now a major contributor to raising funds to maintain this valuable facility.

We are inviting you to re-join the club and be entered into our monthly and annual draws for 2020/2021. Details about the monthly and annual draw is attached.

In a change to previous renewal membership and in an effort to reduce form filling and unnecessary bureaucracy we are asking members to sign up using this dedicated email address below. Please provide your name, address and telephone number and existing club number (if you can remember!). Any details provided are kept for the sole purpose of running the club.

Email : stockandbradley100club@gmail.com

On receipt of your email a copy of the club details and request for monies will be sent out. Once the subscription is received a final confirmation will be returned to you. Closing date for entry has been extended to **August 15th**

Your support would be much appreciated and greatly benefit the Village Hall. Thank you.

Barry Newton – 100+Club Organiser

Ashcroft, Earls Common Road, Stock Green

Tel: 01386 793812

NATIONAL AWARD WINNING COMMUNITY SHOP



The Village Shop
Dorset Road, Feckenham

- Coffee Shop
- Local Produce
- Deli



Weekdays 8am - 6pm
Saturday 9am - 2pm
Sunday 10am - 1pm

feckenhamshop.co.uk  01527 894475



FREE DELIVERY



Stock and Bradley Village Hall Annual Report 2019/20

Maintenance: The main item for the year was the replacement of all skirtings in the main Hall and an area of rotten flooring on the North side next to the wall. During the inspection some underfloor joists near the kitchen end of the Hall were also found to be rotting and were replaced as a precaution. Total cost was £2026. During 2020, repairs will be needed to the small exit door from the kitchen.

100 Club: Following reductions in recent earlier years, membership of the Club has stabilised at just over 100 with most new residents joining. Barry and Carole Newton again kindly organised and provided a lovely afternoon cream tea for members in June when the Annual Draw took place. Arrangements at the Hall for this year have to date had to be cancelled due to Covid -19.

Finances: Up to March 2020 income and expenditure have been roughly in balance, however, this is likely to change substantially as a result of lockdown. The Treasurer has applied for a grant offered by Wychaven Council to assist Village Halls and other community facilities in these uncertain times. Fingers Crossed!! Unfortunately due to lack of numbers the "Annual Quiz", an important source of funds, was cancelled. Current funds stand at a little over £9,000.

Housekeeping: Again the Committee would like to thank Rachel sincerely for her hard work and commitment in looking after the cleaning of the Hall and taking care of all the bookings.

Westfield Cottage: After a month of prolonged heavy rain and a biblical storm, the Management Committee was informed on 27th October that Westfield Cottage, a property next to the Village Hall had been flooded. The owner Mr. Barnes believed that the Village Hall drainage system was responsible for the flooding and demanded that the Hall accept total liability. The Committee suggested to Mr. Barnes that he contact his insurers and that if they agreed with his assessment then the Hall would alert its insurer and the two companies could meet to hopefully resolve the situation. Unfortunately Mr. Barnes instead went to his lawyer with the result that after several demanding letters a notice was issued in February against the Hall's Trustees to either admit total liability immediately or go to court. The Committee had earlier contacted the Hall's insurer (Zurich) who was already investigating the case. This eventually involved meetings with a Loss Adjuster and a Surveyor at the Hall. On 24th April the Committee were informed that following the detailed reports of their investigators Zurich were dismissing Mr. Barnes claim.

Airband: Following agreement between the Parish Council and Airband in November 2019 to install high speed fibre broadband to the two Villages, the Hall was contacted on 19th April by Airband with a request to install their equipment on Village Hall land. Two site meetings were held to discuss the proposed layout of the equipment and documentation was provided by both sides to cover the important issues. It was pointed out that being a Charitable Trust, the Committee would need to use a lawyer to advise on the contract. Mr.

Godwin of Parkinson Wright in Worcester was appointed. The documentation took some time to get right since Airband needed 4 attempts to get the Wayleave right, then when all seemed to be moving to the last lap by 27th May, Airband called Mr. Godwin on 1st June to inform him that they were not going to use the Village Hall site but one nearer the centre of the area for which they already had had a signed agreement prior to contacting the Village Hall and that some issues that had caused a delay to using this site had now been resolved and this site was now available. A letter of apology was requested by the Committee for wasting its time and one has since been received from Airband in which they agreed to pay Parkinson Wrights fees.

S.M.Bates Chairman



Beauty by Elizabeth
Skin Therapist
V.T.C.T.

find us on


face mapping
expert analysis targeted results

dermalogica

Fake Bake


Leading Nail Care

Flexible appointment times available

Telephone: 01527 822698
Mobile: 07890 978059

Beauty therapy, bio sculpture, massage, facials, gel nails, waxing, eyelash tinting, manicure, pedicure and many more!

Cider Mill House
Cider Mill Lane, Bradley Green Redditch,
Worcestershire B96 6TH



FLYING THE FLAG
Stella Wallis 01386 793350





Stock and Bradley Village Hall

1935 - 2010



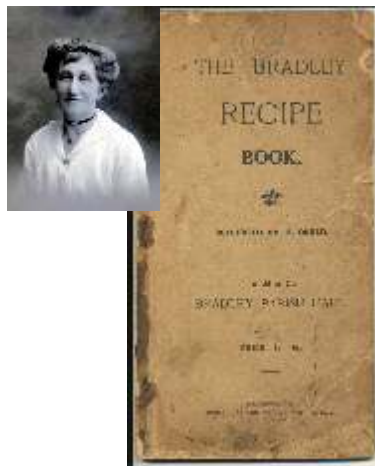
By John Whybrow 1924 - 2001
 Updated and edited by David Waring
 July 2010



Early days The village hall was completed just in time for its official opening on 26th January 1935. However it was planned well before that. The Great War of 1914-18 was a watershed in the life of the nation. Every town and village had its war memorial.

In 1921 Stock & Bradley, by public subscription, had installed a memorial rose window in the parish church. Following on from this and as a continuation of the community spirit, there was by 1923 the intent to have a village hall, possibly initiated by the rector, Rev J T Conan-Davis who was also chairman of the parish meeting. He was supported by Mr John Newton-Jones, his vice-chairman, by Mr Norman W Gould who was to become the treasurer, and by Councillor Reuben Inett, Stock & Bradley's representative on Droitwich Rural District Council. This seems an all-male cast. However, generally speaking, women are more sociable than men and it is probable that

the wives of these notables, together with other ladies of the parish were equally strong an influence in the founding of the village hall. In particular would have been the enthusiasm of Mrs Zaida Gould, president of the Womens' Institute. Zaida produced a recipe book which sold for 1s.6p. in aid of the hall and included recipes for Cocoonut Pie, Cheap Summer Pudding and Make-Me-Quickly-Cake among many others.



Mrs V Janet P Cresswell, after inquiring in 1986 from friends in the parish, recorded in the parish magazine, the *Chronicle*, the money-raising whist drives of those early days:

Whist drives would often be held in the Rectory, now the *Old Rectory* and today's home of the McKechnie family. Quite often as many as 30 tables would be in play. Imagine! - 120 people, in a private house, filling the rooms to capacity, even the bedrooms, hell-bent on winning and at the same time raising funds for the building of the parish hall. The ladies would arrive in their twenties-style dresses with their hat-pinned hats (which were never removed during the evening's play) and would sit very straight-backed and efficiently playing their hands. Can you see the chaos? It was so crowded that there was not room to change tables every hand. Only the kitchen would be free from card playing enthusiasts, but it would be well occupied by busy hands preparing refreshments. Two ham sandwiches each, a cake and a cup of tea - all for 1/6d. This 1/6d covered the entrance fee as well and a good time was had by all. Of course, there was no mains water supply in those days and if too much water was used for washing up after a whist drive, then the rector's family had to wait ages for a bath - perhaps until it rained.



Opening ceremony of fete at the Rectory c1933, to raise funds for forthcoming village hall. From left: District Coucillor Reuben Inett, Mr Norman W Gould (treasurer), Mrs D J Johnson (rector's wife), Mrs E J Thompson (principal guest, wife of Bank's Brewery chairman), Rev D J Johnson (rector), Mrs Molesworth. (Remainder unknown.)

The account book survives and shows that between 1923 and 1934 subscriptions, fetes and whist drives had raised over £600 towards the hall.

The Hall Building and Furnishing Account shows a total expenditure of £841.7s.3d. This included payments to the builder, G. Harrison & Son, £611.16s.8d., the architect Maurice W. Jones, £43.6s.7d and solicitor, J. Gabb £17.17s

Unfortunately further details are sparse, the village hall minute book covering the period having been lost.

In 1930 the new rector, the Revd D J Johnson, took over the reigns. By 1932, when plans were nearing completion, the present site for the hall was bought for £35. The field on the Tithe Award map of 1841 was described as a charity field belonging to Stock & Bradley Church. According to an undated pencil note in the back of the account book the deeds of the village hall were sent for safe keeping to the *National Council of Social Service*. The trustees were 'Rev. David John Johnson, Clerk in Holy Orders, Norman Webb Gould, School Attendance Officer, Sidney Frank Johnson, Battery Erector, and George Bertram Cocks, Farmer'. In October 1934 and whilst the hall was under construction by George Harrison & Son of Droitwich, the trustees applied for the *Bradley Parish Charity* to be approved by the Charity Commission. This was granted on 18th January 1935 under the title of *Stock & Bradley Village Hall*. The charity states that the purpose of the hall 'shall be for the purposes of physical and mental recreation and social moral and intellectual development, through the medium of reading and recreation rooms, library, lectures, classes, recreations and entertainments or otherwise as may be found expedient, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Stock & Bradley and its immediate vicinity, without distinction of sex or of political or other opinions.'



Revd David J Johnson,
Rector of Bradley, 1930-47

A week later, on Saturday January 26th, the village hall was officially opened by the Rt Hon Sir Bolton Eyres-Monsell, M.P. , an important personage, for in addition to being Worcestershire's M.P. he was also the First Lord of the Admiralty. But Mrs Sylvia Glover, then the teenage daughter of Rector Johnson, has given (2000) this irreverent, behind-the-scenes account of the event:

I vaguely remember the opening day of the village hall - a bitter, dull day with a strong east wind blowing. Mum, Dad (the rector) and I went to the hall in the morning to help put out the chairs. My father was always affected by an east wind and was niggly. Every chair Mum and I put out - he altered the position slightly, until I flaunted off into the kitchen, angrily saying to mother, 'Oh! for goodness sake let him do it himself'. All I can recall of the actual opening by Sir Bolton E-M was being introduced to him and his saying, 'What cold hands you've got, my dear! Never mind, that means a warm heart.' I remember thinking, 'Big creep!' - or whatever the equivalent slang was in those days.



Coronation celebrations 1937

Once the hall was opened there were regular whist drives and dances - sometimes on the same day. Initially, dancing was to a quartet, Mr & Mrs George B Cocks playing respectively the violin and piano, with another violinist and a drum player completing the ensemble - so recalls Mr Reginald T Cocks who as a schoolboy had watched the hall being built. As regards social activities, there were the usual breaks in the summer and at harvest times. This pattern continued until the war came when whist drives fell off. Between 1940 and 1942, when the Britain had its back to the wall, there were fewer activities. The hall was let out from time to time to the Women's Institute and for Air Raid Precautions meetings. However, by 1943, when the tide of war was about to turn, the dances increased gradually to almost weekly events. Some sponsored the Red Cross, St Dunstons, Redditch Hospital, the Worcester Royal Infirmary and similar good causes.

Next month After the war.

STOCK AND BRADLEY GARDENING CLUB

Garden Club cancelled until further notice

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

Helenium 'Feckenham Ruby'

Rob Cole



Heleniums are stars of the early summer garden and usually flower from the end of June until late August, especially if deadheaded regularly as the flowers go over. There are many varieties to choose from and we are always looking for new ones to try.

In August 2004 we attended a Plant Fair at Audley End House near Saffron Waldon, and noticed one of the stallholders had a number of Heleniums for sale. Amongst them was a dark red unnamed seedling which took our eye, and we were told that it had been raised from seed purchased as 'Red and Gold Hybrids'. We bought it for our newly developing garden, little realising that it would become a plant which many of our July and August visitors would admire and ask for.



Because it aroused so much interest, we let it bulk up for a few years, and then began to propagate it for sale. We named it 'Feckenham Ruby' and sold it for the first time in 2010 and it has proved as popular on the sales table as it has in the garden.

Martin Blow, who held a National Collection of Helenium at the time, has told us that the seed strain involved has *Helenium autumnale* in its blood, and that this would account for the late flowering period. A number of other named cultivars have their origins in the same seed strain, too.

'Feckenham Ruby' stands 90cm tall at flowering time, has good clean, fresh green foliage, and the flower colour starts as a dusky ruby red, and pales a little as it matures and goes over. It starts to flower in mid August, and carries on looking good into late October.

We have never dead-headed our plants as the flowers seem to keep coming from side shoots, but if we had the time it would probably prolong flowering still further. As with most Heleniums, it clumps up readily, and can be easily propagated by division, preferably in April just as the new growth commences. Single crowns quickly make a strong plant which will flower in the same year.

David Fletcher – a writer's tale

Asking a writer to write about himself is a little like asking an arsonist to look after the petrol can and the matches. You might easily end up regretting it. However, following my recent submission of a rather long poem about Covid and wildlife, this is exactly what the editor of this admirable publication did. And how could I refuse her? After all, who doesn't like playing with fire?

To begin with I suppose I should explain how I became a (very self-indulgent, amateur) writer, because this took me more time than you might imagine. You see, I first had to read chemistry at university, then spend 30 years as an accountant before finally deciding that what I really wanted to do was write books, and only then did I pick up a pen and begin to write on a blank piece of paper. And that picking up a pen was the most difficult part of the whole process, and one that stops many would-be writers from becoming actual writers. But it shouldn't. Any difficulty one might encounter soon evaporates as one begins to appreciate the rewards that come from creating plots, characters, scenes and some really tangible images with a toolkit of just words. And there is more. Because this toolkit is a magic toolkit, and sometimes the words begin to write themselves, leaving the enchanted author as a mere transcriber. This does happen, and happily, more often than one might expect.

I experienced this phenomenon in writing my very first book, which was the first of a trilogy of works that fell into the 'humorous science fiction' category. I won't say these were a flop but, even with the help of that magic toolkit, they might have fared better if I had published them on Mars. Nevertheless, I wasn't at all daunted. Because I learnt very early on that writing makes few people rich, but it makes many people very resilient and completely impervious to disappointment and rejection. Breaking into the commercial publishing world is, after all, harder than breaking into a sweat in a sealed fridge-freezer, and few manage it. Some do, but often only through moving to London, returning to their early twenties with the help of a time machine, becoming a TV reality star or a TV chef, and marrying a successful publisher. Most are not prepared to go to these lengths and, like me, simply write for pleasure and, through vanity or exasperation, eventually resort to the self-publishing route. This is still very rewarding (although not financially) and so rewarding for me that I have now written and self-published twenty assorted books. And sold even more!

After those less than widely acclaimed sci-fi efforts, I began to write humorous travelogues, and this turned into a whole series of books based on my travels around the world with my wife, where our disreputable alter egos were allowed to relive these travels and embroider them with a whole raft of outrageous opinions, cutting observations, biased judgements and heart-felt prejudices. These books were not only a joy to write but they were also extraordinarily cathartic. So were a handful of other tomes I produced, culminating in a recently published collection of 366 not particularly PC limericks.

However, now that I am really old, my writing has taken a turn for the serious, and I have finally written and published my first thriller – set in a remote part of

equatorial Africa – and I am just completing my second thriller, which is set in the Antarctic. (I have yet to formulate a gripping tale that could take place in Stock and Bradley...)

So, that really sums up my writing: commercially hopeless, but rewarding beyond words (no pun intended). Indeed, if anybody takes that pen to a piece of paper (or hits a key on a keyboard), he or she will discover this rewarding aspect within days if not hours, and he or she might even prove not to be a commercial dead loss. Try it. It's arguably better than playing with fire.

www.davidfletcherbooks.co.uk

**STEVE WOODWARD LTD,
LOCAL & ESTABLISHED**

**FENCING, GROUNDWORKS &
FORESTRY CONTRACTOR**

TEL: 01527 821980

MOBILE: 07973 735233

**LOGS - SEASONED - GOOD QUALITY -
GOOD BURNING FIRE WOOD.**

-----Fencing -----

Groundworks – Foundations

Equestrian – Agricultural – Domestic

Free estimates – over 25y experience

Based locally in Bradley Green

WD & NM Willison Ltd

Mob: 07825034320 Tel : 01527 821589

Email : wwdandnmltd@gmail.com

An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors



THOMAS BROTHERS

*A family owned Funeral Directors, we provide a friendly,
dignified service paying special attention to detail.*

01527 547777

Birchfield House,
191 Evesham Road, Redditch.
B97 5JF

01527 831700

66 Birmingham Road,
Bromsgrove.
B61 0DD

01564 822001

100 Alcester Road,
Wythall.
B47 5HA

0121 445 3422

12A Red Lion Street,
Alvechurch.
B48 7LF



www.thomasbrothers.co.uk

A family concern



Rush Farm



In terms of the weather, this has been a drab week. Little sunshine, cool and grey, but worst of all there has been only limited rain. All this while, the farm needs a return to sunshine and warmth together with substantial rain. So far the effects of the present weather are not troubling, but we would like to see the pastures higher.

As far as our sheep and cattle are concerned, all continues to seem well. The attachment of rubbing brushes fed by neem oil means the coats of the majority of the cattle look very fine indeed. For the sheep it is a slightly different picture. The ewes have not yet grown their fleeces and clearly show the effects of still feeding their lambs. Watching a poor ewe being lifted off her feet every time a large and lusty lamb sucked milk from her, even after all these years I find upsetting.

All stock needed moving this week. There is no question of there not being any growth on the pastures, but the animals will not be able to stay on any one pasture long. At least as more fields come out of their six week purdah, managing the situation will become easier

While having fields shut down for six weeks undoubtedly makes stock management both more difficult and less efficient, there are obvious benefits to the environment. Without wishing to make too much of the point environmental practices do reduce the economic efficiency of a farm. Mostly I ignore that particular fact, but the other day, as I went round the farm, I was struck by just how much of the land is given over to nature, whether it be by our substantial hedges, the land left uncultivated along the river and ditches, or the odd triangle of land we do no more than tidy once a year. Adding Gannow Wood to all these areas means the Society is meeting its key objective which of course is to preserve the farm as an ecologically positive place

As you are aware, our Soil Association inspection has had to be carried out without an actual visit. This has made the whole process far more time consuming and complicating, both for the inspector and ourselves. On Wednesday morning, for example, Chris was on the telephone for some ninety minutes including walking through the cattle using his phone to enable the animals to be seen in real time; after that he had to send images of every relevant sheet in our medical record file. In most years this would involve no more than three or so sheets. This time, because of last year's New Forest eye infection and the need to record treatment given to each animal affected, there were four times that number.

But I would like to record our appreciation of the way the inspector gave us extra time since, though all the paper work was done, it was prepared for physically handing over and to deliver it electronically was not straightforward, requiring an expertise well beyond my competence. The report cannot be as glowing as we have come to expect since the farm has not been seen in the

'flesh' so to speak, but in terms of the damage the 'virus' had done to others, that is, if not trivial, liveable with.

What a fantastic year this has been for butterflies, seeing particular butterflies means looking at the right times, since the different varieties appear at different times of the year, and then only for a short number of weeks (that excludes the cabbage white of course!) While we may have rare species on the farm, we rarely seem to have the truly decorative varieties. So there are masses of meadow brown, which is good, but not spectacular, however the Marbled White has hatched early. This is a very attractive butterfly and not found everywhere.

Last year our ancient apple tree, which crops every other year, carried very few fruits. This year judging from the 'June drop' we should be able to replenish our store of apple juice. The quantity that comes from the one tree is extraordinary and when pressed to provide juice gives us onwards of 400 75ml bottles, enough for us enables us to still have a few bottles from 2018 waiting to be drunk.

Heaven Sent

This is the time to appreciate the small things that we love
And wonder at the great things sent from Heaven above.
The snowdrops and the daffodils to brighten up our day
The yellow cowslips and primroses that say "spring is on its way".
Then comes the hyacinths and tulips in different shades and hue
Followed by the forget-me-nots with their faces of purple and blue.
And then we smell the lilacs and awake to the roses in bloom
Sent from Him above to ease these days of gloom.
The grass is growing long now and the mowers begin to hum
The daisies and the blossoms flower; apple, pear and plum.
We listen to the bird song and watch the lambs at play
It is easy to imagine it's another time, another day.
People walk the wooded footpaths where they've never been before
To get some peace and exercise before they lock the door.
The trees are quite majestic in their overalls of green
Punctuating the horizon as they write nature's next colourful scene.
The robins and the blackbirds make haste to feed their brood
Not knowing what it is like to queue, in town, for their food.
In fields the deer are hiding and the hare are bounding free,
The sparrow hawks and buzzards are soaring above the great oak tree.
And as the summer months draw near and the gardens are fully awake
The ducks and swans are swimming with their young upon the lake.
At these times of darkness when we wonder "will we cope?"
Remember after the storm He sent a rainbow, to fill us all with Hope.

Nicky Colson



48 High Street
Feckenham
B96 6HS
01527 892188

A traditional freehouse village pub
with Food. Owned and run by the
Clarke family

Proper Pub Food at Proper Prices

Special dishes - every day

We use locally sourced high quality meat

Full Menu available daily

Lunch & Evenings (not Sunday evening)

Real Ales & Ciders

4 real ales on hand pumps every day.

Traditional ciders - fine wines

We're in the 2016 GOOD BEER GUIDE!

Large Beer Garden

THE ROSE ROOM

can be booked for your functions and celebrations
and we have marquees available for larger events.

Full Programme of Special Events

Beer Festivals, Themed Menus and

Live Music - call us for details

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

RYAN L. BENNETT PAINTER AND DECORATOR

ESTIMATES FREE

188 EVESHAM ROAD,
ASTWOOD BANK, REDDITCH,
WORCESTERSHIRE. B96 6DT

☎ 01527 893162

Tapcast Ltd Computer Services

- Computer Hardware
- Software
- Upgrades
- Security
- Office 365
- Support
- Network
- Virus/Malware

01386 792196

jane.neal@tapcast.co.uk

Microsoft
CERTIFIED



TIMBRELL ROOFING SERVICES

DOMESTIC and COMMERCIAL

Westall Court, Holbenow Green, Worcs. B96 6JY

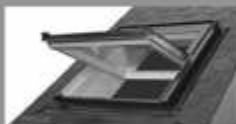


Local, family run business, fully insured, with over 30 years experience.

Tiled / Slate / Flat Roofs
Chimney / Lead Works

Re-roofs / Roof Repairs
Rainwater Systems

Roof Conversions
Roof Light Installations



Tel: 01386 792638

Mob: 07733 108980

www.timbrellroofingservices.co.uk

email: info@timbrellroofingservices.co.uk

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE STOCK AND BRADLEY CHRONICLE

The Chronicle is produced each month and distributed to 250 households. 9 people are responsible for delivering these, many thanks for their efforts come rain or shine, and a small number are sent in the post. Thanks once again to David Waring for all his hard work in collating all the data each month and to Mary Waring for keeping the finances on course.

The financial report shows a small increase from the annual appeal from 2019 but advertising income has fallen by over 50%. There was a very generous donation from one person of £300.00 .The cost of printing was reduced as we changed printers which resulted in a much smarter copy of the Chronicle at a lesser cost.

As a result of the lockdown April and May's copy was produced but only available on the Stock and Bradley Parish Council web site.

We received just a few interesting articles apart from the reports of the various societies. Because it is difficult to find material to make the Chronicle interesting it was decided to put a questionnaire in to the magazine to find out what people really thought of it, and what else they would like to see in it.

Unfortunately this coincided with the lockdown so it has been reprinted in this month's edition. To date I have received 13 replies, one of which was totally facetious. This is only 4% of the readership. There were 7 replies from Stock Green, 4 from Bradley Green and one from Feckenham. The majority of those who replied were in the 70-90 age range.

Suggestions for improvements were as follows :- Local events for children, more pictures, more adverts, and articles about residents, their interests and skills.

2 people were willing to submit an article, 6 said they might write something and 3 said they were unwilling to provide any information.

I find this lack of interest disappointing to say the least and with this lack of interest one has to ask is it time to find an alternative way of providing information of village activity, maybe on the Parish Council website as was used during the lock down.

I am willing to continue as Editor for just one more year but then it will need to be passed to someone else to continue from June 2021

STOCK GREEN BAPTIST CHAPEL NO SERVICES FOR THE TIME BEING



Proposed Solar Panel Farm, Stock Wood/Stock Green.

Stock and Bradley Parish Council
'Zoom' meeting. 7.30pm Wednesday
5th August.
<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/87253130090>

Although we await a formal application for planning permission, the applicants have sought and paid for pre-application advice from Wychavon District Council. It seems highly likely that a formal planning application will follow soon.

The site:

The site, which they call Roundhill Solar Farm, extends to 118 Hectares (290 acres) and directly abuts housing at one end of Stock Green, extends all of the way behind the former 'Bird in Hand' then wraps round the back of Round Hill Wood.

The Development:

The development would have a generating capacity of 50 megawatts which would make it one of the largest developed so far. It would comprise 'ranks' of solar panels and be surrounded by a three-metre high fence (as will the public rights of way that cross the site). All fences would have CCTV cameras. Somewhere within or adjacent to the development would be a number of inverter/transformer stations around the site, and a significant battery storage facility.

Purpose of the Meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to ensure, as far as possible, that residents are properly informed and to seek their views. On the one hand solar energy electricity generation is environmentally friendly, and has to go somewhere, on the other hand the effect on wildlife (by fencing) will be severe, they will be visually intrusive, during the construction process considerable traffic will be generated through all parts of the parish, we are told the battery storage facility would be noisy, and faster water run-off may cause flooding downstream.

Please come and give your views (in the comfort of your own home).

If you let either myself or Roger Dean the Parish Clerk have your email address, Roger will issue you with a link to the meeting shortly before it starts.

Mike Hadley Chairman - Stock and Bradley Parish Council

mikehadley@gmx.co.uk

