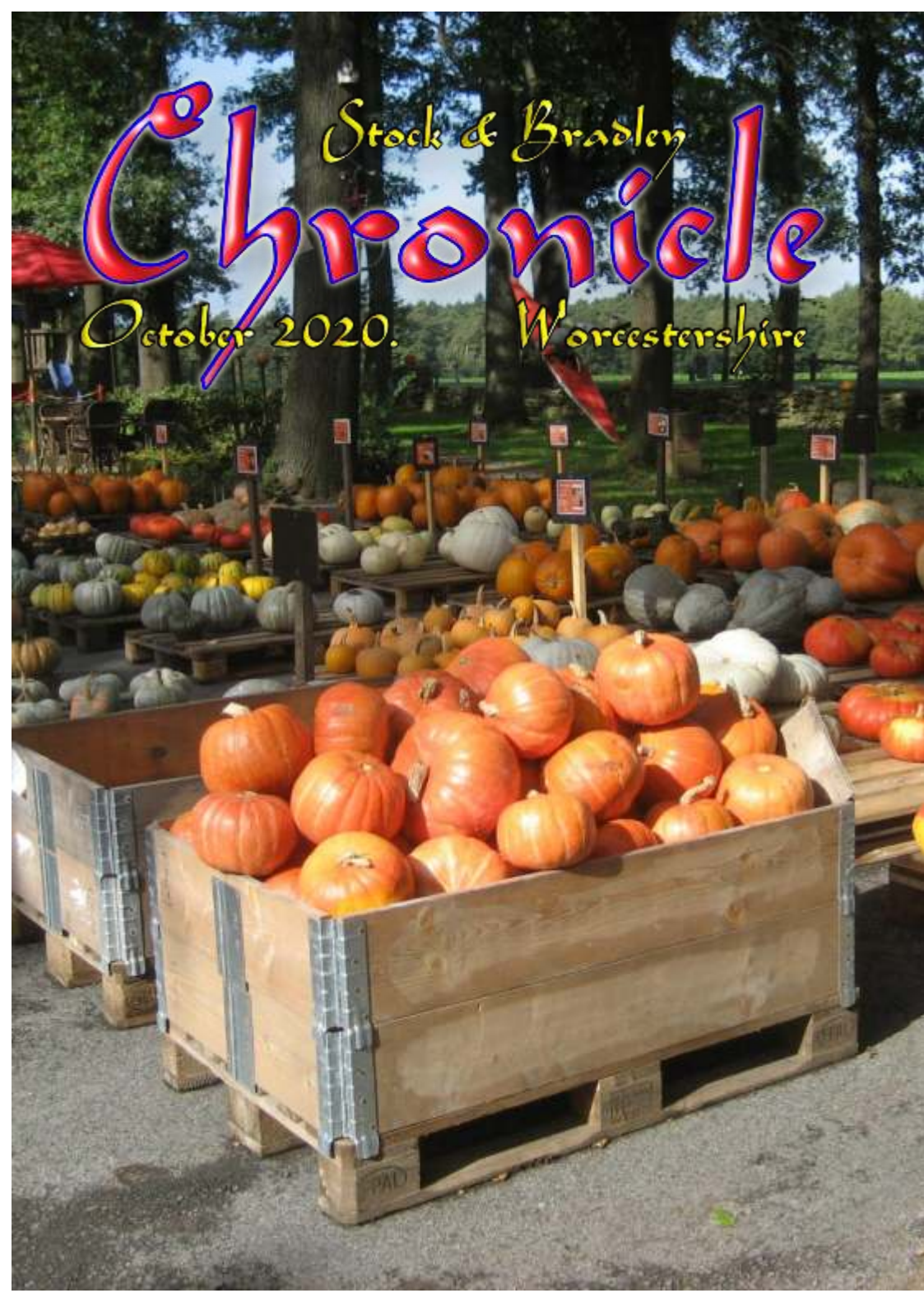


Chronicle

Stock & Bradley

October 2020.

Worcestershire





STOCK AND BRADLEY GREEN WALKING GROUP

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

Six of us set off from the Boot at Flyford Flavell on a perfect day for walking; blue skies, sunshine with a breeze. We did one of the 'Millennium Way' walks which initially took us across the road into a field where we crossed to a grassed area where a collection of vintage farm vehicles, beautifully restored were standing.



We then crossed the main A442, over a stream and we were on our way. Mainly over fields, footbridges and quite a few stiles and kissing gates. We walked alongside Lower Kite Wood and passed Pool House Farm and down a bridle path which led us to Dormston Lane where we took a path just after Moat Cottage into a field where we had a well deserved break.

After crossing a few more fields we came to a road alongside Hill Farm. We turned right onto the Millenium Way footpath where we followed signs that took us back to the Boot. It was a lovely walk and good to be back.

SD

Editorial

There have been a few things which have helped to keep us sane throughout the lockdown and one of these was having enough books to read. Amazon has helped with its supply of used books at low prices and speedy deliveries. I am overjoyed to be able to tell you that on 7th October at 12.15 pm the library bus will be back at Staddle Stones (almost at the start of the village at the east end). Masks at the ready please.

As the nights start to close in there has to be an alternative to watching the TV!!

If you want a good read, try a travel story with a difference, even if we can't go on holiday we can share someone else's experiences and you can't go wrong with the books written by David Fletcher, who lives in Stock Green. Try reading "Brian on the Brahmaputra", an insight into nature trip in India with a good dose of humour.

The foliage colour is going to be good this year and there is an abundance of berries to keep the birds happy. Of course it is pumpkin season again and I am reminded of a trip we took two years ago to Northern Germany and on our way back we stopped at the "Pumpkin Supermarket". It was just a way side stop but I have never seen so many different types. marbled green long twisted shapes like snakes, green and yellow candy striped balls from baby ones to real hefty ones, long orange ones like marrows, dark grey ones, red ones and nobbly ones that no doubt were designed for witches and of course orange pumpkins that we all know.

They were spread out on pallets, in crates, and also against a wall a sort of book case arrangement. Incredible! The cafe served pumpkin soup and also some type of pumpkin tart, now that was a surprise!!

I think we are probably all tired of hearing about COVID and so residents of Earls Common Rd are invited to join in a scarecrow competition. Hopefully it will give us something to smile about. Do take part, prizes to be awarded but it is really just a bit of fun.

Have a good Halloween.

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 - Pumkin sale - photo JB

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Church Services at Bradley Green

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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,

I have seen lots of posters and signs through this Pandemic bearing the word "Hope". It's a great word, and we all need it. But what does it actually mean? Does it mean there is a better future waiting for us out there if only we hang on long enough? Does it mean that it's all OK really, and we just need to not lose heart? Or is it just whistling in the dark?

Why should we hope? The Christian view is bluntly stated in the Catechism: Question 57 asks: 'What is the hope in which a Christian lives'? And the answer given is: 'A Christian lives in the certain hope of the advent of Christ, the last judgement, and resurrection to life everlasting.'

This kind of hope has nothing to do with wishful thinking, "hoping for the best whilst planning for the worst" or any of those homespun ideas. It is about the ultimate meaning of things.

It isn't talking about the end of time as if there's a destination we'll reach once the clock has gone round enough. Time will end when there's no more space, as time is a function of space. Or if we all end up in a black hole we know it will get stretched in ways we can't imagine.

The end is now. Just as everywhere in the universe is at the centre of the universe so it is always the last moment, it is always time for the final decision, the last judgement. It is always time to think about the ultimate meaning of things. How strange that we fill our lives putting off to the "future" the very thing that is happening all the time!

I am afraid that what passes in society as "hope" really is no more than hoping for the best. Christian hope is facing up to reality, now, acknowledging how things really are - the judgement - and then acknowledging that God's love has the last word - the resurrection. That's a hope that has no sense of wishful thinking, or trusting to luck. It is the sure and certain hope of resurrection, the very thing that the universe is constantly about - making things, ending things and making things anew.

That hope can keep us joyful when worldly hoping for the best will just wear us out. Let real hope keep you joyful!

Best wishes,

Wyn

IT IS TIME TO CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN!

Halloween, so what is it all about, how did it start and where did the traditions come from?

It is not something new and no it didn't originate from America, although they have perfected it. No it began with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, to mark the end of the harvest and the start of the new year, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. The word Halloween, Hallow's Even, or All Hallows' Eve is celebrated on October 31st in many countries.

November 1st is All Saints' Day which is now a Christian celebration to remember the dead, including saints, martyrs and all the faithful departed.

According to Celtic mythology, the veil between the Otherworld and our world thins during Samhain, making it easier for spirits and the souls of the dead to return. People would make offerings of food in order to be on the good side of these departed ancestors.

There are numerous traditions associated with Halloween, one such is Bobbing Apples. You carved your name on an apple and threw it in to a tub of water and then tried to bite in to a bobbing apple and the ladies would be destined to marry the gentleman who pulled it out.

So where did all the pumpkin lanterns originate from. Well they were initially not made from pumpkins at all, but turnips, and so the story goes that an Irish man called Stingy Jack, a clever drunk and conman, fooled the devil into banning him from hell but because of his sinful life, could not enter heaven. After his death he roamed the world carrying a small lantern made of a turnip with a red-hot ember from hell inside to light his way. On All Hallows' Eve, the Irish hollowed out turnips, carved them with faces with a candle inside to take them out 'souling' so they would be protected from evil

spirits such as Stingy Jack.' Souling' was the tradition of begging rich folk for cake in return for praying for their souls.

It is said that it was the Irish and Scottish immigrants that brought 'souling' to America in the 1800s. It didn't really catch on until the 1920's in America. In 1912, in the small village of Hiawatha, Kansas, one lady named Elizabeth Krebs, grew tired of having her garden vandalised each year by children tramping through it, so the next year she organised a party for these youngsters in the hope that it would save her garden but it didn't work. The following year she involved the whole town with a parade and a band, a costume contest and made it a great success. This idea caught on and so it established Halloween parties, food, dancing, parades, sweet treats and decorations of ghosts and goblins.

What about black cats, they weren't always lucky. In the Middle Ages, black cats were often portrayed as the familiar of witches and it was believed that they could even transform themselves into black cats.

Bats are also associated with Halloween and maybe that was because insects would be attracted to the bonfires which in their turn would attract the bats. It later became folklore as harbingers of doom. If a bat settles in a house, a man in the family will die, if it flies around, a woman will perish.

Today it is more about carving pumpkins, which has been a great boost for the pumpkin growing farmers. There are some fantastic designs and then there is all that lovely pumpkin flesh to cook, although I think that pumpkin pie lacks flavour but my pumpkin scone recipe is very good.

Dressing up for children is always great fun and it allows children's imagination to run riot. Trick and treating is of course an essential part of the whole experience, woe betide you if you don't have some treats to hand.

Pumpkin Scones

Makes 20 scones

Ingredients

Use a breakfast cup as a measure

2 cups of self-raising flour

1 cup mashed pumpkin

55 gms butter

1 egg

½ cup of sugar

½ cup of milk

Method

Cut pumpkin into cubes minus skin and seeds. Place in a large roasting pan. Add ¼ ins of water and bake uncovered for 1 hour or until tender. Drain away any remaining water and mash or puree. You want a fairly firm mix.

Beat butter until soft, then add sugar.

Mix in pumpkin and egg

Slowly add the flour, add sufficient milk to form a soft dough.

Turn dough onto a floured board and knead.

Roll out and cut out with a 2½ ins cutter

Place on to a greased tray

Bake at 200C for 15 mins.

Pumpkin Curd

(similar to Lemon Curd)

Ingredients

1 cup of pureed pumpkin

150 gms butter

5 egg yolks

½ cup of sugar

Juice of a large orange

Juice of two small lemons

1 tsp of mixed spice

Method

In a medium, heavy bottomed saucepan, melt the butter over a medium heat. Add the pumpkin puree, orange and lemon juice, sugar and egg yolks.

Cook at medium heat, stirring frequently with a whisk until thickened, for about 10-15 minutes.

Stir in the spices and cook two minutes longer

Remove from heat and pour into sterilised jars or leave to cool and serve from a bowl.

Keep refrigerated for up to a week.

Delicious on those scones you just made. Enjoy.



The **Mobile Library** service is restarting and will be at Staddle Stones, Earls Common Road at **12.15 pm on 7th October.**

A facemask must be worn and hands sanitised.

Local Trades & Services

As a result of the questionnaire we were asked for more adverts. We don't want a Chronicle full of adverts but what would be useful would be the names of tradesmen that readers would be happy to recommend. We would then contact them and ask them if they would like to place just a small ad.

To start it off would anyone be happy to recommend a window cleaner as our cleaners are retiring at the end of November after about 20 years

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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.



Some Snippets

Rob Cole

I have, in my time, edited a fair number of garden society newsletters and journals. I very often find that an article doesn't quite fill a page, so I have resorted to some 'snippets' to fill the gaps. So for this month's article in the Chronicle I offer you a selection :-

'Gardening is not just a hobby, it's the main way we honour Planet Earth' (*Quote from Panayoti Kelaidis, 2009*)

Cutting your own firewood warms you twice.

A seedsman's trade is not in seeds at all - it is in optimism

Playwright George Bernard Shaw named his shed after the London capital. When visitors called whom he did not wish to see, they could be truthfully told by his housekeeper that he was away in London.

'Weeds are found most abundantly where there is most weeding'. (*Richard Mabey, 'Weeds'*)

Kniphofia 'Percy's Pride' was named by Alan Bloom after his nursery foreman Percy Piper, who had worked with him for more than 40 years.

Geranium cinereum subcaulescens 'Giuseppi' is named after Dr Paul Giuseppi, a keen alpine plant collector who was at one time the President of the Alpine Garden Society. He was a surgeon, with a large practice in Felixstowe.

Phlox subulata 'G. F. Wilson' (correctly called *Phlox subulata* 'Lilacina') is named after George Fergusson Wilson (1822-1902), a successful merchant and managing director of a candle-making company. In 1878 he purchased the Oakwood estate at Wisley, which was subsequently purchased in 1903 by Sir Thomas Hanbury for the RHS.

Leucanthemum x superbum 'Esther Read' is named after the daughter of a Norfolk nurseryman, Horace Read. Travelling by steam train to Great Yarmouth for the day, he spotted a semi double ox-eye daisy on an embankment. Intrigued by what he had seen, on the way back he pulled the communication cord, jumped off the train and dug up the plant ! After breeding offspring of this plant with *Chrysanthemum maximum*, he eventually introduced 'Esther Read' in 1931.

Francoa sonchifolia Rogerson's form and *Dicentra formosa* 'Langtrees' are both named in recognition of Dr Anthony Rogerson (1926-1987) and his garden in north Devon.

The Douglas Fir, *Pseodotsuga menziesii*, was discovered by Archibald Menzies in about 1793 but only introduced by David Douglas in 1827. The common and Latin names appropriately commemorate them both.

Paeonia lactiflora 'Sarah Bernhardt' is named after a French actress, born in 1844, who began her acting career in 1862. Later in life, she also took up painting and sculpture, and in 1899 she founded Theatre Sarah Bernhardt in Paris. She continued her acting career until she died in March 1923.

It is often thought that the apple named 'Newton Wonder' commemorates the story of Isaac Newton and his notions about gravity - but not so. The name is derived from the village of Kings Newton, near Melbourne in Derbyshire, where the original tree grew in the area behind 'The Hardinge Arms' public house where an orchard had once stood. Accounts of the discovery vary, but it seems to have come from a seedling found either on the thatched roof or in the gutter of the pub, and subsequently cultivated by the then landlord William Taylor. One account, however, refers to the finder as Samuel Taylor.

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



100 Club ... Many thanks to all those who have joined or renewed their membership of the Stock and Bradley 100 Club for 2020/21. The monthly draws for both August and September were made by Mr Ian Carbray on 31st August 2020. The results were as follows:

August 2020:

1st Prize: - No: 27 Mr Paul Langham

2nd Prize: - No: 74 Mrs Julia Rainbow

3rd Prize: - No: 162 Mr James Greatbatch Snr

September 2020:

1st Prize: - No: 1 Mr Bob Foster

2nd Prize: - No: 207 Mrs Wendy Ralphs

3rd Prize: - No: 141 Mrs Sandra Campbell



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Sadly, due to current Covid-19 pandemic, social distancing, and limitation on numbers our annual branch Poppy Appeal Coffee Mornings in October and Night to Remember Concert in November, have been cancelled. Should individuals wish to hold fund raising events "in support of" the Poppy Appeal we ask that they follow current guidelines. This year, there will be no house to house Poppy Appeal collections by our volunteers, but poppy trays and tins will be placed in local shops, pubs and schools **should** they wish to have them. Our branch Poppy Coordinator will be in touch with those that usually have poppy boxes. Some of the larger supermarkets will have collecting boxes or donations can be made online at the Royal British Legion website. There are also items for sale on the Poppy Shop website.

Our Remembrance Service on the Village Green looks unlikely to happen this year. We hope, therefore, to hold a small Service of Remembrance in the grounds of St Peter's Church, Inkberrow on Sunday 8 November but this will be restricted to the number of people allowed to gather at that time.



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After spending so long apart during 2020 Christmas is a time to be together. An ideal opportunity to put those new found cooking skills to the test perhaps!

Our bronze turkeys have free range in open fields, the perimeter fence is to keep the wily fox out rather than the birds in! The geese wander at will being allowed acres of space for grazing, and our cockerels and ducks are allowed the time to reach maturity resulting in the tastiest birds ever!

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Be together this Christmas

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Stock and Bradley Village Hall

The 1980's There was a good attendance at the decade's first AGM. There was even competition to serve on the management committee, nineteen standing for eleven vacancies. Traveling suppers were started as were country and western evenings. The hall was too small to accommodate the 100 Club dance and so the larger Cookhill village hall was hired instead. Such was the committee's confidence that it was decided to enlarge our village hall. Mr David Waring (Staddle Stones, Stock Green) freely offered his professional services, he estimated the extension costs would be about £25,000. The committee asked him to go ahead and prepare drawings. Meanwhile the ladies social club, Breakaway, was flourishing and using the hall regularly as well as the gardening club and the parish council. The Tote profits had risen to £2000 and was to top £7000. This was regarded as a building fund. New curtains were fitted and the building re-wired and re-decorated. The 1981 AGM was proud to elect 'the best ever committee'. Mrs Kath Hill (Forest View) was appointed caretaker in 1982 a position she held until her untimely death in 2000. Her husband Mr Wally Hill has carried out repairs over many years. A 'Week for the Disabled' raised £1000. Planning permission was granted for the extension. In 1983 the county council gave a £10,000 grant towards the extension and the parish council

Bradley Parish Hall
management
committee

Standing :

John Sidaway,

Peter Gould,

Jill Hicken,

Janet Cresswell,

Kathleen Richardson,

Reg Cocks

and Walter Hill.

Seated:

Roger Baggot (secretary),

PERROW'S WORCESTER JOURNAL, NOVEMBER 27, 1980



allowed an interest-free loan of £500. The hall's chairman was now Mr John K Sidaway (Tinkers Halt, Bradley Green) and he with Mr David Waring shouldered the responsibility of the 1983 new extension which included a bar. In 1984 all debts were discharged and the hall was in use on average five nights a week.

Now, as has happened more than once, there was a slight dip in the hall's fortunes. By 1985 progress seemed to have peaked. In 1986 bookings dropped. The play school, the dancing class and the keep fit class had ceased. Support declined for social functions, including the New Year's Eve dance. The grind of repairs and renewals were continuous. Drainage and sewage were troublesome and the ditches had to be cleared out. The hall floor was re-sanded with a kind gift from the Scottish Dancing Club. New members on the committee were surprised at the never-ending round of maintenance which appeared on the agendas but were assured, if not comforted, that this was quite normal.

As an inducement for greater support for the 1987 AGM, free cheese and wine were advertised in the Chronicle, the parish magazine. This brought in a near record of thirty-five villagers. Some controversy was enjoyed when, from the floor, Mr John Whybrow (Welwood, Stock Green) proposed that the name of the village hall be changed to *parish hall* on the grounds that *parish* encompassed Stock Green whereas *village* implied only Bradley Green. The proposal was defeated, amid cheerful confusion, by one vote.

This AGM was the last for Mrs Edna Poultney as treasurer, a post she had so faithfully carried out since 1964. The new treasurer was Mr Roger Baggott (Bradley Park, Bradley Green). Mrs Gloria A Forgaard (The Rookery, Bradley Green) became the new secretary. The indefatigable Mr Reginald Cocks continued as chairman. The committee, which had consisted of volunteers, was now composed of representatives nominated by the various parish organisations, as the constitution required. This obviated the dreadful silence which had sometimes followed the request for volunteers at previous AGMs.

In 1985 there was a joint celebration for the 50th anniversary of the Village Hall and the 10th Open Show which included a tombola run by Keith and Sue Hill, cake stall by Jenny Cox,, Guides support for Srilanka by Alison Waring and a display of quilting by the sewing group.



In 1987 Mr James A Hackett (Horns Farm, Bradley Green) arranged several successful junior disco parties. There were some complaints about late night noise. The outcome was the introduction of secondary double glazing. The following year the floor of the hall was completely replaced at a cost of £4000 and a dehumidifier installed for £700. Once again these major improvements were financed almost entirely by the Tote.



1988 old floor removed

The 1990's At the 1990 AGM it was reported that the Tote's turnover during its first ten years had reached £57,000, over half of which had rightly been paid out as prize money and agents' fees, leaving £17,000 for the benefit of the village hall. This was a remarkable achievement. Those who had served on the Tote committee included Mr Reginald Cocks (treasurer), Mrs & Mrs Michael Cresswell, Mr & Mrs George Hickin, Mr & Mrs Michael Ralphs, and Mr & Mrs Michael Richardson. They met weekly on Thursday evenings at the Bird-in-Hand to organise the proceedings.



new maple floor

At the 1991 AGM Mrs Janet Cresswell suggested that, due to the lack of social events, a new social committee be formed and that a team of eleven stalwarts were ready to serve. The results were immediate - a disco, a barbecue, a skittles evening and a New Year's Dance. In addition the Scottish Dancing Club, through Mr O Davidson of Inkberrow, put on a splendid Burns Night. In all over £1330 were raised by these events. In 1992 another suggestion to raise funds came from Mr John Whybrow, that of 'Flying the Flag' on birthdays and other anniversaries at £5 a time. Mrs Kathleen M Richardson took bookings and saw to it that the flag was flown outside the village hall as required.



Flying the Flag

Village Litter Pick – Saturday 12th September 2020

At 10 am, 12 plucky pickers & Margot the dog from Stock & Bradley plus Chris with his trailer set out from opposite ends of the village to “clean it up”; after one and a half hrs (some took a little longer due to socialising on the way), 20+ full bags and other assorted rubbish (some quite unusual) the job was done.

We always have to contend with the litter vandals who throw out their litter in what has become the Stock & Bradley “rat run”. However, I do believe these vandals tastes are changing as they are now throwing out signature Gin and Old Speckled Hen bottles, and oh, the final moan, if people take the trouble to pick up their dog’s poo please also take the bags home.

Very many thanks to all those who helped to keep our village clean and tidy – a good job very well done!

rogertheclerk@outlook.com

