

# *Stock & Bradley* **Chronicle**

*November 2020.      Worcestershire*



## St John the Baptist

### Kitchen & Toilet Project - News

On 29 September the water supply was connected in the churchyard, a big thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible, Paul Langham, Bob Sealey, Richard Mead, Paul Castle, Will Willison and Peter Hart. Thank you also to Mike Hadley for drawing the plan of pipe route from the Church Road to the Church.



We also wish to thank John & Tim Evans for allowing us to take the pipe across their land.

This is the first part of the Toilet & Kitchen Project, which is unfortunately now on hold until we raise funds. The Fashion Show and other events had to be postponed due to Covid. We are hopeful activities can resume before too long, in the meantime we are looking at any grants that may be available.

Celia Hart

St John the Baptist PCC

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but above all, time to  
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# Editorial

The colours in the trees this year seem better than ever. Travelling along Goose Hill Lane and looking up to the wood it is like looking at a patch work quilt of golds, yellows, bronze and numerous shades of green. The hollies and hawthorns have an abundance of berries and the michaelmas daisies have flowered their socks off.

It is difficult not to be intimidated about the Covid pandemic, the news looks grim and in the summer we had the blessing of good weather but we can't expect that at this time of year to look forward to. So, with best British stoicism, we must do our utmost to make the best out of what is thrown at us. It is certainly a new experience for us all. Even if we can't meet up as we did the phone is an absolute blessing to talk to those who are on their own. Please keep an eye on your neighbours to offer help if needed.

One of the changes this year is the selling of Poppies. The number of places in which they can be sold is restricted, distancing has to be observed by placing a table between the seller and the buyer. There will be no services at the war memorials, I don't know what will happen at the Cenotaph I can't believe that there will be no recognition of the day .

I hope you all enjoyed our attempts at Scarecrow making and that it has provided us with a bit of amusement. Next month we have Christmas to look forward to, it might have similar limitations as were imposed on us as in the war years for those of us who are old enough to remember! At least I have two of my Christmas cakes made.

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 - - *Poppy field***

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# Church Services at Bradley Green

**15th November - at 11.00 Holy Communion**

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,

It's been a classic grey October day and now, as I write, the wind is picking up as another low pressure bringing a storm heads our way. It's a bit like life just now - which as the Irish saying goes, is "just one damn thing after another". Covid has returned, not that it ever went away. We knew it would, at least we did if we listened to the scientists rather than the fantasy world of politics and Facebook.

These are strange days indeed. It was not what the 21st Century should have been about. Science should have provided us with answers and techniques to solve the problems of pollution and over-exploitation. But it hasn't yet, though there are some exciting prospects for clean energy generation. But they are still some way off.

Democracy itself has shown itself up to be creaking, as time and time again the voters show a close to 50/50 split on major decisions in this and other Western countries. What to do when there is no workable majority? What to do when democracy delivers a result I do not like?

In the 20th century one of the great poets of the English language, T S Eliot wrote of those people who

"...constantly try to escape  
From the darkness outside and within  
By dreaming of systems so perfect that no one will need to be good.  
But the man that is shall shadow  
The man that pretends to be."

Democracy let us down in the 1930s when Hitler was freely and democratically elected. Capitalism has always let us down because the poor are still poor and the rich become powerful and wield power in a way that looks perilously like dictatorship. Communism let us down because the egalitarianism it promised turned into dictatorships very rapidly. The point is simple - no system of government works. What works is good people. But the last 500 years, "the age of modernity" increasingly believed in perfecting systems so we could be free to do what we like and not worry about goodness in ourselves.

"...the man that is shall shadow  
The man that pretends to be."

How to be good? For that humanity needs a power beyond itself. Self perfecting human beings are yet to evolve. I doubt they probably never will. Something else has to happen. But what could that be?

I'll leave you ponder that as November runs its course of Bonfire night and Remembrance, those two monuments to the failure of human society. But either side of them are two Christian festivals - All Saints and Advent and the promise of a different kind of Kingdom.

Best wishes, Wyn



## Annual Church Meetings

The meetings postponed due to Covid 19 will take place via Zoom on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm.

## SHOEBOX APPEAL

The Teams4u shoebox appeal is still going ahead this year. If you need a shoebox there are a few empty wrapped ones in Feckenham Church porch. Filled ones can be left in the porch any day before 4 pm. but need be back by 25<sup>th</sup> November. The service to send them on their way will be in Feckenham on 29<sup>th</sup> November. For more information please contact Lin Preece on 01527 893166

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## ROUS LENCH AND INKBERROW ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRANCH POPPY APPEAL

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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## *Chronicle Appeal . .*

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

Many thanks to the following who have donated to this year's Chronicle Appeal: Breakaway, A Heath, N Davies, P Langham, M Walker, D Bolton.

## In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders' fields.

Major John McCrae, 1915





## THE TRAGEDY OF WAR.

I was reading a book recently in which it described the return of a paramedic from a deployment in Afghanistan. The excitement on being united with their loved ones was overwhelming but it was mixed with a degree of sadness at being separated from their comrades with whom they had lived and worked in close proximity for many months. They were a tight knit team, they had played together but they had also been together through times which they found difficult almost impossible to speak to anyone else about outside their own circle. The scenes that they had witnessed were harrowing and were something they would be unable to forget. Now they had to adapt to living back in a civilian world. For many of them they were unlikely to meet up with their old friends and therefore no one with whom they could talk to to let off steam.

For a short while all was well as our paramedic learnt to fit into a new scenario but there was no adrenaline rush which they had become used to, almost as a drug, life was now mundane. The nights were sometimes terrible as she battled with horrific nightmares involving incidents that had happened in the field, she would shout out and fight with the bedclothes as if it was a real person, waking wet through with perspiration. Anti depressant treatment helped but alcohol also became a way to oblivion. She decided to apply to work as a paramedic again and after a certain amount of retraining started going out on calls. She worked with a partner and all went well until one day a bad accident involving a young man with a serious leg injury caused her mind to flip back to another occasion in which a similar young man on her first shout on tour lost his life with similar injuries, her mind froze and she was unable to react until her partner came up to her and said ' what are you doing' which brought her back to the present those precious few seconds lost. Unfortunately he didn't survive either.

Because of this incident she resigned as a medic because she felt she was no longer a reliable resource. Now what was her future to be. This was not what she had imagined as she returned home.

Remembrance Day is not just remembering those who died or who were injured in the two world wars it is also about those young lives of both men and women who are serving in our armed forces now, whose lives are affected as a result of the traumatic events that they have encountered resulting in so many of these people suffering from posttraumatic stress disorders. It doesn't show on their faces but it is still a very real problem. They need all the help that they can be given. So please remember them when you make a donation this year to the British Legion which offers individuals and their families the support that they need. If you can't find a poppy seller this year then please make a donation on line. Every penny counts.

## **An expedition to a renowned garden.**

English weather is so unpredictable. August 15th is my birthday and I share it with Princess Anne and the end of the 2nd World War in Japan so I am in good company. We planned to celebrate it this year by going to visit a garden way down in the south of England, I suppose you could call it a bus man's holiday.

The previous day the temperature was up towards 30 C but not today it was 16 C and cloudy and as we travelled south it became darker and then it rained and as we approached Stokenchurch we ascended into a dense mist more like November.

It rained for most of the four hour journey, however a good lunch in a lovely old pub in Burwash, well decorated externally with extremely floriferous hanging baskets cheered us up. Burwash is a lovely village with some fine old properties and famed for being the home of Rudyard Kipling.

Directions to said garden were appalling and although at the most we were only 3 miles away from our destination it took a good 30 minutes to find it.

It was a different garden, not what we had expected, and although it was very colourful it was somewhat disappointing. The flowers were grown for cutting, most of them were annuals and were arranged in rows in small raised beds. There was no design, just haphazard, I had expected to see colour combinations or plant associations. The best part was the 'Jungle' large leafed plants and exuberant colours

Gardening on this scale with almost all annuals is beyond my understanding, first seed sowing, then pricking out and then planting out into clean and prepared beds and at the end of the year pulling it all out, seed collecting as you go and leaving beds with nothing in for the winter. Too much hard work and if the weather is not kind nothing to show for all the effort.

I was surprised that everyone had to walk past the washing hanging out on the line, perhaps it was meant to make it feel homely! There were no plants for sale and no flowers for sale despite the fact that she said not much had been cut for sale this year, I think she missed out on a trick there because there were plenty of people who would have loved to have gone home with a bunch .

Never the less we enjoyed our trip with a stay overnight in a very pleasant hotel and a visit next morning to a well renowned nursery where we found some interesting plants.

The sun shone and although it was not a weekend quite as expected it was an experience, perhaps one not to be repeated, even at our age we are still learning!



## 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.



## *Narcissus romieuxii*

Rob Cole

Looking to the bleak months of January and February it is good to have something in flower to remind you of brighter times to come. I first encountered *Narcissus romieuxii* at Potterton and Martin's nursery in Lincolnshire many years ago, when I was astounded to see a cold frame full of these delightful miniature daffodils. Since then, I have bought

greenhouse where I can enjoy them unblemished by the winter weather.

Its wild habitat is exclusively from North Africa in the Middle Atlas, the High Atlas and the Rif regions and it seems to grow in both acid and limestone conditions with equal vigour. The flower is rather untypical of what we think of as a daffodil, being only about 150mm tall and consisting of a cone shaped corona (the trumpet) surrounded by six slender and short petals. The flower ranges in colour from pale straw to primrose yellow and, in some forms which I have seen, can be up to 50mm in diameter, but more normally about 35mm.



various cultivars, raised them from seed, and grown them in my cold

*Narcissus romieuxii* can be grown outdoors, but it is easily damaged by wind and marked by soil splashes, so growing it in a cold frame or unheated greenhouse is a better proposition. In the summer months, the bulbs don't mind being dried out and baked, and so as soon as the leaves dry off I clean off the dead foliage and don't touch it again until I reawaken it by watering it in the second week of September which stimulates new growth. If the pot of bulbs has become congested, I knock them out of the pot in mid August, separate them into similar sizes, and then repot the larger bulbs into a 9cm square pot, 9 bulbs to each pot (3 x 3), topped with grit. They are not too fussy about the type of compost, but I use a peat free product, with about 10% grit added to improve drainage. By late October

shoots are appearing and the first flowers appear in early January. The smaller bulbs are just bunged en masse into a similar sized pot to grow on for a year or two. In either case the bulbs should be set well down the pot.

During the flowering period I fiddle about with a small brush and transfer pollen around on to the stigma of other flowers - at that time of year there are few pollinators about, especially in a greenhouse! This ensures a good set of seed, which is ripe and ready for collection around mid May. The seed is round, shiny and black, about the size of an *Aquilegia* seed and I have found it best to collect when the seed pod has gone a tawny brown colour, but has not yet split. I cut off the stem at soil level and place it, seed pod down, into a clean margarine tub and leave it for a few days to dry off. As it does so, the seed pod splits and spills the seed, without loss, into the tub. I then packet it in a small paper envelope, label it with the name and date, and store it in a cupboard in the coolest, north facing room in the house.

I could sow it immediately, but May is a busy time on the nursery and it usually gets left until early November. For sowing I use a 9cm round pot and a compost mixture of 3 parts peat free, 2 parts John Innes No. 2, and 1 part 6mm grit. The mixture is put through a 6mm sieve to remove the odd lumps and a 12 month fertiliser is added, in the form of mini-granules, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Now for the unusual bit - put a 10mm layer of grit in the bottom of the pot, fill the pot only to about one third to one half full, sow the seed fairly generously and then top up with

compost, and finally add a layer of grit to the surface. Sowing deeply does not inhibit germination, but does reduce the time till flowering by at least a year. Don't forget to label the pot with the name and date. Lightly water the pot, and then place it outdoors in an open situation and leave it for the wonder of germination to begin.

It will happily tolerate being frozen through the winter and will begin to germinate in January or February, whereupon I move the whole potful into the greenhouse to protect the emerging seedlings. I allow the potful to grow on all year and make sure that it doesn't dry out whilst it is still growing. Every second watering I add a tomato fertiliser at half strength to the watering can. Once the foliage has browned off in June or July, I leave the pots unwatered until mid September. The seedlings are left in the original container for two growing seasons and then moved, without splitting, into a 1 litre square pot and grown on for a further year. Some of the bulbs often flower in this third year, and in the August of that year are knocked out of the pot and the larger bulbs potted up as flowering size specimens for the next year.

Because of the cross pollination I induce, there is often variety in the seedlings and I select the best as single bulbs and grow them on individually to multiply them by natural division as a clone.

And don't forget - the unique enjoyment and excitement of seeing your seedlings flower for the first time is reserved only to those who take the trouble to sow the seed and nurture the seedlings !

VILLAGE HALL bookings contact  
Rachel Cresswell on 07854 483684

## Village Hall Committee

Chairman Mel Bates,

Vice chairman

Treasurer Stella Wallis

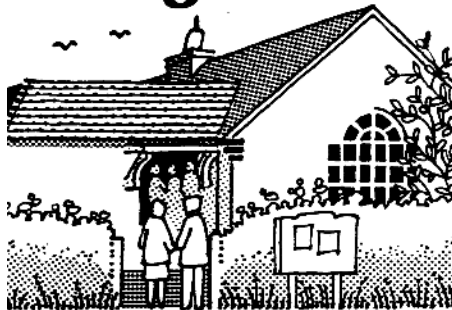
Caretaker Rachel Cresswell

Jan Bates, Karen Devereaux

Barry Newton, Liz Farquharson

and Wendy Ralphs

# Village Hall



## 100 Club ...

The October monthly draw for the Stock & Bradley 100 Club was made by Mr Scott Newton on 5th October 2020. The results were as follows:

October 2020:

1st Prize: - No: 10 Mr David Bolton

2nd Prize: - No: 84 Mr Oliver Hill

3rd Prize: - No: 15 Mrs Elizabeth Lees



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### **SO NOW WE KNOW**

The king wanted to go fishing, and he asked the royal weather forecaster the forecast for the next few hours. The palace meteorologist assured him that there was no chance of rain.

So the king and the queen went fishing. On the way he met a man with a fishing pole riding on a donkey, and he asked the man if the fish were biting. The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, you should return to the palace! In just a short time I expect a huge rain storm."

The king replied: "I hold the palace meteorologist in high regard. He is an educated and experienced professional. Besides, I pay him very high wages. He gave me a very different forecast. I trust him."

So the king continued on his way. However, in a short time a torrential rain fell from the sky. The King and Queen were totally soaked. Furious, the king returned to the palace and gave the order to fire the meteorologist. Then he summoned the fisherman and offered him the prestigious position of royal forecaster.

The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, I do not know anything about forecasting. I obtain my information from my donkey. If I see my donkey's ears drooping, it means with certainty that... it will rain."

So the king hired the donkey.

And thus began the practice of hiring dumb asses to work in influential positions of government. The practice is unbroken to this date.



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## Origin of phrases

1. In the 1400s a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb.

Hence we have '**the rule of thumb.**'

2. Many years ago in Scotland , a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...

Ladies Forbidden'... and thus the word **GOLF** entered into the English language.

3. Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades - King David,

Hearts - Charlemagne,

Clubs -Alexander the Great,

Diamonds - Julius Caesar

4. In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase..... '**goodnight, sleep tight.**'

5. It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink.

Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the **honeymoon**.

6. In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts...

So in old England , when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.'

It's where we get the phrase '**mind your P's and Q's**'

7. Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service.

'**Wet your whistle**' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

8. In 1696, William III of England introduced a property tax that required those living in houses with more than six windows to pay a levy. In order to avoid the tax, house owners would brick up all windows except six. (The Window Tax lasted until 1851, and older houses with bricked-up windows are still a common sight in the U.K.) As the bricked-up windows prevented some rooms from receiving any sunlight, the tax was referred to as "**daylight robbery**"!



## Imponderables:-

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

If 4 out of 5 people suffer from diarrhoea, does that mean that one enjoys it?



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# Stock and Bradley Village Hall

The committee continued to upgrade the hall by redecorating, providing new curtains, resurfacing the car park, re-flooring the hall and installing a new suspended ceiling. In this they were aided by a grant of £5,500 from Wychavon District Council which the committee had to match.

At the 1993 AGM the future use of the land at the back of the hall was discussed and a bowling green proposed. The Bowling Club undertook to prepare and seed the ground, which they did. Sadly the plan lapsed due to a disagreement with the village hall committee.

In 1995 the Tote finished after sixteen years. More bookings were needed to maintain the hall and in 1997 a promotional leaflet was prepared and distributed to every resident in the parish and a supply placed in local libraries. There was no immediate effect although private bookings for weddings and family celebrations continued and all who used the hall were generous in their praise.



By 1996 the social committee, which had raised almost £5000, took a breather and thereafter social activities dwindled, being confined to the regular 100 Club Draw in May, organised by Mr Tony Warren and an occasional skittles match between Bradley Green and Stock Green.

1997 The Hall got a new sign

In 1999 Mr Reginald T Cocks was appointed Life President in recognition of his 57 years of service on the village hall committee - a remarkable record of service to his community.



## Regular Users



ART CLASS - Founders group



DROP IN



CIRCUIT TRAINING



GARDENING CLUB - Plant Sale

**The Millennium.** At the start of the 21st century social events, once again, are increasing. The New Year's Eve Millennium Party, under Mr Rodney H J Purbrick (Orchard Cottage), chairman of the Millennium Committee, has confirmed the village hall to be Stock & Bradley's most used community asset.

BREAKAWAY - 2000 group

**The 2000's** At the Millenium the chairman was Tony Warren in May he was succeeded by Rod Purbrick, followed by Clifford Metcalfe in 2003, Mel Bates in 2006 and the current chairman Linda Smith in 2008.

As the new chairman in 2000 Rod Purbrick became Father Christmas making a sleigh ride through the village with the his helper Geoff Briscoe collecting for the children's ward at the AlexandraHospital



Inevitably with a building of this age, the minutes of the management committee meetings tend to read like a building maintenance report.

At the AGM in 2001 the then chairman Mr Rodney H J Purbrick expressed his concern that so much needed doing urgently to the hall including sewerage system, drainage ditches, kitchen , heating, windows furniture external decoration and roof repairs. During the following years most of these have been achieved. In 2002 the Parish Council funded the Millennium window and the provision of a secondary treatment tank to improve the sewerage system. By the AGM of 2004 the heating had been improved with the installation of a new boiler and radiators. 2005 saw the completion of a new extended kitchen and store and by the AGM in April 2006 the original steel windows had ben replaced with double glazed PVC windows.

In 2007 damp at the edge of the hall floor caused concern and is currently being resolved.

Fund raising as always has been a priority and in addition to the hall bookings the committee run a Quiz night started, very successfully in 2000 by Andrew Worthington and currently chaired by Alan Smith.

The 100+ Club, started in 1978, continues to raise funds for the hall and currently has 180 members.

Flying the Flag, started by Kath Richardson in 1992 continued by John Whybrow then Frank Moyes and from 2003 by Peter Collins, charges £5 to fly one of several flags to celebrate special occasions

A skittles match, Stock Green versus Bradley Green, is held annually more for fun than funds; the current holder of the trophy being Bradley Green.



Before extension



Extension in progress



Extension complete



New Kitchen



## Events in the hall



'Farewell to the Forest' - 2004



Golden Jubilee - 2002



ART CLASS - Exhibition



BREAKAWAY - Skittles



GARDENING CLUB - Bulb Show



COOL KIDS CLUB give a tea party for retired residents of the Village 4 07

# 'Artificial Floral Designs' Bradley Green.



Artificial/Silk flower Arrangements,  
flower hat boxes, rose bears,  
picture boxes & other gifts.  
Karina Warr 07703 674838  
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