

Stock & Bradley Chronicle

February 2021.

Worcestershire



Parish Council News
Annual Village Litter Pick
Saturday 6th March

The Parish Council are organising the Annual Village Litter Pick on the Morning of **Saturday 6th March**, so please make a note in your diary and come and support this worthwhile activity. Teams will meet at **10.00** at the **Village Hall Bradley Green** or at the **Phone Box in Stock Green**, we will supply all equipment required, if we get enough support it will only take an hour or so out of your day.

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



Be part of the Great British Clean Up

**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 still have some 30 mph wheelie bin stickers, if you would like some please e-mail your name and address to RogertheClerk@outlook.com and I'll pop them round.



Next Meeting of the Parish Council is
Wednesday 10th March at 7.30 via Zoom

Editorial

New Years greetings to all our readers. What a start to the year, Brexit at last, if only Covid 19 wasn't preventing us from moving forward.

Last time we were in lockdown we had beautiful weather to help us through it, we could enjoy being outdoors, this time it is not so cheerful and so we have to find different activities to fill our days.

Usually at this time of year brochures for holiday destinations are dropping through the letter box in great numbers, I never expected to say that I was missing them, but I quite enjoyed looking at places I know I am never likely to visit, it is always good to have a few pipe dreams!

As a gardener I have just spent some time looking through seed catalogues and have placed an order for some seeds which I hope will produce some delightful plants for the summer, something to look forward to. It's an opportunity to search through cupboards and drawers and sort out items for the charity shops, when they can start collecting things again! Join Joe Wicks on Zoom for a few exercises to keep you fit, start a new hobby or be really dynamic and enrol on the Open University. There is plenty to do if you are motivated, and that's the rub, this cold weather drains your enthusiasm for doing things.

Spring cleaning and decorating can go on undisturbed by appointments and events, so there are some good things to come out of lockdown if decorating is your scene!

Already the hellebores are flowering and despite the cold weather the daffodils are coming through, cold frosty morning makes the scenery attractive for walking and it won't be too long before the temperatures start to rise and more plant life begins to appear, bring it on!

Keep safe, stay at home, wait for your vaccine and enjoy the peace and quiet.

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 - Traction engine - photo Roger Dean

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

SERVICES USING ZOOM

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10.30am for 11am

TUESDAY HOLY COMMUNION 8 for 8.15pm

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

Meeting ID: 686 311 6347 Password: 777



Dear Friends,

Our three church buildings have been around a long time. The 12thC Stock and Bradley Church saw the the various civil wars of early England, the plagues, the revolts and uprisings, the whole social change of the post medieval world. And the present building, over the past 150 years has seen the wars, and social changes and plagues!..... It's no wonder that Christians take a long view of things. We have been around a long time.

That has sometimes made us a bit arrogant... especially when we have been too closely tied to political power. Sometimes we have had too much wealth, as in the middle ages, and sometimes we have held back human flourishing out of fear of change - the place of women, divorce and remarriage and, still continuing, the place of LGBTQI folk. Some Christians were slow to embrace what other Christians pioneered and fought for - the abolition of slavery.

Today the Church of England has to take a very modest view of itself as a small presence in a complex world. Our mistakes make us need to be humble. We have got things to share with the world, but having an answer for every political, environmental and economic challenge isn't one of them. It was never about us, it was never about a bunch of human beings after all. It was about a deep and ancient truth, that Love is God's meaning, and we, as God's people must work out what it means to be a people who live in the light of that. That's Good News, and it's all we have to offer, but we gladly share it with everyone.

best wishes, Wyn

STOCK GREEN BAPTIST CHAPEL
NO SERVICES FOR THE TIME BEING



The Life of the Red Fox – Friend or Foe

Vulpes vulpes the Red Fox is a familiar sight in the countryside and even more common these days in rural areas. They are social animals with a life expectancy of up to 9 years, although many foxes do not live to that age as they have adapted to much of urban life but not to motor cars, their only predator apart from the Huntsman and his pack of dogs. They resemble small to medium sized dogs with bushy tails usually with a white tip and the general colouring is a lovely warm russet brown. They have pointed ears and a narrow snout.

The Red Fox has the largest natural distribution of any land mammal except human beings. They can be found all over Europe, Asia and North Africa, it is found in North America and was introduced to Australia for hunting. Its habitat ranges from tundra to desert but prefers a woodland landscape and farmland.

Their diet is varied, mice, voles, rabbits, eggs, fruit and birds and they are quite partial to a chicken or three if the fowl have not been secured well enough. They will also take young lambs and this is where they become the foe for the householder or farmer. Lambing time is also the time the fox is raising their own young.

There are more foxes living in the towns than in the countryside because the supply of food is more readily available and if you log on to our local version of nextdoor.co.uk there is someone posting videos most days of the foxes that he is feeding every night and what a varied diet he is giving them, I haven't seen caviar on the menu yet though!

January is their breeding season and the female fox can be heard screaming in the night to attract a mate. They live in groups of two to six, usually one dog, one vixen and her pups and a few aunts from previous litters, but they forage individually. They live in a lair or den within their territory.

By February most females are pregnant and as their due date approaches they become quite secretive and they have a bit of a spring clean in their dens ready for the birth.

Mid-March is the most common time for birthing. The cubs are born blind and deaf and not able to regulate their body temperature so the mother stays with them. Other animals within the family bring them food.

By late April the cubs begin to emerge from the den. They are now moving on to a diet of solid foods.

May sees greatly increased activity around the den both in the early morning and the evening. The youngsters play together and the adults have to go shopping more often to feed their hungry brood.

June is building up the strength of the pups, they are still being fed but by July the parents are looking bedraggled and thin after their months of endeavours, they are also moulting. The young now explore further afield and have to learn

to forage for their own food. Hunger drives them in to new territories and not always safe ones.

August is a month of recuperation for the adults and by September both adults and cubs are growing their new winter coats. Fighting breaks out in the group, all jockeying for supremacy and injuries are frequent.

Some of the young male adults move out to look for new accommodation as fighting has become very vocal as well as fierce. Some young ladies move out as well and once again the family group is re-assembled. By December the dominant male and female are seen together more frequently and so the cycle starts all over again.

The Fox has a great history through the ages in folklore, as being wily, cunning and clever. He appears in the culture of European and East Asian as possessed with magical powers. They appear in the stars as Canis Major and Canis Minor from the story of the giant fox who was sent by Dionysus to eat the children of Thebes but Creon, the leader of Thebes, sends a dog with special powers to catch the giant fox. Zeus intervenes and turns them both into stones and throws them up in to the sky.

The list of stories written in recent years is endless, Beatrix Potter – The Tale of Mr Tod, The Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl and so on goes the list.

I rather liked a section of a very long poem by John Masefield which I hope you will enjoy too-

Reynard The Fox from Part two (A Tale of The Hunt of a Fox)

From The Country Correspondent



Reynard The Fox from Part two (A Tale of The Hunt of a Fox)

On old cold Crendon's windy tops
Grows wintrily Blown Hilcote Copse,
Wind-bitten beech with badger barrows,
Where brocks eat wasp-grubs with their marrows,
And foxes lie on short- grassed turf,
Nose between paws, to hear the surf
Of wind in the beeches drowsily.
There was our fox bred lustily
Three years before, and there he berthed,
Under the beech-roots snugly earthed,
With a roof of flint and a floor of chalk
And ten bitten hen's heads each on its stalk,
Some rabbits' paws, some fur from scuts,
A badgers corpse and a smell of guts.
And there on the night before my tale
He trotted out for a point in the vale.
The fox's nose tipped up and round,
Since smell is a part of sight and sound
A faint rank taint like April coming
It cocked his ears and his blood went drumming,
From out by Ghost Heath Stubs
Was a roving vixen wanting cubs.
Over the valley , floating faint
On a warmth of windflaw, came the taint;
He cocked his ears, he upp'd his brush,
And he went upwind like an April thrush.

Thank you to everyone for all the brilliant Christmas decorations up and down Earls Common Rd. The road looked brighter than ever before and it helped to cheer up the community and lift our spirits. Well done.



VAS RADAR SPEED SIGN

This is a brief report on the data extracted from the VAS speed sign.

The VAS speed sign was moved to its present position near the village hall in Church Road Bradley Green facing north (i.e. facing away from Priest Bridge) in mid March last year. Because we were expecting the second VAS we delayed moving it to Stock Green, then came the virus and the lockdown.....

However we have now taken delivery of our second VAS, the second post has been erected in Stock Green and the second post will soon be erected in Bradley Green. Once that is done we will have two machines, one in each village and each machine will be moved between two posts/locations regularly.

The statistics below are therefore for a long period from mid March last year to January 7th this year. This is a very mixed bag:

Average speeds:

Going south (towards Priest Bridge)	28.98 mph
Going north (away from Priest Bridge)	30.91 mph

Maximum speeds:

i) Over 80mph (i.e. this is all of the vehicles travelling at over 80mph from 11th March 2020 to 7th January 2021)

Direction	Time	Date	Speed
South	15:00	03/09/20	97mph
North	14:00	03/08/20	94mph
North	14:00	18/11/20	93mph
North	20:00	8/12/20	93mph
North	21:30	14/09/20	93mph
North	10:00	15/04/20	89mph
North	16:00	08/07/20	86mph
North	23:00	18/09/20	86mph
South	20:00	25/08/20	84mph
South	00:00	31/13/20	83mph
North	17:00	15/09/20	81mph
South	00:30	14/12/20	81mph
North	18:00	04/11/20	80mph
South	03:00	24/05/20	80mph

The VAS does not save records of individual vehicles but saves the data of groups of vehicles in half hour slots, for instance the first line in the table above means: the fastest vehicle in the half hour slot from 15:00 to 15:30 on 03/09/20 was travelling at 97mph southwards i.e. towards Priest Bridge.

Speed Distribution:

Although the maximum speeds are horrific, no one would stand a chance if hit by a vehicle travelling at 97mph, in fact only a very small number of drivers act so irresponsibly.

Number of vehicles travelling below 40 mph:

Southwards 94.23% Northwards 92.15%

Number of vehicles travelling at between 40mph and 50mph:

Southwards 5.23% Northwards 7.03%

Number of vehicles traveling at above 50mph:

Southwards 0.099% Northwards 0.82%

Number of vehicles travelling at above 60mph:

Southwards 0.05% Northwards 0.14%

Mike Hadley 11/01/21

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

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

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

NATIONAL AWARD WINNING COMMUNITY SHOP

The Village
Shop
Dronwich Road, Feckenham

- Coffee Shop
- Local Produce
- Deli

feckenhamshop.co.uk 01527 894475



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



VILLAGE HALL bookings contact
Rachel Cresswell on 07854 483684

Village Hall

Village Hall Committee

Chairman Mel Bates,

Vice chairman

Treasurer Stella Wallis

Caretaker Rachel Cresswell

Jan Bates, Karen Devereaux

Barry Newton, Liz Farquharson

and Wendy Ralphs



100 Club

...The December 2020 and January 2021 monthly draws for the Stock & Bradley 100 Club were made by Mr Scott Newton on 10th January 2021. The results were as follows:-

December 2020:

1st Prize: - No: 88 Mrs Cynthia Greatbatch

2nd Prize: - No: 12 Mrs Kate Nash

3rd Prize: - No: 42 Mr Chris Gupwell

January 2021:

1st Prize: - No: 63 Mrs Sue Edwards

2nd Prize: - No: 96 Mr Richard Parry

3rd Prize: - No: 72 Mrs Mary Waring



FLYING THE FLAG

Stella Wallis 01386 793350





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

788 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



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

Rush Farm



Welcome to my first notes for 2021.

That being so, I originally felt that I must not spoil the mood and so should say nothing about 'our Donald', the pyrrhic victory of Brexit achieved by 'our Boris', or the tribulations caused by COVID-19 and its mismanagement.

However, the total lockdown in this country, and then on Wednesday the storming of Capitol Hill in Washington DC just cannot pass unmentioned.

The first event was hardly unexpected, but the action in the USA, though it perhaps should have been seen as the inevitable outcome of the Republication Party, deeply racist and lacking the courage to act against Trump, was truly unsettling, yet seemingly inevitable given the fracture lines in the American nation and the obscure absurdities of a constitution written 250 years ago.

As ex-President Bush said about what he watched with disbelief and dismay, 'this is the behaviour of a banana Republic'.

To the farm, after a very wet period up to Christmas Eve we experienced our first lengthy cold snap of the year. Nothing exceptional at first, but for part of a day we had at least

a quarter inch of snow on the ground. As Boots discovered, not cold enough for the ice in the scrape in 5k to hold his weight on Boxing Day!

Before Christmas we had one new calf, and two more this week, and all seems well. Feeding the cattle now takes a much shorter length of time than in the past, and the fact the feeding does not require disturbing the cattle must play a part in their seeming very content. That being said, one steer, attempted to jump over the tombstone feeders and got stuck. Without Martin's machinery, we and the steer, would have really been up the creek.

This week two steers were sold, which obviously helps both in terms of finance and space, and hopefully next week a third steer will go as well as a number of sheep.

The ewes have had to be moved twice. In part because of the minor flooding we experienced in the week before Christmas, but essentially so they might be on a larger pasture, and as important, a field where there is hard standing for the feed trailers to be located on.

The next major event will be scanning and obviously we shall hope having two new rams will improve the ratio of lambs to ewes.

To side-track, the ideal outcome is no 'empties', few ewes carrying three of four foetuses and an overall scan ratio around the two mark.

In general however, despite the torrential rain we had, flooding was limited and very short term.

Additionally, the number of fields where standing water was a concern could be counted on one hand.

The 'jetting' of the drains which collect water from field 8 for passage under the drive, that was carried out during the summer in field 8, meant flooding in that field was much less than in previous floods. Similarly, considerable filling in of the quarried area in field 6, together with a new drainage pipe, meant that the area of standing water was much reduced.

Further work has been carried out around the barn, essentially laying down more concrete to keep vehicles off the grass as much as possible. Matters are not complete yet, but the setup is a major improvement.

I mentioned that the scrape in 5k was full, and in due course it was covered with ice thick enough so that Boots and Milly could walk over it. In fact, though this week was very chilly indeed, the water in the scrape is much reduced. Though daytime temperatures were generally above freezing, nights saw hard frosts. Further showers appeared to sprinkle the ground with snow but could just have been frost.

The pyracantha, which was full of berries a week ago, is now, after hordes of blackbirds appeared looking rather bare.

With the ground increasingly hard, though vehicle tracks are very marked, existing compost heaps were tidied for use this year. But of far more significance has been the work on the hedges in field 13 – the field across the river. It is possible to

replace the fence some metres back along the river line, but the fences on the other sides of the field were deeply enmeshed in the inevitable expansion of blackthorn and brambles following no hedge control for an untold number of years, which meant the fencers could not do their work. The growth meant that the hedges had extended some three or four metres into the field. This was not a task that could be done by a hedge cutter, and in fact required heavy machinery. Re-fencing can now be carried out and we have re-claimed quite an area of field!

Though hawthorn and blackthorn are both members of the rose family and hence sucker, blackthorn is far more vigorous and given free rein will spread outwards as fast as upwards so forming very thick and dense hedges.

Hawthorn tends to sucker from the base of the tree and so does not present the same problem.

Dung beetles are once again a matter of great interest to farmers concerned with conservation. Indeed, should you have the time and interest, you might wish to explore this website www.dungbeetlesforfarmers.co.uk or should this be too basic for you, try www://knepp.co.uk/knepp-wildland-podcast.

In general, what is excellent news is that more and more farmers are realising the soil they farm needs better care and attention.

Rous Lench and Inkberrow Royal British Legion branch



would like to thank all those who contributed towards the £2864.10 raised for the Poppy Fund in 2020. This amount includes poppy boxes in shops, schools, businesses, and individual donations. Sadly, due to COVID-19 restrictions our loyal band of house to house poppy collectors were not able to take part nor were we able to hold Poppy Appeal events during the year which has greatly reduced the amount we normally raise.

Janice Briney, Chairman



'Artificial Floral Designs'

Bradley Green.

Artificial/Silk flower Arrangements,
flower hat boxes, rose bears, picture boxes & other gifts.

Karina Warr 07703 674838

Facebook Fb.me/KazCave



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**

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.
B18 7LF



www.thomasbrothers.co.uk

A family concern



Wychavon Community Legacy Grant

We Need the Support of our Community

Kitchen & Toilet Project to enable Community Use of St John the Baptist Church

Good news we have reached the Final Stage to obtain a grant from Wychavon, we have applied for £15,000 towards a total project cost of £30,000.

This project will enhance local community facilities for residents; it is not intended to be in competition with our village hall. Over many years our villages have suffered an erosion of facilities including closure of the village school, 2 pubs, post office and village shop and the loss of public transport.

Community consultation is a key requisite for the grant; we need the majority of residents to respond, confirming your support, thoughts and ideas for community uses of the church in future years.

This is a one off opportunity; please respond by **Wednesday 17 February** and return your completed form to one of the addresses in Stock or Bradley Green, we look forward to receiving your ideas.

Any queries contact Planghamp@gmail.com Stock & Bradley Parish Council or celiahartphs@aol.com PCC Project Coordinator 07790 543248 or 01386 792581

Will you support our community project?

Yes No If No what is your reason?

Your Ideas and thoughts for using the church as a community building. Continue on separate page if necessary

Your Name Address

Please return your form to :-

Paul Langham Pilgrim's Way, Church Road, Bradley Green B96 6SN

Pauline Warren Tuscan House, Church Road, Bradley Green B96 6RN

Mark Warren Rambling Rose, Church Road, Bradley Green B96 6RW

David Waring Staddle Stones, Earls Common Road, Stock Green B96 6TB

Celia Hart Slate House, Middle Road, Stock Green B96 6TF

