

Stock & Bradley **Chronicle**

March 2023

Worcestershire



MARCH 2023

| Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday | | Saturday | | Sunday | |
|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| 6th | 9.30 am Art Class VH 6-7pm Dog Training VH | 7th | 10.30 am-11.30 am Zumba VH 7-8 pm Yoga VH | 8th | 10 -12 noon Drop In VH 7.30 pm Parish Council VH 7 pm K&D WI K&D VH | 9th | 7.45 pm Scottish Dancing VH | 10th | 11-12 noon Pilates VH | 11th | 10 am Litter Pick Stock Green "Civic Centre" and Village Hall | 12th | 10.30 am Morning Service Bradley Church 11-12 noon PuppyTrainingVH |
| 13th | 9.30 am Art Class VH 11.35-11.50 am Mobile Library BG 6-7 pm Dog Training VH | 14th | 10.30 am-11.30 am Zumba VH 7-8 pm Yoga VH | 15th | | 16th | 7.45pm Scottish Dancing VH | 17th | 11-12 noon Pilates VH | 18th | 7 pm Auction of Promises | 19th | 10 am Walking Club contact gt.collins@btinternet.com 11-12 noon PuppyTrainingVH 3 pm Service Baptist Chapel 4 pm Mothering Sunday Service Bradley Church |
| 20th | 9.30 am Art Class VH 6-7 pm Dog Training VH | 21st | 10.30 am-11.30 am Zumba VH 7-8 pm Yoga VH | 22nd | 10 -12 noon Drop In VH | 23rd | 7.45 pm Scottish Dancing VH | 24th | 11-12 noon Pilates VH | 25th | | 26th | 9 am Holy Communion Bradley Church 11-12 noon PuppyTrainingVH |
| 27th | 9.30 am Art Class VH 6-7 pm Dog Training VH | 28th | 10.30 am-11.30 am Zumba VH 7-8 pm Yoga VH | 29th | 7.30 pm Village Hall Natters Self Defence | 30th | 7.45 pm Scottish Dancing VH | 31st | 11-12 noon Pilates VH | | | | |

Hello Everyone!

Spring is on its way, having been away for a week in the mountains, I am so pleased to return to the relative warmth and see some bonny daffodils out in the garden and verges.

This month's edition is packed full of articles, updates and new faces. Its wonderful news that we have a new guardian, Becky for the Village Hall and thanks are due to Rachel for her many years of unstinting service.

Congratulations to those who threw a very successful and theatrical Burns night. Robbie would have been proud of you all!

I hope many of you will be able to join the Auction of Promises evening at the Village Hall on Saturday 18th March. This is an opportunity to bid for a whole variety of items (something for everyone!) and all in a very good cause.

Please also don't forget the Annual litter pick on Saturday 11th March. It is so important to keep our villages neat and tidy and only takes an hour or two of your time whilst also meeting other people in the Community. Highly recommended!

A special shout out for Anne Heath -a stalwart of the Village and attendee to many events. Congratulations Anne - on your 90th Year!

Finally, as this is only a monthly publication the King's Coronation will be on us before we know it. Please watch this space for news....

Kate

Cover :Snowdrops at Rush Farm

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

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Church Services at Bradley Green

March

12th 10.30am Morning Service.
19th 4.00pm Mothering Sunday
26th 9.00am Communion Service



Dear All,

I've always liked the idea of doing a bit of acting particularly if it was in something funny. Every time we go to the or see something well-acted on the TV there's part of me that thinks "it would be really good to be doing that". Now I'm sure that some will be thinking that it really is an easy situation to solve as there are lots of "am-dram" opportunities that it would be easy to be part of. The only trouble with that is that I really don't have any aptitude for remembering lines. The same goes for English Literature at school, I could tell you the plot in detail, the characters involved, any twists and turns, but ask me to give a verbatim quote and then that would be a struggle. I guess my brain simply isn't wired that way.

However, and this might seem counterintuitive, but ask me to relate the words from songs and I have no problem. They could be songs that I've not listened to for years but I find the re-call really easy. It's as if setting words to music unlocks an innate ability in my head that defies the logic behind I can't learn lines. Perhaps that means I should really have considered musical theatre – I had a good voice when I was young and sang in a couple of choirs – but my voice broke in such a way that that avenue is closed off as well! But music does have an enormous effect and I firmly believe can open many new vistas for us.

As we move through Lent one thing that I think is a great help is just to stop and listen to music. This is not having the music on the background as though it were aural wallpaper but consciously making the effort to sit still and engage with it. Lent is meant to be a time for reflection and nothing helps that more than not doing other things. So maybe sit down, put on one of your favourite pieces of music, and just "be". For me, music is transcendental and takes us beyond our understanding, and, if it's the right sort of music, takes us right into the heart of God. And after all, that's something of what we are trying to achieve spiritually at this time.

We'll never know if Jesus was a good singer but we do know that he would have been singing the Psalms together with all the rest of the nation as they went up to Jerusalem before that first Easter. It doesn't matter what you sing or listen to but try it out. You favourite music might be just what your soul needs as we look towards Easter.

God bless, DM.

AUCTION of PROMISES



18th March 7:00pm

Stock & BRADLEY Village Hall

Promises so far to include:

Hot Air Balloon Flight for 2 People, Traction Engine Experience, Champagne Breakfast for 8, Voucher for Arrow Mill, Motorbike & Sidecar Experience, Bottle of Champagne, Voucher for Lygon Arms, Three Wheeler Experience, Cadbury Chocolates, Vintage Car Ride, Picnic Basket, Miniature Train Ride, Taxi for a night out, Voucher for Flyford Toast, bottle of Whisky, ironing, basket of doggie goodies, selection of beauty vouchers, gardening and many more.....

Great social evening – come and join us and make a bid

Tickets £7.50 including a light supper Bar available.

Sealed bids will be accepted for those unable to attend

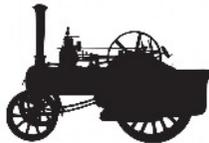
Cash and Cheques accepted on the night

For tickets / offers of promises please contact:

Celia 07790543248 Pauline 07913912150

Hilary 07971472046 Sue 07740705446

All funds raised will go towards maintaining St John's Church Stock & Bradley

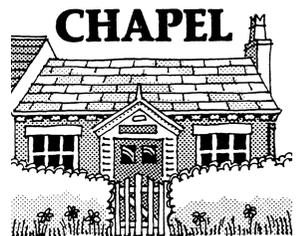


Stock Green Baptist Chapel.

Services First and Third Sundays every month

at 3.00pm

ALL WELCOME



Parish Council News



Your
Parish Council
Needs you!

The Parish Council Elections are on Thursday May 4th for another 4 years.

This is your opportunity to make a contribution and improve your local village community, why not join other like-minded residents who meet 6 times a year - for further information please contact:

Roger Dean, The Parish Clerk, Phone: 07785 396 163,

e-mail: clerk@stockandbradley-pc.gov.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 8^h March at 7.30 in the Village Hall

Annual Village Litter Pick

Saturday 11th March

The Parish Council are organising the Annual Village Litter Pick on the Morning of **Saturday 11th March**, so please make a note in your diary and come and support this worthwhile community activity. Teams will meet at **10.00** at the **Village Hall, Bradley Green** or at the **Phone Box, 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.

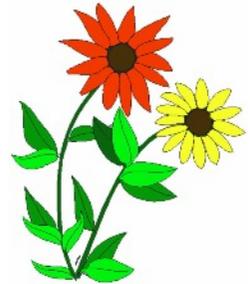
As usual pickers, tabards and gloves will be provided, **but please return them!**

This was the result of last year's efforts, our best turnout yet – well done everyone!



STOCK AND BRADLEY GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker for our February meeting was Duncan Coombs who gave us a talk on 'The Spring Garden' showing us the wide variety of plants which flower early in the year. As well as very fine photographs, he also brought specimens to show us and to test our knowledge.



NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 7:30pm

Our March meeting is a talk by Simon Gulliver entitled 'All Year Round Fruit and Veg'. Simon will demonstrate how March is an ideal time to start growing fruit and vegetables, both in the garden and on an allotment.

The subject for the monthly competition is 'A Flowering Spring Bulb - cut flower(s) or growing in a pot.'

Membership of the Gardening Club is currently by £5.00 annual subscription which becomes due on 1st January each year, so please come prepared to renew. Please make cheques payable to 'Stock and Bradley Gardening Club'. We welcome new members to join us at any time throughout the year.

Club meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £5.00 for 2023. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.

If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.

DROP IN

Drop in marked Anne Heath's 90th birthday at the meeting on Wednesday 25th January.



Village Hall Matters

As if Pilates & Yoga weren't enough punishment —Zumba has now started!

Zumba classes started a couple of weeks ago. Tuesdays at 10.30am—more members welcome. So, all three activities which were identified in the survey have commenced.

Defibrillator Training and First Aid

Tim Cronin from West Midlands Ambulance Service has undertaken 2 training sessions on Cardiac Arrest and the use of a defibrillator. Some 40 people attended. We will now see if a full First Aid course could be provided and what it would cost per person. Watch this space.



Smart-water Update

We discovered that subsidised Smart-water can only be accessed through the 'We don't buy crime' initiative but the village had this in 2017. However, it is still possible for people to buy Smart-water on-line. If enough did so, then the police would attend to guide on its use.

Burns Night

The Burns Night Social was greatly enjoyed. The Inkberrow Country Dance Club showed how its done and then got us involved (with varying degrees of reluctance!). The highlight, however, was John Bailey (A member of the Inkberrow Amateur Dramatic group) who gave a formal 'Address to the Haggis', reciting Burns' famous poem in what was a professionally delivered piece of theatre complete with dagger and sword. Absolutely brilliant!



New team member—Becky

We are really pleased to have Becky Harrison join the Village Hall team. Becky will take over from Rachel as our Village Hall 'Guardian' at the end of February and both will be part of the Volunteer Committee. Becky lives close by and is ideally placed to ensure the building is always ready to use. Becky will also take over Rachel's role as Bookings Secretary and you can find her contact details on the next page.



AGM village hall committee Friday 21st April at 7.30pm

Future events at the Village Hall

Village Hall Natters—March 29th at 7.30—Tickets £5

Self Defence by Pete Martin

Instructor Commissioned by West Mercia Police & Anti-knife campaigner.

Pete has 32 years' experience as a coach & counsellor in the subject and will be giving advice on Personal protection, Self-Defence & Knife Crime and Harassment

Coronation Event—May 8th (Details TBC)

Summer Social with 100 Club Annual Draw—June 24th (Details TBC)

Tickets for all our events can be purchased on-line at sbvh.org.uk/shop

Regular Events/Activities

Puppy Training—Sunday mornings 11.00am

Pilates—Friday mornings 11.00

Dog Training—Monday evenings 6.00pm

Yoga—Tuesday Evenings (TBA)

Scottish Country Dancing—Thurs nights 7.30pm

Art class—Monday mornings 9.30am

Zumba—Tuesday Mornings 10.30am

Gardening club—Weds evenings 7.30pm

Drop-in Social—Wednesday mornings 10.00am

And more besides—Contact as below

100+ Club News—Lucky Winners—Feb Cash Draw

1st Prize—£30 Catherine Jary (140)

2nd £20 Joan McKechnie (163); 3rd £15 Brian Holmes (127)

Drawn by Mr Ian Carbray

Contact the Village Hall

www.sbvh.org.uk

[Facebook.com/Stock & Bradley Village Hall](https://www.facebook.com/Stock-&Bradley-Village-Hall)

bookings@sbvh.org.uk – Becky Harrison—07376 144830

chair@sbvh.org.uk – Roger Pask 07976165191

treasurer@sbvh.org.uk – Keith Lawrence - 07785958755

100club@sbvh.org.uk - Carol Newton—01386 793812



BREAKAWAY

Wednesday 1st February 2023

The weather was bright, dry, and sunny - a good start to the month.

Rita wished us all a belated "Happy New Year".

She began on a sad note by telling us that Helen Arrowsmith passed away on Boxing Day 2022. Helen had been a member for 12 years until ill health forced her to stop attending our meetings. We have made a donation of £25 to Parkinson's UK in her memory.

We have had a letter from the Dogs' Trust thanking us for the £25 donation made in memory of Daphne Drinkwater.

On a happier note it was announced that Anne Heath has recently celebrated her 90th Birthday. She was presented with a card and a bouquet.

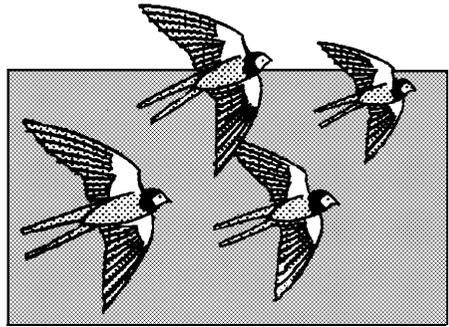
We all agreed that the Christmas Lunch was excellent. We took £120 on the raffle and the overall profit was £43.30.

We were reminded that payments for the Spring Lunch, in March, were needed by 22nd February 2023

A pro forma of a sample constitution for small voluntary organisations was available for anyone to read.

We need to supply details of the committee (names, addresses, dates of birth, tax paying status), plus details of what happens to any money raised.

Rita invited any questions and then a vote was taken on whether to proceed or not. There was 100%



agreement that we proceed with our application.

The application can only be made online and so Rita will get specialist help to complete it.

We then welcomed our speaker for the day - Nick Cosgriff - on "Jail Tales".

Nick has spent 31 years in the Criminal Justice System and for the last 3.1/2 years he has been chaplain at two local prisons.

One prison is Category A - for lifers - murderers, terrorists, manslaughterers.

One prison is Category B - people who pose a serious risk to the community.

(There is also a Category C prison which provides rehabilitation, training, open university, and City & Guilds)

Nick told us that the USA has the highest rate of imprisonment in the world. The UK has one of the lowest rates of imprisonment together with Canada and Scandinavia.

At present there are 82,000 UK prisoners against 122,000 police. (One criminal for every 2.1/2 police).

We were then asked to guess the annual cost of keeping a person in prison. It works out at around £48,000

per year - about the same as a boarding school.

We were shown photos of a cell for two prisoners. It contained 2 small beds, 1 chair, a toilet and washbasin and a small TV set. It is very cold in the winter. Nick said that the biggest complaints were about the small TV and it's few channels.

When a prisoner arrives in reception his main thought is to make life as easy as possible. He may say that he bedwets to get a single cell. He may say that he is racist, homophobic, or violent.

He might say that he is a Mormon (no tea or coffee) to get hot chocolate. He may say that he's a Rastafarian (no processed food) to get fresh fruit and vegetables. Etc.

Shakespeare said "Neither a borrower nor a lender be" and this is especially true in prisons. Currency can be food, cannabis, vapes, black pepper, chilli and mobile phones. However Fridays are "double bubble" whatever has been loaned must be paid back twice over. For obvious reasons this can also be known as "Black Eye Friday". If lenders are found out they can lose any privileges.

The meals are very basic. The budget is £1.85 per day for each person. However extra food is often squirrelled away and on Saturday night some "kettle" cooking takes place. It could be beans on toast (the bread is warmed on a radiator) or chicken curry (curry made with vinegar, ketchup, pepper etc) with rice.

Alcohol is made by fermenting fruit with bread and sugar.

Prisoners are allowed pets such as goats, budgies, rabbits, and rats. They also have a visit from an assistance dog.

Nick thanked us for letting him talk to us and hopes to come back again.

After the vote of thanks we drew the raffle and it was time to go home.

Future Meetings

1st March 2023 - 11.30a.m. - Spring Lunch. Further Details Judy Brevitt 0781 436 7276

5th April 2023 - 10.30a.m. - A Morning with Reg Moule

3rd May 2023 - 10.30a.m. - Trouble with Trivia - Robert Hemming

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Kington with Dormston WI

February 2023 Meeting

The February meeting is a time to take stock and to plan ahead for events later in the year. Members were able to consider a variety of opportunities for future months including photography and attendance at the National Federation Annual Meeting in Cardiff either in person or online. There were several ideas for items to be included in our own future programmes.

Rosemary Roberts was thanked for her organisation of the January lunch served at The Boot. The food and the companionship had been much enjoyed by all attendees.

In recent years the February meeting has been a time for in-house entertainment. This time the activity was led by Rosemary Smith, Programme Secretary, and involved all those present in a novel game of 'Handbag Bingo'. It was quite surprising to realise just what we could collectively produce from the depths of our handbags. No names will be mentioned. However we now know who is likely to be carrying the means to deal with any eventuality. Interestingly this did not mean the members with the largest handbags or the aching backs.

Forthcoming events

Future meetings to be held at Kington and Dormston Village Hall.

(Measures are in place to reduce the spread of infection)

Prospective members and visitors are most welcome.

Wednesday 8th March at **7.00pm**: Speaker - Merleen Watson. I'm Deaf not Daft.

Wednesday 12th April at **7.00pm**: Speaker David Barrie - Confessions of a Wine Taster

In addition to the monthly meetings, members are able to join a wide range of visits, courses, talks and social events.

For further information please visit our website

<https://kingtonwithdormstonwi.weebly.com/>

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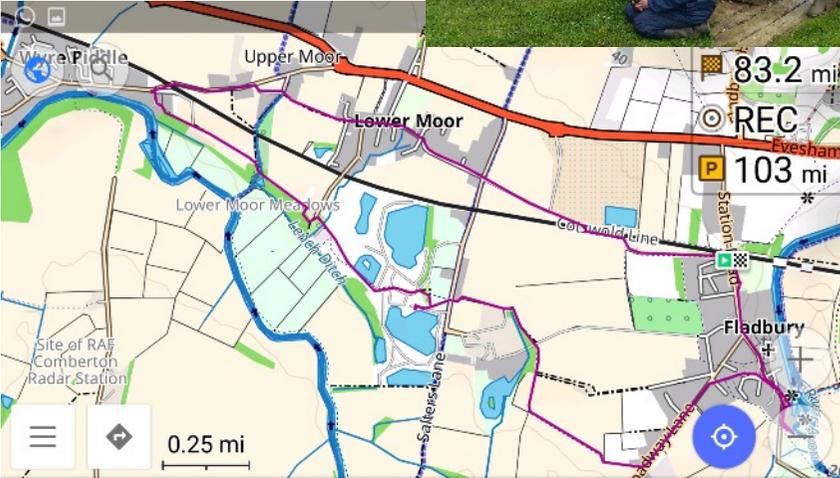


Weekdays 8am - 5pm
Saturday 9am - 4pm
Sunday 10am - 1pm



Walking Group

March walk Fladbury to Wire Piddle and back. Thank You Jean for a lovely walk with perfect weather.



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Rush Farm



It's been an odd fortnight of weather on the farm; warmer yes, but the wind was cold and lazy – it went straight through one. Heavy grey clouds sitting low over us – the sort that would always bring on Adrian's asthma, and then, an about face for Saturday as we woke to frosts and bright skies once more.

The moon on Sunday morning was so bright and the sky a beautiful blue streaked with gentle pinks. Apparently, it is called a 'Snow Moon' because in many parts of the northern hemisphere February is the month with the heaviest snowfall. By contrast, the day ends with a sunset that looks like molten lava it is so fiery red. An old rhyme comes to mind: Red sky at night shepherd's delight, Red sky in the morning shepherd's warning; We certainly have calm, dry weather. As for the 'Snow Moon' - there is no sign of snow in the forecast!

On the farm, the fifteen young cattle, all calm and helpful, left the farm. This group have gone to an organic farm in Hampshire. Whilst our cows are a gentle, placid group, the young 'teenagers' in particular, can be frisky and jumpy and a high-spirited kick from a cow

hurts, so we were grateful that they were happy to move off the farm peacefully.

As one group leaves, another arrives - a new heifer calf is welcomed into the world and joins the other little ones in the barn. Later in the week, a bull calf arrived, and on Saturday another calf arrived safely. Long aware of the realities of the 'coal face' of farming, that day, we also lost a calf, and a poorly ewe also passed away.

In the garden, the Snowdrops and Winter Aconite are all looking gloriously present finally peeping through the dead leaves. The Moorhen is very busy between all the areas of the garden, no longer only under the bird feeder, but enjoying the fallen autumn apples under the trees too. In the middle of last week, the pigeon outside the kitchen window was sitting on its nest! The bird song is definitely increasing across the day and is so splendid first thing.





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