



Stock & Bradley
Chronicle
April 2023 *Worcestershire*

APRIL 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1st	2nd 10.30 am Palm Sunday Service Himbleton 3 pm Service Baptist Chapel
3rd 9.30 am Art Class VH 6-7pm Dog Training VH 7/30- 8.30 pm Zumba VH	4th 7-8 pm Yoga VH	5th 10.30 am Breakaway VH 12.15-12.30 pm Mobile Library Staddle Stones SG 7.45 pm Gardening Club Bulb Show VH	6th 3 pm-5 pm Birthday Party K&D Seniors Club K&D VH	7th 11-12 noon Pilates VH	8th	9th 10.30 am Easter Holy Communion Bradley Church 3 pm Easter Service Baptist Chapel
10th 6-7pm Dog Training VH	11th 7-8 pm Yoga VH	12th 10am -12 Drop In VH 7.30 pm K&D WI K&D VH 7.30 pm S & B Annual Parish Meeting VH	13th	14th 11-12 noon Pilates VH	15th	16th 10 am Walking Club 11 am-12 noon Puppy Training VH
17th 6-7pm Dog Training 7/30- 8.30 pm Zumba VH	18th 7-8 pm Yoga VH	19th	20th 3 pm-5 pm AGM, Photos baby, K&D Seniors Club K&D VH 7.30 pm Scottish Dancing VH	21st 11-12 noon Pilates VH 7.30 am VH AGM	22nd	23rd 9 am Holy Communion Bradley Church 11 am-12 noon Puppy Training VH
24th 6-7pm Dog Training 7/30- 8.30 pm Zumba VH	25th 7-8 pm Yoga VH	26th 10am -12 Drop In VH 7 pm Coronation Planning Meeting	27th 7.30 pm Scottish Dancing VH	28th 11-12 noon Pilates VH	29th	30th 10.30 am Bowbrook Group Service Hambury Church 11 am-12 noon Puppy Training VH

Dear All

After a very dry February the rain has arrived in force along with spring and bringing the arrival of the beautiful daffodil.

Talking of daffodils have you noticed that there is a bulb competition at the gardening club where you can show off your best daffodils, on Wednesday 5th April.

It was lovely to see so many people at the Auction night, with so many lots and very healthy bidding, I'm sure I'm not alone in looking forward to learning how much has been raised for the Church after such a successful evening.

I do feel we are incredibly lucky in this Parish to have such an active and dedicated Clerk and Council who are constantly striving to improve the villages and protect our interests. Please consider attending the next Annual Parish meeting this month especially if you would like to put any views or ideas forward. Everyone is welcome.

Then we have a few dates for the diary. One of my favourites is the plant sale on 13th May but make sure you get there early as it is very popular offering some really interesting plants at very reasonable prices. And of course, The Coronation Party on Sunday 7th May, please register your interest if you can attend, details in the VH page.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Kate

*****STOP PRESS*****

The **BIG BREAKFAST** is coming back!

Sunday 21st May 8am - 11.30am

Tickets will be available through the Village Hall website soon.

Cover : Flowers for Mothering Sunday - *photo DW*

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.

EDITOR - MRS KATE FARMILOE 01527821244

Perry Mill Farm, Bradley Green, Redditch, B96 6RR

TREASURER - MRS MARY WARING, 01386792134

Staddle Stones, Stock Green, Redditch B96 6TB

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Church Services at Bradley Green

March

9th 10.30am Morning Service. Easter Sunday

23rd 9.00am Communion Service St George's Day



Please make donations for the **EASTER LILIES**, letting us know the names of loved ones to be remembered.

Email mary.waring@live.co.uk or tel 01386792134

Dear All,

When I was growing up it was always the family tradition to go to the family in Wales for Good Friday. This was a somewhat different experience to the way things are today. In those days there had been no road improvements so the journey took us through every town along the way rather than around them as would be the case today. It was always obvious when you were approaching the border as there was a pub and a shop both having large signs saying that they were the last of their kind in England. Today that would have no significance (except during the pandemic) but in those days it meant things were about to change. Whilst there were only limited places open in England, and indeed the pubs had restricted opening hours – especially so on a Good Friday – everything was closed in Wales. It really did give everything a different feeling.

There was an exception in Newtown though which meant that we had to be there for 1100. The local chip shop was open for an hour from 1100 to 1200. I can't remember if the food was any good but it did feel special as when you looked down into the town centre no-one was about as everything else was closed. The thing I do remember very clearly was that they had Corona pop. This was always somewhat of a luxury as we did not have fizzy drinks at home, so having a bottle of pop together with some chips really was at the top of my childhood expectations. I always remember that it was always sunny but given that it was mid Wales I'm convinced that my memory is playing tricks on me. It's a way of life that is now long gone.

As with all things, the old ways have died to be replaced by new and different ways of being. It's the same as the central part of our faith that we celebrate at Easter. As followers of Christ we are aware that when the old ways have gone, things are resurrected in a new form. In Christ we know that gives us life in its fullest and also opens the doors to eternal life. And I know that that's far better than a bottle of Corona pop!

Have a very happy Easter,

God bless, DM.

P.S. I used to love Dandelion and Burdock but it always makes me wonder who first thought to put those together?!?

Parish Council News

Village Litter Pick – Saturday 11th March 2023

Very many thanks to the 15 residents of S&B who helped to keep our village clean and tidy on what turned out to be a very pleasant morning! Also, thanks to Chris and his trailer from Rush Farm for picking up the bags and other assorted rubbish.

We always have to contend with the litter vandals who throw out their litter in what has become the Stock & Bradley “rat run” between Redditch & Worcester.

A couple of things we unearthed are worth mentioning: Mark Warren found a £10 note (which he donated to the church yesterday), if you think you lost this, please contact Mark with the serial number and he will return it; we also found a 15kg empty Butane Gas cylinder together with the regulator still attached, we left this with the rubbish on Saturday lunchtime and surprise, surprise by Sunday morning it had been removed, pity they didn't take anything else

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

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 12th April, 7.30, Village Hall

The Parish Council is always seeking your views on what would be helpful to the village, your opinions are important to us, now is your chance have an input and join the discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

We are pleased to announce that the Parish Council are planning to buy a 4th Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), we will now have one at all the 4 entrances to Stock & Bradley, no other village in Worcestershire (and possibly England) will have this many VAS's.

PC Edmunds was very impressed by our existing VAS as it recorded exactly the same speed as his speed gun and commented that he believed that it was “a major contributor in reducing the overall speeding through the village” and was the “most advanced he had seen”.

PC Edmunds and his colleagues have agreed to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to answer any questions you may have.

Also, on the agenda will be a review of our activities over the past year and if you can stand all this excitement there will, of course, be the usual “refreshments”.

Speed Check February 2023

Early one cold February morning the Clerk met with PC Warren Edmunds and PCSO Vicky Elliott in the lane at the entrance to the Church to conduct speed monitoring in Church Road, over the next hour around 100 vehicles were checked in both directions.

Unfortunately, the police car together with Warren and Vicky (in their high viz jackets) must be visible, so, as you can guess, most of the drivers obeyed the speed limit, however, Warren did stop a few and gave a warning.

Many thanks to Warren & Vicky for assisting the Parish Council to try and control the speed of vehicles through our village; I recently attended a Clerk's "gathering" and the largest issue by far, in every village in Worcestershire is speeding.

rogertheclerk@outlook.com

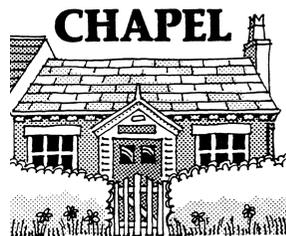


Stock Green Baptist Chapel.

Services First and Third Sundays every month

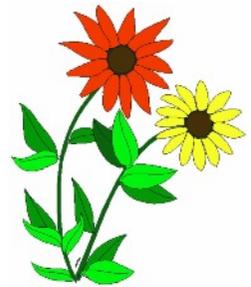
at 3.00pm

ALL WELCOME



STOCK AND BRADLEY GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker for our March 1st meeting was Simon Gulliver who gave us a talk entitled 'All Year Round Fruit and Veg'. He showed us how to grow all kinds of produce in a relatively small space, and how to store or preserve them for future consumption as well as giving us information on soil preparation and timings for sowing and harvesting.



NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 7:30pm

The April meeting will be our Annual Bulb Show. Members bring along three cut blooms each of as many daffodil varieties as they can muster, and everyone judges each entry to decide the winner in each class. Lots of help is available for anyone not sure of which Class to enter. Make sure that you bring your own vases. More than one entry can be made in each Class, except for Class 8.

- Class 1 Planted container of bulbs, any variety or varieties
- Class 2 3 cut flowers Trumpet Daffodil or Large Cupped Daffodil
- Class 3 3 cut flowers Small Cupped Daffodil or Poeticus Daffodil
- Class 4 3 cut flowers Double Daffodil
- Class 5 3 cut flowers Jonquil Daffodil, Tazetta Daffodil, or Triandrus Daffodil
- Class 6 3 cut flowers Cyclamineus Daffodil or Dwarf Daffodil
- Class 7 A Spring arrangement including at least one bulbous variety
- Class 8 Photograph (maximum size A5) depicting 'A Specimen Flower or Plant'.
One entry per member for this Class.

Class 9 3 cut flowers of bulbs, any variety of varieties

Note that there is no monthly competition at the April meeting, but the overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd scores from the Bulb Show will count towards the totals.

It has become a tradition that we each bring along a few nibbles to share, so please feel free to do so !

PLANT SALE AT BRADLEY GREEN VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH ROAD

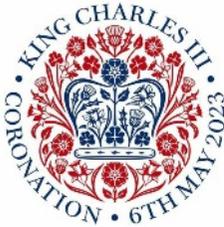
Our annual Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday 13th May 2023** from 10am to 12 noon so make a note in your diary now! If you can donate plants to add to those grown by our members, it would be greatly appreciated. There will also be a stall run by a professional nurseryman, and another selling plant supports.

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 if you haven't already done so. 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.

Village Hall Matters



Celebrating the Kings Coronation

Afternoon tea on Sunday 7th May, 3.30pm – 5.30pm.

The celebration will take the format of an afternoon tea, with a glass of Fizz.

To manage catering arrangements/numbers we are going to ask people who would like to attend, to let us know in advance. This can be done in a number of ways, via the community 'what's app', an email to the clerk, or on a paper copy left in the hall for the various groups ie Drop in, Breakaway, Garden Club etc Please complete with your name and post code.

The event is free to all S&B residents, with thanks to Wychavon District Council and Tony Miller, Worcestershire County Councillor for their generous donations.

Village Hall - A Centenary year

We might be perceived as greedy if we claim to have two centenary years to celebrate. However, look at our website (sbvh.org.uk/history) and you will find that it is 100 years ago this year (1923) that Rev J T Conan-Davies – 'Vicar of this Parish' – initiated the planning that led to the Hall' opening in 1935. Two auspicious dates to celebrate! We hope to bring forward news of a Centenary Social in the late Summer to recognise the first of our 'Two Centenaries'

Meanwhile the work continues. Our role on behalf of Stock & Bradley is the same now as it was back in 1935 when the hall opened:-

To Enhance Community Cohesion:

By Funding and Developing the Village Hall and by Promoting its use.

During 2022, we have established an on-line presence, freshened up the appearance and started new social initiatives such as Village Hall Natters and the 3 different forms of exercise class requested in our survey. And we have made a small monetary surplus on these daily activities. So we have been '**Funding it & Promoting its use**'

While we want to put on even more new events to bring people together, we also have a responsibility to '**Develop**' the facility. We have started discussing the improvements needed to maintain a legacy for future generations, one which keeps step with changes in Society and the Green Agenda— program to create a sustainable future for the Village Hall. Lots to do then!

AGM village hall committee Friday 21st April at 7.30pm

A thank you to Breakaway

The Breakaway group have been in the Stock & Bradley community since 15th January 1980, the idea was for Ladies in the local villages, who may be isolated to meet up once a month to socialize and share the company of other Ladies, hearing various talks, and enjoy visits out. In the early years children would also accompany their mothers. Madeline Sidaway was one of the original members, and is the current Treasurer, Caroline Garvey, Hilda Johnson, Diane Baggott and Eileen West were part of the original group.

Starting the group with Jumble sales to get funds and encouraging other likeminded ladies to join, they called the group Breakaway to get away from rules and formalities of other groups, there are none of these, no membership, just come to the Village Hall the first Wednesday every month apart from January and August and pay £5, which includes refreshments and a chance of a raffle prize. Breakaway has two visits a year in June and October, visiting places such as Highgrove and the royal mint, three lunches in July, Christmas time and in the Spring .(originally lunches were in people's homes as there was no kitchen in the Hall) over the years Breakaway has raised money for charities such as Breast Cancer, the Air ambulance, British heart foundation and Guide dogs for the blind, to name but a few, with donations to various charities standing at approx.30K over the 39 years, the local church has benefited from Breakaways generosity, purchasing curtains and supporting the Kitchen/ lavatory projects. The village Hall is grateful for the tables and chairs which were purchased, along with help for a new boiler and water heater, the Breakaway Flag is flown at meetings, and again this helps with the Village Hall coffers, donations are also received by the local Chronicle.

The current President is Rita Tolley, and secretary is Margaret Hay, and now have 50 regular attendees, Breakaway welcomes new ladies to come to the meetings. I'm quite sure you would receive a warm greeting.

Nikki Dean. On behalf of the Village Hall Committee.

100+ Club News—Lucky Winners—Feb Cash Draw

1st Prize—£30 Fred Wilson (80)

2nd £20 Carol Brazier (92); 3rd £15 David Fletcher (120)

Drawn by Mrs Jean Davis

Contact the Village Hall

www.sbvh.org.uk [facebook.com/Stock & Bradley Village Hall](https://www.facebook.com/Stock%20%26%20Bradley%20Village%20Hall)

bookings@sbvh.org.uk
chair@sbvh.org.uk
treasurer@sbvh.org.uk
100club@sbvh.org.uk

- Becky Harrison 07376 144830
- Roger Pask 07976 165191
- Keith Lawrence 07785 958755
- Carol Newton 01386 793812



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

BREAKAWAY

Wednesday 1st March 2023

Spring Lunch

We arrived at 9.30a.m. to get the room ready for 39 guests.

The tables looked very attractive with pots of golden primulas and green and yellow serviettes - very Springlike. There was a table plan, and a quiz, and the raffle (including 3 lovely pot plants) was placed on a nearby table.

All was ready by 11.00a.m. Soon the room was filled with people laughing and chatting and catching up on news.

Our excellent caterers "Four Seasons" arrived and got busy in the kitchen.

Rita welcomed everyone and thanked those who had supplied us with good quality raffle prizes.

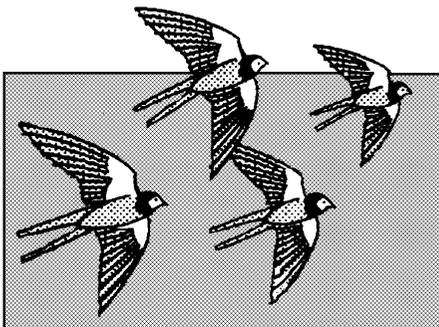
We all tried the quiz which gave clues to the names of biscuits and sweets. The winner got 19/20.

Gill Taylor - had reached 90 years of age in October 2022 and so she was presented with a bouquet.

A longstanding member, Eileen Gibbs, is moving out of the district. We wish her well in her new life.

Rita then read a poem about all the good things that February brings, snowdrops, Easter Eggs in shops, Valentine's Day, Pancakes etc.

Our meal which was accompanied with a selection of wines and fruit juices was a pre-selected choice of salmon fillet, steak and ale pie, roast loin of pork, or vegetarian option, served with a medley of fresh vegetables and potatoes followed by lemon meringue roulade, fresh fruit



salad, or salted caramel chocolate brownie. We finished with tea or coffee and mints.

Rita called the caterers in to thank them for an excellent meal and the committee for all their hard work.

She also thanked to Judy Brevitt for organising the event, Pam Fletcher for helping with the early teas and coffees and Pat Smith and Pip Cooke for laying the tables.

It was then time to draw the raffle which included the pots of flowers off the tables.

We all agreed that we'd had a lovely time and after more gossip we made for home.

Future Meetings

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

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

7th June 2023 - 11.30a.m. - Outing to Selly Manor - Cost £22 - This includes the coach fare, a guided tour, and tea and biscuits. - Further Details - Pam Welsh - 01386 792117 or 07580 712 976

A Trip to Bruges by Stella Wallis

Early February, I was treated by my daughter & son to a trip to Bruges for my 80th birthday. Sarah, my daughter organised the trip accompanied by my 2 granddaughters, Alice & Grace.

Alice was in charge of the places to see and Grace where we would eat..

We travelled by Eurostar from St Pancras station, just after 9am and reached Brussels via Lille, in just under 2 hours. (our train journey from Pershore the night before, took us a similar time) A local train took an hour to reach Bruges, where we set out to find our hotel. Problem was that the hotel was closed for refurbishment, and following phone call, we were up graded to a 4 star hotel Dukes Arches a bit further down the cobbled road. No problem!

After settling in, we took a walk around the old town, added to the Unesco World Heritage List in 2000. passed all the chocolate shops, to the main square and had some lunch, before taking a boat trip on the canals that wind their way around the town which enabled us to see many of the fine houses along the canal. Bruges once navigated by ships probably Vikings, had access to the sea, but now silted up, and is known as the Venice of the North. 5 families allowed to man the tourist boats.

Opposite our hotel was an Italian restaurant where we had our meal at night. Pizza and spaghetti all cooked on the spot.

The next morning, we had breakfast in a health food restaurant, and then set out to see the sights.

Most of the medieval city remains unchanged since the 16th century.

The legend of the Lake of Love with its swans is that in 1488 people of Bruges executed one of the town's administrators belonging to the Court of Maximilian of Austria who punished Bruges by obliging them to keep swans on their lakes and canals eternally.

We visited the Church of our Lady Bruges. The Basilica of the Holy Blood built in the 12th century with amazing decoration inside. Daffodils were out in sheltered spots even though there had been a severe frost, but the sun was out and perfect blue sky.

13th Century Belfry of Bruges 83 metres high, with a full time Carillonieur, surrounded by a large courtyard, the building apparently had been a factory but looked a bit like a workhouse or monastery. We enjoyed the ringing of the bells which was a bonus.

Burg square which housed the decorated Gothic town hall dated from the 1376, held the Wednesday market, with fruit and vegetables, flowers, cheese and meat, beautifully displayed.

Tranquil garden convent of the Order of St Benedict surrounding a chapel, and with whitewashed nuns houses endowed by Joanna, Countess of Constantinople.

The girls decided they must try the warm Belgium waffles with strawberries and chocolate.

Dinner at the Italian restaurant opposite as we had walked miles during the day.

On our final morning, we took a walk along the outer canals which had windmills, along the bank, , before which they said I must try a waffle. I had cherries and chocolate on top which I found a bit too sweet, but couldn't leave without eating one.

Off to Bruges station for our return, and then via Eurostar to London. You could have a trip to the coast from Bruges, if you had more time.

We managed to pack in as many of the sights as possible, in the couple of days there, enjoying good weather, food and company.

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Kington with Dormston WI

March 2023 Meeting

The March meeting was cancelled because of adverse weather and travelling conditions. Merleen Watson was scheduled for a presentation entitled "I'm Deaf not Daft". It is hoped that she will be able to offer another date in the future programme.

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

Wednesday 10th May at **7.00pm**: Annual Meeting and discussion of NFWI resolutions

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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 <p>The Village Shop Droitwich Road, Feckenham feckenhamshop.co.uk 01527 894475</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coffee Shop• Local Produce• Deli  <p>Weekdays 8am - 5pm Saturday 9am - 4pm Sunday. 10am - 1pm</p>  <p>FREE SECURE WiFi</p>

Stock and Bradley Green Walking Group 19th February 2023

The walk started in Fladbury with 10 adults, 2 children and 2 dogs. The start went passed the Fladbury Community Orchard and Nature Reserve, which looked in great condition and well looked after. After crossing a railway line we walked through the villages of Lower and Upper Moor on tracks and



roads which led to us crossing the line again but this time by a bridge. We continued on footpaths and tracks near the river Avon until we came to The Springs Holiday Park with luxurious lodges, lakes and clubhouse, where we had our coffee break and a team photograph. Continuing back towards Fladbury we spent time overlooking the Weir before making our way back to the car park. A distance of 5.4 miles was recorded, but not an arduous walk with plenty of enjoyable conversations with our companions.

Jean George

Walk Leader

Beauty by Elizabeth

Skin Therapist
V.L.C.T.

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Rush Farm



A routine is forming for us here. Wednesday is 'farm team' meeting day, and that sets the tone for the next seven days – and makes sure we have a list of the jobs and their allocation! A farm diary sits in the kitchen to help us recall the day's events.

On Tuesday last, a chilly but bright day after light overnight rain, we were visited by friends of the farm Caroline from Worcester Wildlife Trust, and local farmer Jonathan, to help us make sense of the new Environmental Land Management scheme from DEFRA. But at the same time, we fairly put the world to rights regarding the production of food, and the implications of trends including rewilding, and 'meatless meat'!

This week has so far been very different weather - cold and fine drizzle, but little rain. The animals are well. The 10 or so calves from this autumn's calving look as charming and appealing as they always do. Now tall enough to feed through the 'tombstone' feed fence, copying mum, they munch on the hay, nosing through it to reach the best bits, which always seem to be buried! Sunday morning was bright and sunny, but the wind is bitter. Although it is blowing straight at their faces, it doesn't seem to put the cows off, who line up along the feeder for breakfast. Tombstone feed fences are designed for horned cattle to reduce the risk of trapped heads, essential then for our horned Traditional Herefords.

The alder trees along the brook are bursting with their spring display of catkins and seeds, and the blackthorn buds won't be long before they too burst into their white blossom. A recent trip to Worcester city allowed us to enjoy the blackthorn already blossoming – a reminder of how cold it can be here in comparison. The Apricot is looking at its very best.

The scrape already has a Canadian goose on its nest, and a heron flies away as we approach. A number of small birds take off from the long grass along the edge. Could they be Snipe? Once home, the books come out, but we are still not sure.

This week we attended an event at Smites Farm, the centre for the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, arranged to introduce to farmers in this area to the concept of 'farm clusters' - groups of farms coming together to facilitate the work of making environmental improvements i.e., making rivers wiggly again, and recreation of flood plains, reed beds 'to catch' phosphates and more in run-off from conventionally farmed agricultural land, and more revolutionary - trading in carbon! The other speaker expressed his concern that the true and original purpose of farming - the growing of food- not be forgotten. Both thought and discussion provoking talks.

News that February was the driest for 30 years focusses our concerns yet again on the unseasonal and extremes our weather delivers now. The dawn chorus this morning was the best for months, and the Geese are once again flying past us. We hope that the cold air forecast for next week doesn't disrupt nature's desire for spring to be sprung too much. For us too of course!



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