

# Bushley News

January 2023

*The Voice of the  
Village*

Nº: 628

So here we are at the start of a new year ... again ...

I'm sat here trying to think of something profound to say and coming up with nothing but a hollow thud in my mind.

The trouble is I don't really set any store by so called New Year's Resolutions; I can and should make resolutions at any time through the year not at just one point in the calendar and how long would I stick to it?

What has happened in the last year anyway?

What can I expect to happen in this new year of 2023?

What would I like to happen? .... realistically that is, I mean we all want to win the lottery!

Errmmm .... I could get fit, yes that's a worthy resolution ... hang on though didn't I say that last year? ... hmm ... perhaps not then ... that's too specific maybe something more esoteric then ... yes, let's try that ..... I could resolve to be a better human being ... yes, that's suitably vague, I can do that can't I ? .... but who's going to notice? Am I a bad enough human being in the first place that anyone would notice if I did strive to become a better person? Maybe I should accentuate my bad points before I start improving?

That's insane! .... every year I do this, try to find a more meaningful existence I mean, what is the point? It is what it is, right?

Ah well, I made some effort to find a resolution ... I'll just have to do what I usually do .... wing it and hope no one notices that I'm still the same flawed person I've always been.

Anyway, Happy New Year Bushley News readers, have fun and keep smiling!



Ed.

## The View from the Pulpit

I am writing this on the 5th day of Christmas – the day on which a gift of five gold rings is received in the popular song – the twelve days marking the period between the birth of the Messiah and the visit of the wise men at Epiphany, traditionally celebrated on 25th December and 6th January respectively. Just as we were preparing for the Carol Service, the church heating went down. The visiting engineer found that there were two major part failures, both readily replaced, but neither before Christmas! I am therefore grateful to Sam and Belinda from Wellingtonia House who kindly made four convactor heaters available for the Christmas period. These took the edge off the cold although the overall temperature had risen significantly since the thermometer had recorded – 8C the previous week. I am also grateful to Keith and Sue Davis for the use of their water supply and hosepipe, and to Richard Webb for supplying a Christmas Tree, which I believe Belinda and Keith subsequently decorated. Nine readers were identified for the Carol Service, which was followed by traditional refreshments that were enjoyed despite the cold. On Christmas morning we celebrated the birth of Christ, the children showing some of the gifts they had already opened before we considered the greatest gift of all, that of the Son of God to the world. I like to focus on the great ‘I am...’ sayings of Jesus: ‘I am the light of the world,’ ‘I am the way, the truth and the life,’ ‘I am the bread of life,’ ‘I am the resurrection.’ These must surely rank as the most extraordinary claims ever made by a human being: if true, they demand an urgent and committed response, which is why Christmas is so much more than just an annual birthday party gathering.



Rev. Chris Moss

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Now we come to the start of a new year, greeted by some with a sense of excitement and by others with a sense of dread. It's traditionally a time for making resolutions, though most of us realise just how pointless this exercise turns out to be. A famous one was made by an anonymous person in 1512: 'This year I will make a name for myself!' As I have stated before in these pages, perhaps one of the best resolutions we can make is to spend more time thinking before we charge headlong into action. Careful reflection and taking advice will pay dividends, especially if we are naturally inclined to be impetuous. Christians emphasise the importance of reading scripture and prayer as the essential prerequisites of a life that has direction and purpose, rather than a life culminating in regret and a sense of failure. No doubt all of us could learn from Susan Sontag, who in 1972 noted in her diary, 'I want to make a New Year's prayer, not a resolution. I'm praying for courage.'

On a personal note, and as many people already know, 2023 will be my final year as Vicar of this benefice. I reached my seventieth birthday last January, at which point I should have retired. However, it was agreed by the Bishop of Worcester that I could continue in post for a further two years on a house-for-duty basis i.e. I would receive no stipend, only my pension, but could continue to live 'over the shop' while Eileen and I searched for a retirement house. We have now succeeded in purchasing a house in Bishop Auckland, County Durham, and over the coming year we shall be making transitional arrangements, including the headache of downsizing!

A Bible verse I often use at this point in the year is found in Isaiah: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" says the Lord. (Isaiah 43.19)

# Jottings of a Retired Country GP

## Bacteria and a fungus

The title of the first Jottings that I wrote was 'There's a lot of it about'. It seems as though the same is true nearly 30 years later. After the Covid virus pandemic we have the usual winter influenza viral disease to cope with, and now a bacterium has hit the headlines – Streptococcus A. But in reality, only Covid is the newcomer. Flu comes from the Southern Hemisphere most years and Strep A is always with us. Apart from the two viruses that are very difficult to treat because they do not respond to antibiotics, the bacterium Strep A is highly susceptible to normal doses of Penicillin in its simplest form, Pen V.

Although Penicillin is well known to the general public, what is its history? It was discovered by accident in 1928 by Dr Alexander Fleming who was working at St Mary's Hospital in London. On returning from holiday, he noticed that one of his bacterial sample plates had been colonized by an invader that had possibly blown in on the wind from the street outside. He noticed that the invader seemed to have inhibited the growth of the Staphylococcus growth on the Petrie dish. Most workers might have thrown the sample away as being contaminated. Dr Fleming thought otherwise and started to study the fungus that had killed off the bacteria. From this fungus he eventually extracted the magic substance that he named Penicillin. But it was a painfully slow process that he thought could not be produced in quantity so he abandoned the work.

His records were uncovered in 1937 by Howard Florey and Ernst Chain who eventually used hospital bedpans (well sterilized) to grow sufficient Penicillium, the



Andrew Crowther

fungus, to produce Penicillin to use on a patient. The first one happened to be a Buckinghamshire policeman! There was so little of the drug available that they had to distill the policeman's urine to save as much of the precious drug as they could. The cynical medical establishment were soon won round and during the second World War many injured troops were given the new wonder drug and survived their infected wounds.

Since then the bacteria have adapted and gained resistance to these early antibiotics, but Strep A has not, and Penicillin is still able to kill off this bacterium. It does not need large doses but there are patients who may be allergic to the drug and other antibiotics can be used. But whereas vaccines have been developed against viruses and some bacteria, there is no vaccine for Strep A but this hardly matters because it is so susceptible to Penicillin. That is why the drug is being offered to children as prevention if they have been in contact with a friend with Strep A infection.

Most patients infected with Strep A have a very mild sore throat with or without a rash and a spotty red tongue, known as a 'Strawberry Tongue'. The rash is known as Scarlet Fever, or in its milder form as Scarletina. But as with all bacteria and viruses they can sometimes set off a devastating reaction by the patient's own immune system which knocks out vital organs and can lead to death. But this is very rare compared with the number of patients affected, who are mostly young children. If you are worried, get hold of a course of Penicillin V 250mg (four times a day for five days) through your GP surgery or Pharmacy which will work wonders, as it always has.

A Happy New Year to all our readers.

## In Touch With Nature

Happy New Year, let us hope for lots of good news for nature and good health for us. Yes, good news, COP 15 hosted by China in Montreal Canada; agreement on 19th December 2022, halting biodiversity loss worldwide. Let us hope our government conforms.

Winter has provided the rain, with many low-lying fields laying in water, just as they should. A Winter walk through the fields just beyond the foot path that runs below the Lower Park, these were planted with wildflowers about three years ago, mostly dead flower heads above the green of the perennial herbage and grass, but hey! Not all were asleep, there were here and there, flowers of Meadow Buttercup, Cats Ear, Oxeye Daisy, Ragwort, Dandelion and Knapweed. Confused by climate change? Maybe. I'm sure most will be aware of the silly Horse chestnut down the Pull Court drive whose leaves were bursting out in November, that one has always been confused.

Then came December and the first real

### THE WINTER'S COME.

Sweet chestnuts brown like sloeing-leather turn,

The Larch trees, like the colour of the sun  
That paled sky in the Autumn seem'd to burn.  
What a strange scene before us now does run  
Red brown, and yellow, russet, black, and dun,  
Whitethorn, wild cherry, and the poplar bare,

The Sycamore all withered in the sun,  
No leaves are now upon the birch-tree there,  
All now is stript to the cold wintry air.

John Clare 1793 - 1864

winter weather for several years, twelve frosty days on the trot and a little snow, all change again on 19th when a warm wind swept it all away.

Did you notice that lots of native trees held on to their leaves until those frosts came; that was surely down to making the most of the rain following such a dry summer.

Now the shortest day and the Christmas festivities are behind us, we will look forward to signs of Spring. This could be flowers like Snowdrops or Aconites, maybe a January butterfly if the sun shines, coaxing it out of hibernation.



The Turkey Oak long growing to replace the windmill's post on the Tump has finally succumbed to the rot that has unbalanced it's stability, brought down by the wind. Is this an opportunity?

Best sighting, to watch the now regular flights by of the Red Kite, scanning for prey.

Martin R



## A View from the Saddle

Around the World in 80 days, now there is a challenge. 24860 miles on a bicycle not in 80 days but looking

back I consider we have been around the world in our 16 years cycling. In fact going into Tewkesbury 5 times a week possibly means that I have been round at least half as much again! Not bad for a group of ancient bikers.

You could also add up the number of pints and pies we have enjoyed. Not too many accidents or dramas either. We live in almost perfect cycling countryside, hills for the odd challenge and lanes to almost all the pubs we visit.

Our local pubs get the usual accolades, sadly a few have closed in the last few months and several are restricting their opening times but fortunately they are generally open on Thursdays. We have noticed our original budget of £15 for lunch and a couple of pints is way out of date, generally it is up into the mid £20s. But it is essential to support these remaining pubs otherwise they too will close.

Having ground on about keeping the pubs open I have a confession to make. On our last trip the weather was miserable and an agreed decision was made to travel all the way into town, I would add with a loop through Tredington, so travelling approximately 15 miles. Initially all was well until I had a shout from the back, 'where is your helmet?' Fortunately we had only travelled to the Ledbury road. My excuse was that my morning had been rather manic. Catching the others up near Morrisons we wandered along towards Walton Cardiff then a shout from the back 'Bookman has a puncture'. Unfortunately the path had its share of mud, the inner tube

took a while to change and poor Bookman's hands were now covered in a mix of cow dung and mud. How we love the farmers. Interestingly a brand new building has appeared along this lane, we thought it was to be a new community centre but the Artist met up with a lady he knew from Tredington who explained it is the new Bloor Homes regional office. There will be houses all the way to Bredon apparently!



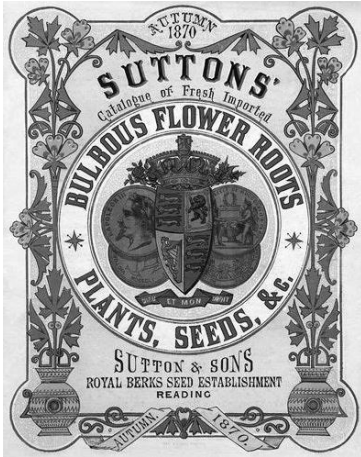
I did some research on the town pubs and their suitability for 6 of us to visit and the winner was The Royal Hop Pole. Yes it is a Wetherspoons pub but it was great. It was busy but moving some tables around we sat adjacent to one of the windows. The staff were very attentive, the beer well kept and the curry excellent. It cost us approximately £11.00. Reading their magazine they categorically state that it is their buying power that enables them to charge these prices and not that they are buying beer that is almost out of date. Their customers range from young mums with the babies to seriously ancient folks like us!

I wish you a very Happy 2023 and here's to our next trip around the world!

Happy and safe cycling  
Keith Davis

## Oh Little Town of Tewkesbury ...

As you browse the seed catalogues and avoid  
going out into the cold to prune the fruit  
trees, or clear up after the frost and snow  
here's a little something to keep you by the  
fireside.



Oh, little town of Tewkesbury,  
It's quiet—it's not July  
There are no clankies in the street  
No archers marching by.  
Not a sniff of halberds  
And scarce a smell of mead  
They're all at home and dreaming  
And getting up to speed.

The Clankies all dream of strikes  
Clang of steel on plate.  
Ding that armour, take him down.  
What is the Lankie fate?  
Strikes there are a'plenty  
NHS, rail and post  
You'd think that all was finished.  
Brits give up the ghost.

This is our winter of discontent  
Snow and slush abound.  
What does a re-enactor do?  
Has he gone to ground?  
He's polishing his armour, chaps  
And dreams of morningstars \*\*  
Christmas morn sees him quaffing lots  
Oh, the clankie in his jars.

\*\* A "Morningstar" in re-enactor speak is a  
spiked ball on a chain and is definitely a  
weapon we don't allow on the field.



So, in your peaceful, dreamless sleep  
Enjoy with kids and friends  
Raise a glass to Festivals  
What will the season lend?  
Let's hope for peace upon the earth  
Especially in poor Ukraine.  
Dream instead of proxy fights.  
In July we'll meet again.

Merry Christmas 2022

Penelope Tubbs

## View from Between the Bears

Happy New Year. In the last month of 2022 we had more than a hint of winter with temperatures of -10 or more, the lowest for at least 10 years; it came as a bit of a shock to all. The weather

forecasters had not expected it to be as cold or snowy as it turned out to be. Exposed water pipes froze readily in such low levels. At the farm we buried the majority of the pipes supplying the cattle troughs when we updated the buildings in the 1980's, so they were ok. The only problem is with the final bends attached to the troughs; we have tried lagging them with different things but the cattle eat it or rub it off, the ungrateful so-and-so's. A few kettles of hot water are required to be poured slowly over the exposed areas, usually around lunchtime, when the animals have drunk about half the water in each tank, allowing a few minutes of water flow to clear any remaining ice.



### **Ice Gritting from the Saddle??**

It begs the question, how much should we spend to solve a problem that rarely happens? I was a youngster [aged 9] in the cold winter of 1962/63 so my memories are a bit hazy. I do remember sledging down the banks at Hill House and skating on the old river [behind the Oxhey nursing home] but was too young to join the Young Farmers on Stanchard's Pit [behind the Boathouse]. I have subsequently been told that Carmel's mechanic brother, Bill, and garage owner, Ray Chandler drove an Austin Gypsy [like a Land Rover] from Bredon to Tewkesbury down the River Avon. We have not seen the like since. The disruption caused across the country resulted in a lot of equipment being bought by local councils, to be better prepared should a similar problem ever occur. Fast forward to the late 70's, Mr. Cox is living in the bungalow at



Wood Street Farm, still running his crane hire business in Oldbury. He buys 4 ex-council gritters with snow plough attachments, Rolls Royce 8 cylinder petrol engines,

fibre glass coated bodies, all perfect, registered in 1963 with less than 4,000 miles on each, for the price of the tyres. Tyres were one of the many shortages in the 70's and with 10 on each, the right size for many of his vehicles, he considered them a bargain. What Gloucestershire council lost on them is anyone's guess, but I suppose it should be viewed in the same way as insurance; we reluctantly pay it in the hope it's never needed.

Come up to date and gritters are a common sight on our roads in winter. At the first signs of frost, a fleet of modern lorries is ready to apply tons of salt to our main roads as soon as temperature sensors in the road indicate freezing conditions. How many accidents they have prevented and lives saved is incalculable. What puzzles me, in a time of great shortages of lorry drivers, is where do the councils get them from? They can't all be bin lorry drivers; what about the restrictions on drivers working hours? Are they subject to the same rules as the rest of us? What about emptying our bins? Sadly I don't have any of the answers.

On farms we face similar dilemmas. Our tractors and loaders usually start when needed, however, cold weather makes it more difficult to get a diesel engine going. The oil is thicker in the engine and gearbox, the battery performs less well, the fuel is cold. The engine needs turning over fast enough, and enough times, to generate the heat in the cylinders required to ignite the fuel. Everything is against it when it is cold. So what happens in colder countries? The same machines are supplied, but with uprated systems, sometimes the option to plug an integral heater into the mains electricity, to keep the engine warmer. Do we need it? No we'll be alright! It's all about the extra cost of course. At a time when farmers are paying more for everything, and not getting enough for what they are producing, every little helps!

Tim Perry

## Bushley Parish Council

Nigel Nicoll retired from Bushley Parish Council at the end of December having served for 20 years, the last ten years as Chairman of the Council. During this time he has not missed a meeting, even commuting from Edinburgh to attend. We would like to thank him for his long service and in particular his determination in petitioning BT and our local MP, to bring superfast Broadband to the village.

We wish him well in his retirement.

***Best wishes for the New Year  
from Bushley Parish Council***



**Meet the Upton Safer  
Neighbourhood Team  
on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Bushley Village Hall at 2 pm**



Following concerns from several residents about burglaries in the parish, the Parish Council have arranged for an officer from Upton Safer Neighbourhood Team to come along to the village and host a surgery, answering questions and giving crime prevention advice. The meeting will take place at Bushley Village Hall on Sunday 29th January 2023 at 2pm.

Due to Nigel's retirement there is a vacancy on the Parish Council.

Please email the Clerk should you be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, the position being voluntary.

Jane Rolfe  
Bushley Parish Council Clerk  
Woodlea,  
Bushley Green.  
Tel N<sup>o</sup>: 01684 293834  
[clerk@bushleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bushleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Bushley Community Garden

October 2022

***Published with profuse apologies  
from the Editor who lost the article  
and subsequently rediscovered it  
languishing in a folder hidden in a  
remote location!!***

Ed.

It's been nearly 18 months since we started trying to tame the piece of land that has now become the Community Garden. We celebrated our first year in May and were joined by many friends and supporters in our now lovely social space.

Since our last update in October 2021 we

have completed a covered shelter in our seating area, added a kitchen garden, more raised beds and got our compost area underway. We have a shed and a plant stand/potting area and are hoping to add a greenhouse soon. Our small pond area is well established and we have a variety of wildlife in and around the garden. Our next landscaping plan is to create a calm/mindfulness area. We have prepared the ground and have 100 willow rods on order for delivery in November to create a living enclosure and hope to see some new growth by the Spring.

Thanks to the resourceful re-siting of plants already in the garden and lots of donations of plants, bulbs and seeds from the residents of Bushley we are happy to report that we can grow things! We have had constant colour in the garden since the first bulbs appeared and a very productive summer of vegetable growing despite the dry conditions (aided by the very efficient team on our water rota – thank you again everyone involved). This year's crop has been fairly experimental whilst determining what would actually flourish so next Spring we will be able to plan more carefully and perhaps even think about having a produce stall. Thank you to everyone who has been involved this year and to our many supporters in the wider community. This really is a group effort and a place that we have all become so proud of. We are still only at the beginning of this garden project and have lots of ideas what to do here and how more people can benefit from the space. We also welcome new ideas and suggestions so do contact us on the numbers below.

We will carry on meeting on Monday mornings (10.30-1.00) until the weather closes in for the winter but please call in anytime to see what's been going on in the garden whether we are there or not. It's a nice place to just sit for a little peace and quiet or to meet friends for a chat.

Annie – 07968 042510

Rose - 07749 055901

## Quiz at the Cricket Pavilion

Friday 20th January

7.30 pm start

£2 per person

Teams of 4

Back in 'the good old days' when we first moved to Bushley there was a regular quiz evening at the Cricket pavilion and we found it was a great way to get to know our neighbours, even though we were (and still are) pretty hopeless at quizzes! I'm wondering if there might be a bit of interest in resurrecting the idea of a quiz night, although not necessarily every month? Apart from the social side of things it will raise a bit of money for the Cricket pavilion project. Hugh and I are going to host this one in January and I would love to hear from anyone who would also be happy to run one.

Julie Jarman 07468 573 999

# morton majestic



**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm**

**Brian and Charles** (PG-2022-90mins)

After a particularly harsh winter Brian goes into a deep depression; completely isolated and with no one to talk to, Brian does what any sane person would do when faced with such a melancholic situation. He builds a robot.

A wonderful simple film about friendship, acceptance and not being afraid to be eccentric. Packed with pathos and humour.

Filmed in Wales and directed by Jim Archer.

Licensed Bar / Refreshments / Ice creams

Tickets £5 on the door, for advance booking call Beth 01531

631503 or Malcolm 01684 833297 or email

[mortonmajestic@gmail.com](mailto:mortonmajestic@gmail.com).

[www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk](http://www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk)



# **Improving Home Insulation**

Brian Harper, the well-known local environmentalist, and ex defence research scientist will be giving this talk about the use of thermal imaging systems and a blower door to identify poor insulation and drafts. We will go on to discuss the actions you can take to improve your home insulation.

## **Find out how to:**

- **Improve your energy efficiency.**
- **Decrease your fuel bills.**

*Brian Harper represents Energy Tracers CIC a not-for-profit company.*

**Castlemorton Parish Hall Thursday 2nd  
February at 7:30pm**

*Free entry with tea or coffee and biscuits provided.*

This event is sponsored by Castlemorton Parish Council

# *THE BUSHLEY DIARY*

## Your guide to Activities in the Village

### January

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Sun	1	Private party	See Note 1	Bushley Cricket Club
Weds	4	Pilates	9:30 am	
Fri	6	Cricket Club Social Evening	7:30 pm	
Mon	9	Indoor Bowls Club	7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	
Weds	11	Pilates	9:30 am	
Sun	15	Private party	See Note 1	
Mon	16	Bredon School	See Note 1	
Mon	16	Indoor Bowls Club	7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	
Tues	17	Bredon School	See Note 1	
Weds	18	Pilates	9:30 am	
Weds	18	Bredon School	See Note 1	Village Hall
Thurs	19	Bredon School	See Note 1	
Fri	20	Cricket Club Quiz Night	7:30 pm	
Sat	21	Private party	See Note 1	
Mon	23	Indoor Bowls Club	7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	
Weds	25	Pilates	9:30 am	
Fri	27	Bredon School	See Note 1	
Sun	29	Bushley Parish Council	2:00 pm	
Mon	30	Indoor Bowls Club	7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	

### **Note 1**

For further details contact either Jason Kinghorn: 07971 084096  
or Rachel Perry: 07594 853620  
Bushley Village Hall website: [bushleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://bushleyvillagehall.org.uk)

### **Note 2**

Craft Workshops are open to all. It helps if people book in advance but it's not essential.

For more details contact Lesley on 07920 260468

If you have an item of news please send it for consideration to the editor at:  
[BushleyNewsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:BushleyNewsEditor@gmail.com)

The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editor unless signed Ed.

In accordance with editorial policy the editor's decision is final.

The Bushley Village News may also be viewed online at  
<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/Publications.aspx?ParishID=60>