

# Bushley News

December 2023

*The Voice of the  
Village*

Nº: 639

It's turned wintery: So? It's cold .... What do you expect, It's December and we live north of the Tropic of Cancer.

Christmas cheer is in order ..... In times gone by I would always read a Charles Dickens short story at Christmas to put me in the mood ...

Bah! Humbug!

Put another lump of coal on the fire Tiny Tim.

I once worked for a small family run firm and the two adult children of the family held managerial positions but not commensurate with their somewhat limited professional experience.

Nepotism ruled.

Come Christmas one year they, knowingly or not, played out a Dickensian Christmas scene, or at least that's how it seemed to me.

There was much discussion amongst us proles about if we would have to work up to 5:30 on Christmas Eve and would we get to have a Christmas lunch in the nearby pub?

Christmas Eve arrived and nothing was said.

As it approached midday we expectantly eyed the patriarch and eventually he said "What are you lot still doing here? Bigger off and enjoy Christmas."... and yes, we did get paid for that half day off.

We exited to the pub posthaste and ordered up brimming glasses of Gluviné and toasted our illustrious leader's health!

Cheers to all our readers.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and hope that the coming year brings excitement and fun in good measure.



Ed.

# The View from the Pulpit

When it comes to Christmas, tradition plays an important part for many people. As I have often said, there is no finer representation of the traditional Christmas than in the works of Charles Dickens, not only the justly famous A Christmas Carol, but also The Chimes (described by A N Wilson as 'the strangest and most powerful of his Christmas stories) and The Cricket on the Hearth. Many of the essential features of his 'Christmas landscape' survive to this day: the rich and varied food (though no longer a special treat, since most of us can buy it throughout the year), the singing of carols (now more often in church than around the fireside), the exchange of presents (no longer on Christmas Eve), the drinking of a 'Christmas bowl' (now mulled wine bought from M&S) and a special focus on charitable giving. Dickens draws us into a world of pleasure and delight, in many ways a fantasy, but one that is deeply appealing, though there is often a cutting edge as well. The world of misery and deprivation experienced by so many in 19th century Britain was thrown into sharp relief against the glamour of the Christmas festivities enjoyed by the prosperous. In many respects, nothing much has changed.



Though I enjoy all the traditions, the heart of Christmas is still a beating human heart, revealing God's own heart in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. He was born in poverty, taken as a refugee to a foreign country to escape persecution, assumed by many to be of illegitimate birth, and reared in an ordinary working-class household. In other words, God has revealed himself in circumstances that speak volumes to the twenty-first century. At Christmas, we remember and celebrate the start of it all, and it's noteworthy that even in an age of widespread agnosticism, attendance at church doubles during the Christmas Festival. No doubt nostalgia plays a part here, but I believe there is also a widespread longing for faith, and no doubt the hope that what has been inherited from the ancient world might just turn out to be true. Well, we have good news for these folk. It is! I hope that many who share in this celebration with us, but are not sure what they believe, will want to start out on their own faith journey, and discover for themselves that the baby lying in the manger really is the Messiah, the Saviour of the world.

Rev. Chris Moss  
01684 833152  
07590 573519  
cmoss.lcbq@gmail.com

## The next services at St Peter's will be:

<b>Sunday 17 December</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Benefice Family Communion</b>
<b>Tuesday 19 December</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>
<b>Sunday 24 December</b>	<b>9.00 pm</b>	<b>First Communion of Christmas [BCP]</b>

All will be welcome

# Jottings of a Retired Country GP Communities

As we approach the shortest days of the year we also enter the season that most epitomises the concept of 'Community'. Christmas, for many, means getting together. Humans are no different from many others in the animal kingdom in that there is a natural tendency to live and work and celebrate in community with others – but not all. In any society there are those who prefer to remain single or aloof from their fellow humans – (or lions or perhaps even ants.) And we can and must accept these differences. But the current upheavals throughout the world, not only in Ukraine and the Middle East, demonstrate just how difficult it is to live at peace in a community.

When villagers gathered for the Friday open bar in November at the Cricket Club to meet old and new friends we were happy to re-join the community that we left nearly 3 years ago now. This 'coming together' was so important, not only to wish departing resident Mungo and Julia happiness in their new 'community', but also to realise that friendship is an important part of life. Humans, like the lions or the ants, are communal beings at heart. Those who live abroad find great comfort in joining others from their diaspora - 'the dispersion of a people from their original homeland' (Wikipedia). But if we do not work at preserving and nurturing the community spirit, even in small villages, the fabric of 'society', as we have known it, begins to fall apart. This is nothing to do with the current economic, misogynistic, woke or gender problems, it is inherent in us as humans. The idea of community seems to have been sidelined somewhat in the current NHS. There was a period at the end of the last century when the move was for 'big is better' - larger hospitals, less of them, more centralised



Andrew Crowther

services. These moves were soon proved to be wrong and Gloucestershire and Worcestershire retained their hospitals and care facilities in the communities they serve. But unless the central authorities fund these community services sufficiently the whole structure of the NHS begins to creak. At last there seems to be a move to put just a little more finance into Community Services, which cover a wide range when you come to consider what is meant by 'community'. Once a patient has been

relieved of an acute illness or had an operation there is no need for them to stay in the acute unit longer than necessary. But where in their community can they be discharged to?

As you may have realised this is leading up to an appreciation of what Community Hospitals, such as the one in Tewkesbury, can do. In a less frantic atmosphere patients can be given all the help they may need to recover from acute illness. There are excellent nurses backed up by local doctors and visiting consultants as well as physiotherapists, occupational therapists and all sorts of other therapists who specialise in getting individuals back into the community. But some patients will inevitably need more support before they can live safely in their own homes. There are therapy teams working in the community and there is a move to set up volunteers to continue the good work of helping to support patients safely in the home. But some illnesses prevent patients returning home, and this is where nursing homes and care homes are essential partners in the community care plans. But having tried hard over the years to wash their hands of this essential part of the NHS the Government has the temerity to wonder why there is bed blocking and a creaking NHS. More support is needed for these 'Cinderella' services in the community that should be able to complement the good work that the more glamorous NHS services offer.

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Community means different things to different people. But essentially it is a similar human need wherever you are in the world. In more primitive cultures the family and the local village community are part of an ingrained normality for the population. In the Western world there is plenty of evidence of 'community' spirit that comes together in

times of distress, such as wars or floods. But just as essential in our communities we must not neglect the underlying need to nurture the community spirit. This is how the NHS will survive if only the politicians will allow it to flourish again. Tewkesbury Hospital has been around for many years and is flourishing, and so are other Community Hospitals in this area. Long may they remain.

Andrew Crowther

**1st Bicycle 1817**  
A professional cartoon for training machines  
It didn't have seat posts, but it was powered by the rider



Do you sometimes feel that you are taken for granted or take life around us for granted? As the years and the miles we ride clock up I thought that a 'view' of some of

## A View from the Saddle

under the guidance and management of the late Tony Sharp and Hugh Jarrett.

Back to our visit, we were entertained in the dining room. Again the history of this room and the 'banqueting hall' can be imagined if you close your eyes.

Our host Erica and the hot chocolate were wonderful. Looking at the lunch menu, the students will never starve, in fact they say an army marches on their stomachs, so do students. It was really tempting to stay on to enjoy their lunch with them it looked so good! Back on our saddles the weather looked decidedly bad and it then poured with rain. It never rains on a Thursday in fact it was a Friday! Puddles and pot holes are a nightmare to cyclists so we rode carefully.

As we went close to my favourite pub the Farmers Arms I have decided to include a brief summary in this 'view'.

I actually wonder if things have changed in the FA since the 15th century. Then drovers use to wander in off the Malvern Chase for some grog to get them on their way. Now wet and thirsty cyclists arrive with their tongues hanging out for the best pint in the area, Old Hooky! Neil, mine host, sent me some notes that describe the FA with sawdust on the floor and spittoons available. Women were not welcome, in fact excluded. I had not realised that pub signs always had a painting or drawing on them to help the many illiterate to find the right pub. The welcome we receive from Neil and his crew is always great and his menu perfect for us modern day drovers!

the delightful places and pubs we visit need more of a mention.

On a beautiful sunny morning we had received an invitation for a mug of the best hot chocolate in Bushley. This came from the Head Master's PA at Bredon School. Cycling up towards the main doors, with a bit of imagination, instead of arriving on 2 wheels one can be taken in by the grandness of Pull Court climbing out of a hansom carriage and being greeted by the footman. Our welcome was not quite as grand but equally good. Pull Court dates back to 1531 and was leased by Edward Tyndale, his brother was William Tyndale the famous bible translator. Over a period of time several notables lived in the Court, including Richard Dowdeswell an MP at the early age of 21. In 1833 the original building was replaced with the current building. St Peters Church and the Vicarage, our home for 43 years, were built at the same time.

Following the death of George Beresford in 1930 the estate was sold to the family of Richard Seaman, a prominent racing driver for Mercedes. He died in a crash in the Belgian Grand Prix in 1939. Local rumours suggest that a Merc is buried in the grounds following his death. It has never been found!

1962 saw the building becoming a school

Happy and safe cycling

Keith Davis

# Bushley Parish Council

## Resignations

Councillors Kim Fikry and Pearl Keen have resigned from Bushley Parish Council and we would like to thank them both for their work on behalf of the village.

Kim had these words to say:

*I have had the great honour and privilege to serve the Bushley community for a short period as Parish Councillor and think we achieved some good and worthwhile results during that period. Sadly, family needs mean that I have had to step down as Councillor. I should like to thank all those who entrusted me with their votes and remain a member of the community.'*



## Speed of Traffic

The Parish Council have attended a very positive meeting convened by Mr Nick Oldham, Headmaster of Bredon School, about the issue of speeding traffic through the village and several ameliorations were discussed, which will be followed up.

## Public Right of Way through Bredon School Grounds

All schools have a duty to safeguard the pupils in their care, as does Bredon School, so if you are walking the public right of way (PRoW) through the school grounds, please stay on the marked route which traverses the field behind the cattle shed, as there has been widespread abuse of the correct use of the marked route in the past.

## Planning Applications received from MHDC

**Ref:** M/23/01501/FUL

**Associated Ref:** M/23/01502/LB

**Location:** Bredon School, Pull Court, Bushley, Tewkesbury, GL20 6AH

**Description of Proposal:** Installation of an oil tank within a timber enclosure and a new boiler within an existing building along with pipework connecting it to the old system including proposed conversion of tool shed into boiler room and installation of new flue.

Jane Rolfe  
Bushley Parish Council Clerk  
Woodlea,  
Bushley Green.  
Tel N°: 01684 293834  
clerk@bushleyparishcouncil.org.uk

## In Touch With Nature

Early November has remained mild and fairly wet, we should be grateful. Leaves are at last now falling as the trees prepare for the colder weather which would normally be arriving as the days continue to shorten. Also arriving are the Winter thrushes, Fieldfares and Redwings, they will be feeding on slugs, snails and worms in the fields before stripping the hedgerows of berries.

However, butterflies, Red Admirals in particular are still searching out flowers to nectar on before hibernating. These butterflies have enjoyed a very good flying season in the UK.

We had a surprising visitor also looking to hibernate, in the sitting room hearth, a female Great crested Newt. She had made her way in through the air vent at the back of the inglenook looking for a cosy damp place to spend the Winter. So along side the wood burner was not ideal. Lucky we found her and thought she might try again among rocks in the garden.

Lovely visitor on two occasions last month was a Kestrel, once a very, in fact the commonest bird of prey locally, but now rarer than the Red Kite. This of course made the news that an injured Kestrel had been rescued at Rosehill farm most gratifying.

Feeding wild birds? I've given this a lot of thought these last few years, there is no doubt that to feed during prolonged cold spells is a life saver, but to feed all year round is really only for our own gratification. Consider, having lost up to 73 million, that's 11% of wild birds since 1970, and that is not taking into account the recent outbreaks of Bird flu. One of the commonest birds visiting feeders are Blue tits,

these parent birds will not feed their young peanuts, they will offer mealworms, live or dried, this in turn may lead to greater breeding success. Then being well fed throughout the year, more birds will challenge for territories, leaving lesser pushy species like Coal tits or Willow tits which have similar nesting requirements no space. We must also consider where our garden birds fit in the food chain, they are preyed by the obvious birds of prey but also foxes, Badgers, Rats, squirrels, Stoats, Weasels, even Hedgehogs. Other than providing perhaps a more substantial meal to the predator, there is no real effect on the food chain. In the other direction they prey on lots of insect pests including their eggs and larvae, slugs and snails are also on the menu. The critical thing is the eggs and larvae that over winter hoping to achieve adulthood in the spring are major natural food sources at this time. Now what do you consider is the evolutionary effect of providing easy pickings? The problem with wildlife loss is more about loss of habitat that provides natural food and shelter than food itself. There is one very important commodity you can supply very cheaply, water, essential both for drinking and bathing all year round.

Lots of Mole activity in the garden at the moment, but hey, the grass doesn't need mowing so they can get on with it. Best sighting, a lot more fruiting fungi appear on land not under intensive agriculture.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas  
Martin R

## View from Between the Bears

The wet weather at the start of the month has given way to something colder and drier, though still with a few showers in the mix. This has allowed some more wheat to be planted on free draining fields, but heavier ground remains very sticky and slow to dry out. It's not hard to see why; the days are short, dews are heavy, a couple of showers a week puts everything back to square one. There is still a lot of land intended for wheat not planted yet, and time is running out for many varieties. Some will cope with late planting while others will not; they can produce lots of leaves but no seed, not much use as a food crop! Spring planted cereal options do not usually produce as high a yield, so are very much a second choice. Depending on individual circumstances, maize could be a decent option for next year. It gives a crop for animal feed or for use in Anaerobic Digesters to produce methane gas, either direct to gas mains or used to generate electricity.

Reports are that new AD plants, solar [panel] farms and wind farms are suffering long delays in getting connected to the National [electricity] Grid, years in some cases, resulting in renewable energy capacity being unable to be used to best effect. Similar problems will become worse as more houses, many with electric vehicle charging points overload an inadequate supply system. Time for some serious updates on cables installed when usage was much lower, many years ago.

Drax, the large Yorkshire power station, previously coal fired, now runs on wood pellets largely imported from North America. These are supposed to be produced from waste wood, but there are serious concerns that this is often not the case, and good timber is used as well. Drax receives subsidies of hundreds of millions of pounds a year in recognition of the 'green' energy produced in an effort to reach the government's 'Net zero' carbon dioxide [CO<sub>2</sub>] targets. In another crazy move, in my



opinion, large factories are being offered 'Carbon credits' for cutting down on their energy use, so some have decided to shut their UK factories, move production abroad, and sell their carbon credits to other UK energy users. Where is there any global reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> in that?

The Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero [DESNZ] had proposed reductions for horticulture and poultry production of 40.9% and 12% respectively by March 2025, but after negotiations with the NFU this has now been reduced to 13% and 10% by March 2027. The Climate Change Agreement is a voluntary scheme, which encourages participants by reducing their Climate Change Levy if targets are achieved. NFU deputy president Tom Bradshaw stated, "The CCA is one of the few government incentive schemes that has consistently encouraged energy users to do the right thing and make positive changes to boost their efficiency and productivity and reduce their environmental impact." A realistic step in the right direction with little cost to the government.

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup and similar weedkillers, has had its EU licence for use extended by 10 years after a number of votes gave no clear decision in favour or against. A spokesperson for manufacturer Bayer said, "We are pleased for growers, who need access to glyphosate as an important tool for sustainable farming, that the EU commission has confirmed it will reapprove glyphosate for use in the EU for a further 10 years." While the UK is not directly affected by EU legislation any more, it tends to follow these sort of rules to ease the export of crops. It follows a 5 year extension negotiated in 2018.

Christmas is just around the corner. Have a good one and a Happy New Year.

Tim Perry

***Thursday 28th December at 3:00pm***  
***Puss in Boots: The Last Wish***  
***(PG-2022-102mins)***

When Puss in Boots discovers that his passion for adventure has taken its toll, having burnt through eight of his nine lives, he starts an epic journey to restore them. This involves using a magical map to find the wishing star. However Goldilocks and the Three Bears also want it!

A joy for adults and children.

**Free entry if you bring a feather**

***Thursday 18th January at 7:30pm***  
***Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny***  
***(12A-2023-154mins)***

A final outing for Harrison Ford, this time accompanied by Phoebe Waller-Bridge. As he wrestles with approaching retirement Indy is once again caught up in a battle with evil in the form of an old rival and must don his hat and pick up his whip once again.

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).

Licensed Bar / Refreshments / Ice creams. The Morton Majestic is at  
Castlemorton Parish Hall WR13 6BE  
[www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk](http://www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk)



# Castlemorton Environmental Group



## Severn Treescapes

### Aiming to create a 60 mile Corridor of Trees from the Wye Valley to the Wyre Forest

CEG invite you to a talk by Megan Finn, the Community Engagement and Communications Coordinator for the Severn Treescapes Project.

In this talk, Megan will talk about her work with schools and community groups to get them involved in the Ourberetum initiative seed to sapling scheme. This includes working with communities to collect and grow local native tree seed for local planting sites. She will talk about the project from both the landowner and community perspective and give information about funding opportunities for people who wish to plant trees.



Gloucestershire  
Wildlife Trust



Herefordshire  
Wildlife Trust



Worcestershire  
Wildlife Trust

## Severn Treescapes

*Wye to Wyre, connecting nature and people*

**Castlemorton Parish Hall Thursday 25th  
January at 7:30pm**

*Entry £2:50 with tea or coffee and biscuits provided.*

This event is sponsored by Castlemorton Parish Council

# Christmas Wordsearch

Are you puzzled by Christmas?

Search for an answer here!



CHRISTMAS

COMBS

CURLS

DELLA

FLAT

FOB

GIFTS

GLASS

GOLD

HAIR

JIM

LOVE

MADAME

MAGI

O. HENRY

PARSIMONY

PENNIES

PLATINUM

SACRIFICE

SHABBY

SNIFFLES

SOFRONIE

WATCH

## Queenhill WI Report

This month was the time for our Annual Meeting when we review the year and elect officers and Committee for the next year. Our membership numbers are the same as last year - and we still have hopes of encouraging more women to join us. We are a friendly branch and have such interesting speakers and activities that we are sure you would enjoy becoming a member.

We were ably guided through the process by Sue White, the WFWI President. The reports from the President, Treasurer and the Committee praised the efforts of so many members who help to keep the branch active and in a good state of health. We were pleased that Mary Wright was re-elected as President for the coming year with other officers also remaining in post.

We spent the next few minutes making Christmas decorations using large pine cones, small ornaments, ribbons and bows. Another generous and delicious tea followed. We enjoyed talking with other members until we decided to make the best of a pause in the rainfall and return home.

The final meeting of 2023 will take place on Thursday December 14th at 2pm at Queenhill Hall when Andrew Crabtree will lead us in 'Carols and Christmas Songs'. The food will be provided by the Committee and the competition will, we hope, produce small table decorations to add to other festive features

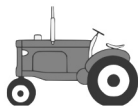
Doreen Small



### Santa to visit Bushley

After a gap of two years, Santa is once again due to tour the village. This year the date is Wednesday 21st starting at the cricket pavilion at 6.00. As in previous years, youngsters are welcome to ride with Santa if accompanied by a parent walking alongside. The route is the same as before, travelling from the cricket club to Crofts Field [6.45] turning round at Hither Ham [7.15] returning to the pavilion [8.00 all times approximate] We hope for decent weather, if in doubt check the club website or ring me 07812 179002

Tim Perry



### Tewkesbury Young Farmers' Club Tractor Run

On Sunday November 26th Tewkesbury YFC held their annual Christmas tractor run around local villages and through Tewkesbury High Street. I counted 80 decorated tractors, 2 'Artic' units and a self-propelled sprayer, along with a few farm pick-up trucks. Most were decorated with Christmas lights, a few snowmen and Santas, and a Christmas tree or several. They were quite a sight turning at the Black Bear and heading down the High Street to the amusement of many who had gathered to see them. It's obviously fun for all concerned but each tractor donates £20 to take part and a passenger donates an extra £10, all for Tewkesbury Food Bank this year. That should easily be £2,000 for a good cause. Well done to all concerned.

Tim Perry

# *THE BUSHLEY DIARY*

## Your guide to Activities in the Village

### December

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Mon	4	Dance Classes	9:30 - 12:00	Bushley Village Hall
Mon	4	Bredon School	13:00 - 16:00	
Mon	4	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Mon	4	Mobile Library (Note 3)	Note 3	Note 3
Tues	5	Bredon School	13:00 - 16:00	Bushley Village Hall
Weds	6	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Weds	6	Bredon School	13:00 - 16:00	
Thurs	7	Bredon School	9:00 - 20:30	
Sun	10	Private Party	9:30 - 15:00	
Sun	10	Christmas Maket	TBA	Bushley CC
Mon	11	Dance Classes	9:30 - 12:00	Bushley Village Hall
Mon	11	Bowls	19:00 - 21:00	
Tues	12	Tewksebury Flower Club	13:30 -16:30	
Sat	16	Private Party	14:00 - 17:30	
Mon	18	Dance Classes	9:30 - 12:00	
Mon	18	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Sat	30	Private Party	10:00 - 24:00	
Sun	31	Private New Year's Eve Party	17:00 - 01:00	

### January

Fri	5	Cricket Club social evening	19:30 onward	Bushley Cricket Club
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#### **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

#### **Note 3**

The mobile library visits Bushley on the first Monday every month:

Time	Location
9:45am to 10am	Village Hall
10:05am to 10:20am	Tewkesbury Fields Care Home

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>