

Bushley News

January 2024

*The Voice of the
Village*

Nº: 640

Well, no front page would be complete at the current time were it not related in some way to flooding and in Bushley we've got plenty of scope for that!

Several dwellings have suffered and my sympathy goes out to all those residents affected.



In an effort to be pro-active, a few days ago, at the Church end of the village, we formed a "sandbag filling" detail and filled a number of sandbags in readiness for the deluge.

Hopefully when they are put to the test they will keep the water at bay.

Many thanks to all those volunteers who took part.

All that remains to be said is:

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you a:

*Happy
New Year*

The View from the Pulpit

When we come to New Year, our thoughts often turn to the idea of the Christian pilgrimage, or journey of faith, which is well-attested in the Bible and has long been an eloquent metaphor for the Christian life. No doubt this thought occurred to King George VI when, in his Christmas Message in 1939, he quoted from a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year

'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied,

'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, and in the light of the birth of the Son of God that we are celebrating, we are invited to re-set the course for our lives, as those continuing on that journey of faith, the destination of which is the Kingdom of God. Anyone starting out on an expedition makes lengthy and serious preparations, and ensures that he is well equipped. Here are three essentials that Christians strive to keep fully in mind.

The Word of God – the Holy Scriptures – act as both a map and a compass for the journey. Some people have a high regard for the Bible as great literature, and so it is, but it is essentially a source of practical guidance on many of the issues and challenges that we may encounter on the journey of faith. Although the Bible does not directly address, and answer, every modern dilemma we face, there are deep veins of wisdom available to those willing to devote time and energy to digging them out. Considering the significance of the journey we are on, such effort does not seem out of place.

The Holy Spirit – the spirit of Jesus – is both the leader and our travelling companion, someone who has already encountered the toughest challenges that lie ahead and knows exactly how to overcome them. Any well-organised expedition needs a leader and what greater leader could we have than Jesus Christ himself. Yet how hard it is to keep in step with him, and how easy to wander off the pathway he has chosen in order to explore the terrain for ourselves. The writer to the Hebrews expressed better than anyone what our new year resolve should be: 'Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.'

The Church – all those who love Jesus and have set out to follow him – are our companions on the journey, and what a joy it is to share the challenge with them. When we are tired, others will spur us on. When someone stumbles, we can be there to help them recover. When dangers threaten, we can support and encourage each other through fellowship, worship and prayer. Devotees of Tolkien will think of the nine companions, to be known as the Fellowship of the Ring, who set out for Mordor to return the ring to Mount Doom. They needed each other through the many trials and tribulations of the journey. It is exactly the same on the Christian pilgrimage.



→ Continued from page 2

Again, the writer to the Hebrews: 'Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.'

Finally, a huge thank you from Eileen and from me for the generous retirement gift made by parishioners. It is hugely appreciated and will be put to very good use in the months ahead. I have done my very best to help all who have asked for my support over the past 27 years. Although the future is uncertain, I am confident that the Revd Julie James will do everything in her power to serve the people of these parishes, the Lord being her helper!

Rev. Chris Moss
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cmoss.lcbq@gmail.com

The next service at St Peter's will be:

Sunday 11 February

8.30 am Holy Communion [BCP]

Bushley Parish Council

**Happy New Year to All Bushley
and
Bushley Green Residents.**

The parish council have procured a new Speed Indicator Device that tells drivers their approach speed and gives a 'slow down' message if the limit is exceeded. It's solar powered and that will help ensure its battery remains fully charged.

Separately, following requests from the parish council, Worcestershire Highways have scheduled work to repair recent damage to the verges on Stokes Lane. Improved signage at the entrance to Bredon School is also being pursued with the Yorke estate.

Vaughan Latter



Jane Rolfe
Bushley Parish Council Clerk
Woodlea,
Bushley Green.
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A View from the Saddle

Do we hibernate and shelter from the wind and rain or risk life and limb?

The decision made we set off up 'Widow Makers' hill, the wind was incredible 30, 40

1st Bicycle 1817
A self-powered, German four-wheeled machine. It didn't have seat, pedals, had to be pedaled by the rider.



could have been 50mph. I have numerous gears on my bike and used every one eventually catching up the main peloton outside the bus shelter having had a delayed start. On the way up the hill I met my

neighbours on their horses and had I stopped to chat I would have been blown back down the hill. Our destination was the Farmers Arms for our annual Xmas lunch. This journey normally requires a loop in order to make the trip worthwhile, but not on this Thursday. The main force of the wind did not hit us until we got onto the Longdon

Marsh. The wind was hitting us right in the face and was incredible, as we went passed gateways it became difficult to avoid being blown over. Normally cycling across the Marsh is easy going as it is so flat, forget the norm this was a gale. The group split into the octogenarians and the youngsters. As the Artist had a Christmas card to deliver in Berrow he disappeared with

Thoughtful and the Architect and the old guys peddled on. There are very few hedges to provide any protection until we reached the

lanes near the pub. Having a bit of time we carried on to the main road by Rye Cross. This may have been a mistake as the wind increased and we found this stretch hard work. Eventually we turned right off the main road and flew down the hill to the pub.

When we are a big group I get the orders and notify the pub the only issue is that members sometimes cannot recall their order so a list was prepared before the day. With up to 4 courses enjoyed, the accompanying drinks and port downed we eventually remounted our wheels. To our relief the wind had not changed direction and literally blew us home. A great lunch, prepared by Neil and served by Louis, our eventful ride will keep our conversation going for ages.

Little did we think that we would suffer another gale hit ride but the following Thursday was a repeat. Having tried to book into at least 5 pubs who were either booked up or under water we



travelled to The Gloucester Old Spot. It was very busy but the staff there are extremely attentive and there were no delays. Returning home to tea and Mrs D's mince pies our 2023 ride was complete.

Happy and safe cycling, wishing everyone a Happy

New Year and hopefully you do not suffer from too much wind!

Keith Davis

Happy New Year.

At the time of the Solstice it's the moment to be contemplating how the garden should fare in the next year. With increasing awareness that we need to recycle as much as possible and garden as sustainably as possible.

Time to look through the catalogues and choose which seeds to plant, time for a revamp perhaps. Time to think about rewilding and no, dear reader, that doesn't just mean letting the garden go to rack and ruin. There are more acres of garden in this country than all the parks put together (so the statistics tell me) so how we garden, how we encourage the wildlife, means a great deal.

Gardens change over time and what was fashionable or even encouraged in times past may not be the way to go forward.

As an aside I share in groan making fashion the latest Christmas Carol that I write for the re-enactors. "We two Kings of Engerland are, One on the road, and one in the tower. Which of us two will be the one to go down, and which will succeed in gaining the crown." And goes on the outline the battle of Tewkesbury. Which sent me back to looking at how Medieval gardens were. Havens against the wilderness that surrounds, places walled or fenced off against the cruel world outside. And now?

Still a haven against the cruel world, and a place to socialise—but increasingly a place to nurture and sustain the myriad small

creatures that sustain the garden and the microbes and fungi that make up the miracle that is our soil. That nurturing for small creatures does NOT in this garden encourage the rabbits, however, and I'm still building my defences.

Time to make sure there is water—especially in icy weather—for the birds, time to keep off the clay soil if we don't want to compact it and ruin the structure, time to let the worms pull the fallen leaves into the soil.

Only 50 years ago we were encouraged to spray against pests, until it was found that DDT and other chemicals were creating devastation.

On fine days a bit of pruning and re-shaping and clearing of some of the fallen stuff while leaving enough for feeding the birds and the other little critters.

One of the people on Gardeners' Question Time made the point that if you leave areas of the garden with rufy tufty seedheads and stems for overwintering lacewings the garden can look somewhat more intentional and managed if the edges of plots near the house are neatened even if the bed itself is a wilderness.

Memo to self to do a bit of that and also to clear the few areas of fallen leaves that the wind pushes up against the housewalls.

Nothing too primped, just a bit of tidying.
Penelope Tubbs

In Touch With Nature

A beautiful early December day, calm and sunny, I'm at the bottom of the garden looking out over the wildflower meadow at the hedgerow beyond. Blackbirds and Fieldfares feeding on berries, with Great and Blue Tits finding interest among the twigs. At the far end of the hedge, high up in the sunshine are a group of House Sparrows sat just keeping watch. She's back! Into the top of the hedge she alights, the female Kestrel. The other birds don't panic, unlike their response to a Sparrow Hawk, but they do form a close audience, four or five tits at a time no closer to her than half a metre. The Kestrel drops down to a fence post, then quickly on to the ground and claims a large worm, she struts to the edge of the hedge then consumes her prize. Back up to the top of the hedge in the sunshine and surrounded by the inquisitive tits, to which she pays no attention.

Murmurations of Starlings seen from the 'Green', restored to our shifting baseline, a feature quite common years ago but has been missing these last few years. Starlings like most farmland birds are in decline in the UK, so these birds are migrants from the north and east. Starlings being predominately ground feeders visit to avoid the frozen earth of their native land. Locally the Starlings demise is down to pesticide use and a lack of suitable nesting sites.

Another wonderful avian sighting on Dec. 11th at dusk in the commonest place I have seen this species, perched upon a fence post

towards the top of Bushley bank. A beautiful Barn Owl, looking out over the field, as my car lights highlight the bird, it's head rotates to face me and assess the danger, I'm seen as hostile and the owl leaves, those wonderful large white wings, like paddles taking it across the field. There's more, on the morning of the 13th two skeins of geese flew over from east to west. These were not the now naturalised Canada geese, but migrants flying much higher, too high for my unskilled eyes to identify. Again, this is encouraging, I've not seen wild geese flying over Bushley since my childhood.

Here's a thought, we are definitely getting more aware of the nature in our countryside, and many use their dogs as a reason or excuse to get out there. But consider the disturbance to wildlife if dogs are allowed to run untethered, no, they will rarely catch anything, unlike domestic cats, but it is the very disturbance, their presence that poses the problem. Ground living and nesting mammals and birds, like us, they need a bit of peace and quiet. If the countryside can be rejuvenated perhaps even the fitness fanatics plying the lanes, might leave their digital sounds at home and checkout those of the natural world.

I picked a few sprigs of berried Holly from a woodland tree, the very same tree that has supplied me for the last sixty-five years, could that be called sustainability?

Happy New Year
Martin R

View from Between the Bears

Happy New Year!

Nationally, it has been a year when weather records have been broken. The driest February for 30 years was followed by the 6th wettest March ever. A cool April and May was followed by the hottest June on record, after which summer was disappointing to say the least. September had 4 consecutive days above 30 Celcius, October was the wettest this century

Here, last month has been wet and windy, not particularly cold. The river level dropped from the top of our protective bank but not enough to completely clear the meadows of accumulated water and, with heavy rain in Wales, it looks likely to reach the top of the bank again. The crops in parts of the fields that have been covered for so long are likely to have been killed off or severely stunted; they could do with drying out soon. Work on other fields has been pretty much impossible due to the wet conditions.

Traditional meadows have evolved to survive long periods of flooding, but once ploughed up they are almost impossible to re-establish; the varieties of grass are difficult to buy as they are not very productive and there is little demand. One suggestion is to grow Miscanthus, Elephant grass, for green energy production. A bit like maize, it grows to about 8 feet tall, can be cut and baled, or forage harvested over a several months harvesting period, for either burning or digesting for electricity or gas. Once established, it can be cropped for several years, quite a commitment and a change away from food production.

Following a 'Farm to Fork' summit held in Downing Street in May, DEFRA have held a number of consultations over fairness in the supply chain, to support prices paid to farmers and growers, and ensure future food supplies. Rising costs, particularly energy and fertilizer,



have not been adequately covered by increased retail prices. Often, higher prices are swallowed up by other parts of the retail chain, whose costs have not risen to the same extent. If a farmer needs another 10p, then surely the price only needs to be raised 10p in the shop,

not 10% or whatever it might work out as right through the supply network; that's just profiteering. Wheat prices have dropped about 25% since last year; has bread dropped much? And don't get me started on the price of petrol!

Organic dairy farmers are affected worse than their conventional counterparts, who are treated badly enough anyway. [The price paid for conventional milk last January was around 50p per litre, down to around 37p in October.] Their price premium has been eroded to the point where many are seriously considering their future as organic milk producers. They are being urged to 'hold their nerve' with 'better times ahead' forecast after a very difficult year. Haven't we heard that sort of thing so many times before that it's wearing a bit thin?

A promising move to reduce fly tipping has been passed and came into effect on January 1st. Waste centres will no longer charge DIYers to dispose of rubble or plasterboard, which about a third of local authorities did. I'm not sure how that will affect Upton, who refused to take plasterboard a few years ago, when I wanted to get rid of some. The suggestion then was to take it to Malvern; no wonder some unscrupulous characters would decide to dump it in a quiet gateway or ditch instead.

The weather can usually be relied on to be all over the place this month, it's January after all. At least the days will be slowly getting lighter and the sun a little higher in the sky every day.

Tim Perry

Jottings of a Retired Country GP Alternative Medicine

So, King Charles has confirmed his belief in alternative medical practice by appointing Dr Dixon, a GP and homeopathic doctor, as his personal physician. That's fine, for at least the type of treatments that homeopathy offers are unlikely to do harm. And that long held medical dictum – "Do no harm" – is being upheld. But after many studies over many years there is little evidence that homeopathy can actually cure illness. By offering very dilute tinctures of substances which are said to mimic the illness when taken at full strength, this type of treatment, Homeopathy, was pioneered in the 19th century. Testing and validating the effectiveness of modern treatments is based on strict double-blind trials, including placebos, to discover whether they really work.

I have written before about my favourite quotation – by the 18th century French philosopher Voltaire. "The skilful physician entertains his patient while nature effects the cure." In the 1750s when this was written the treatments included bleeding, cupping, purging and similar horrific remedies. They could not work, as we now know, but they were thought to be essential to demonstrate the skill of the physician! Voltaire's plea was to prevent further damage to an already sick patient. But we also know that many ailments suffered by patients today will improve if left to nature and the natural healing processes of the human body. There are many complex activities going on in our bodies day and night fighting off bacteria and viruses, healing damage caused by smoking or dangerous drugs, or broken bones. If we interfere with these activities we can prolong the healing process. Left to get on without any interference by us, these natural protectors can often provide the cure.

But one must not deride the many remedies that have been handed down over the years. I am sure that some of 'Granny's cure-alls' do



Andrew Crowther

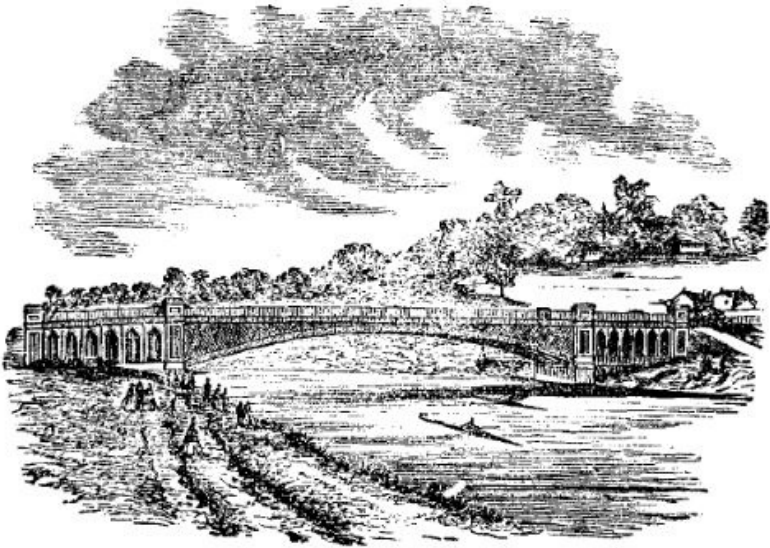
have some healing properties. And in the past travellers have brought back tales of native medicines, such as the bark of a particular type of willow from which Aspirin is derived, or the poison from the tip of the Amazon hunters' arrows that has given us Curare, the paralysing agent used by anaesthetists. Then one must not forget that the Chinese have used acupuncture successfully to cure many conditions for centuries. They cannot have been hoodwinked for all those years! There is modern

evidence that complex surgery can be carried out with the patient sedated by acupuncture. Many aches and pains can be attributed to trapped nerves or strained muscles and the osteopaths do relieve patients in many cases. However, there have been cases of these alternative practitioners claiming to be able to cure more substantial diseases with osteopathy, but these claims should be viewed with caution. Again, there are many advocates of dietary treatments some of which do seem to help. Think of diabetes or coeliac disease of the guts or allergies to nuts that can be properly treated by changes to the diet.

Inevitably some ailments do seem to be more in the mind than a malfunction of part of the body. From this one has to realise that the power of suggestion, and a strong belief in the way one accepts an illness or treatment is 'powerful medicine'. If you sincerely believe in what you are told by someone in whom you have faith, their advice will be very helpful. But there are still some strange practices that seem to have ardent followers. In my first job as a junior doctor my boss accepted a patient from his brother's alternative practice. This was a young man who had a huge growth in his abdomen. It was being treated with carrot juice! But when the mass was biopsied there was no sign of active cancer. Perhaps carrot juice did have magic properties in his case of an alternative treatment.

A Happy New Year to you all.
Andrew Crowther

*Excerpts from the 1867 Bushley
Parochial Almanack*



The Mythe Severn Bridge,

(FROM THE BUSHLEY MEADOWS.)

THE CHELTENHAM COLLEGE BOATING CLUB held their annual Pic-nic here, June 9. On the 14th, the Grounds were occupied by the Conservatives of Tewkesbury, who assembled to celebrate the election of Sir E. A. H. Lechmere, Bart., in March last. On the 19th the Farmers of Bushley gave a Pic-nic and Ball to their neighbouring friends. Several other public and private meetings also took place (with leave) in these grounds during the summer.



Santa's Visit and Tour of Village and Cricket Club News

Santa attracted quite a crowd when he visited the village on Friday 22nd. A sleigh full of children loaded up at the Cricket Club and enjoyed a ride down through the village and back again.

More adults than I can ever remember walked alongside, a very successful evening.

The lights we saw were fantastic and the weather smiled on us all through.



Many thanks to all involved, from building and decorating the sleigh [28 years old now I think], Ian for organising Santa, all who supplied

welcome refreshments along the way, and to all who turned up to make it such an enjoyable event.

Future Events

- First Fridays on January 5th and
- February 2nd when I have volunteered to host a quiz probably taking just over an hour from 8.00 or so.
- Net practice starts in Bredon School sports hall around the end of the month, details will be on the club website.

Tim Perry

Queenhill WI Report

December 2023

It was so good to see so many of our members gathered together for the last meeting of the year. The hall and table decorations welcomed us to what was to be an enjoyable festive occasion.

We celebrated in style with a splendid variety of party food. Andrew Crabtree and friend arranged Carols and Christmas Songs with guitar accompaniment for us to enjoy, introducing them with interesting background information about them. We could listen and join in the singing, using the song sheets we had been given.

Of course we were also able to talk amongst ourselves and share our news and plans for Christmas and our hopes for the New Year.

Perhaps you might consider joining us next year? Our next meeting starts at 2pm on Thursday January 11th when Sandy Cale will talk on Madresfield: The Real Brideshead. We know we are in for a treat !

We wish you all the very best for Christmas and a happy and satisfying 2024. Let's hope that we can make the world- or at least our small part of it- a more considerate, supportive and peaceful place.

Doreen Small

Bushley Village Hall :- Needs a Lick of Paint

The hall is being used more frequently and villagers have suggested it would be great to smarten up the inside with a fresh lick of paint. BVH Committee are pleased to support this and hope it can be done before Spring is upon us.

Jenny McDonagh has kindly offered to lead a team of 'Willing Village Volunteers' to join her in a:

Painting Working Party

It would be great to offer painters some refreshments! So, any villagers, who prefer not to paint, but are willing to join in and help with refreshments are invited to contact Jenny too.

If you are Interested in Helping

Please give Jenny a call on 07785 513 544 to express your interest in helping with either painting or refreshments.

It Will Be Fun!!!

THE BUSHLEY DIARY

Your guide to Activities in the Village

January

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Mon	8	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	Village Hall
Mon	8	Mobile Library (Note 3)	Note 3	Note3
Tues	9	PAT & Extinguisher	09:30	Village Hall
Tues	9	BVH committee meeting	19:00	
Weds	10	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Mon	15	Dance Classes	9:30 - 12:00	
Mon	15	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Tues	16	Craft Club	10:00 - 12:00	
Weds	17	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Mon	22	Dance Classes	9:30 - 12:00	
Mon	22	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Weds	24	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Sat	27	Private Party	10:00 - 24:00	
Sun	28	Private booking	tbc	
Mon	29	Dance Classes	9:30 - 12:00	
Mon	29	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Weds	31	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	

Note 1

For further details contact either Jason Kinghorn: 07971 084096
or Rachel Perry: 07594 853620
Bushley Village Hall website: 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

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.

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<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/Publications.aspx?ParishID=60>