

# PARISH MAGAZINE

St Chad's



Your magazine featuring news and views from within Bishop's Tachbrook Parish. A gentle mix of the chatty and Church.

Issue 3 2020 [www.bishopstachbrook.com](http://www.bishopstachbrook.com)

**STOP PRESS**—Due to the Covid 19 pandemic it has been decided the Magazine will only appear online for the foreseeable future. Very sorry!



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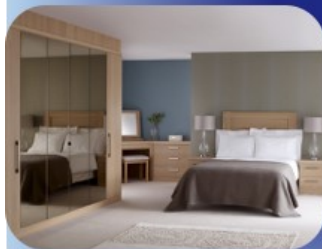
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# What's in this month's magazine

Well there's obviously a fair amount about Coronavirus. Both Elaine's piece on the next two pages and Parish Council's piece on pages 8 & 9 cover our current predicament. My key take out is don't suffer alone, there are lots of people in the community who want to help - stick together! There's a lovely prayer that mentions hording on page 6!

The current crisis seems to have forced the climate emergency on to the back page, so it's good to see that we're trying to look further ahead. Read Martin Drew's piece on pages 10 & 11 and if you want to get involved with the parish's response to the climate emergency get in contact with him.

There's two nature pieces, Steve's excellent piece on pages 24 & 25 plus a

children's page featured in the 'Looking Back' piece from 2008, see page 21.

There's news about Speedwatch which finally has the go ahead to operate on Harbury Lane, dealing with speeding past the new estates has been an aim for quite a time now so it's good to see action at last, see page 26.

On page 29 there's more news of particular interest to those living on the new estates south of Harbury Lane, with news of a consultation on the Lower Heathcote Local Centre.

Finally if you're planning to get out in the fresh air by visiting Jephson Gardens, check out the history on pages 12 & 13.

*Stay well and be neighbourly*

## CONTACTS

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*Copy deadline for the May 2020 issue is 15th April*

For **adverts** please contact Pam on: [btachbrookmagad@live.co.uk](mailto:btachbrookmagad@live.co.uk)

To put **dates in the diary** please contact Marion on: [marismi913@aol.com](mailto:marismi913@aol.com)

For **distribution issues** contact Kate on: [kate.wellsted@btconnect.com](mailto:kate.wellsted@btconnect.com)

## Church Officers

Vicar: Rev Elaine Scrivens Tel: 426922 Church Warden: Rod Smith Tel: 612242

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# From a Distance

By Revd. Elaine Scrivens

As you are aware, the Government have asked us to consider our social interactions at this time. At church, we are painfully aware of the distress that this 'Social Distancing' or 'Self Isolation' may cause, so we are, as ever, searching for ways to communicate with and care for each other as best as possible. The four denominational churches to which we belong have all stated that the best way in which we can care for each other and reduce the risk of community transmission of Covid 19, is to cease worshipping together in a church building or house group setting.

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**This does not mean that we will cease to be a worshipping and caring community.**

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Your ministry team have been prayerfully considering the way in which we can best support you and the community spiritually, physically and emotionally.

Firstly, we want to reassure you that we have a strong pastoral team who want you to know that care and support is available.

In 1966 in a speech to South African students Senator Robert Kennedy said, "There is a Chinese curse which says 'May he live in interesting times.' Like it or not, we live in interesting times." It turns out not to be a Chinese curse at all but we can definitely say that at the moment we live in interesting times. I began writing this letter on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March to explain to you what was happening with worship in St Chad's. On that day the PCC decided that on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March there wouldn't be a Mothering Sunday service because the church would be "too full" and perhaps it wouldn't be safe. Little did we know how quickly things would move on from there. Not only would there be no large Mothering Sunday service but now there are to be no services at all. Pubs, clubs and restaurants must close, our school is closed to the majority of pupils and many people are self isolating in order to keep themselves safe. Supermarket shelves emptied overnight, I was giving out daffodils on what was to be the last day of school for a while and one dad, after saying thank you quipped, maybe loo rolls would have been be a better gift! The death toll from the Covid19 seems to be growing exponentially each day and people are scared and bewildered, I know I am. As a Star Trek friend posted on Twitter, "It's life Jim, but not as we know it!"



So what happens now? I'm sorry but I haven't a clue but one thing I do know, we are all in this together. I know there have been some selfish people who have contributed to the emptying of our supermarket shelves but on the whole most people have wanted to help others. With this magazine there is a flier explaining how we can do that. If you know a vulnerable person, someone who is self isolating, try and get their phone number, ring them to check they are okay, a kind word goes a long way. Offer to shop for those who can't get out or feel that supermarkets are too risky. Don't forget, many elderly people don't have the internet and therefore can't shop online. Bobby and his wife at our local shop are providing a wonderful service. Local butchers, like Higham's in Whitnash are offering to deliver to those self isolating. Maybe we could swap books, jigsaws, games or magazines to help those indoors pass the time and if you have any religious faith, not just Christian but Muslim, Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist, then please pray.

St Chad's will be open every Sunday from 10-12 for people to light a candle, sit quietly and pray. I'm hoping to record a short reflection each week and put it on our Facebook page. As Archbishop Justin has said, "Our worship may be a bit different for now. But Jesus is the same today as He was yesterday, and will be tomorrow." There are many

opportunities The PCC are happy for the church to be used as a Tachbrook "food bank" or swap shop. We are lucky, we live in a lovely village, let's help one another get through these dark and difficult times.

I'd like to finish with some good news, on April 27<sup>th</sup> repair work will begin on the roof! The funds are all in place because of the generosity of so many of you in the village, the necessary permissions have all been received and so the work can begin. Thank you so much, we couldn't have done it without you.

God bless you all, stay safe and if you need to chat please ring. My mobile is 07766083666.

With love and prayers.

## Poetry please

### On giving

By Robert Graves

Those who dare give nothing  
Are left with less than nothing;  
Dear heart, you give me everything,  
Which leaves you more than everything  
Though those who dare give nothing  
Might judge it left you less than  
nothing.

Giving you everything,  
I too, who once had nothing,  
Am left with more than everything  
As gifts for those with nothing  
Who need, if not our everything,  
At least a loving something.

## **PRAYER 1**

Loving God

If we are ill, strengthen us

If we are tired

Fortify our spirits

If we are anxious

Help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.

Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders!

Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves

Fix our eyes on your story

And our hearts on your grace

Help us always to hold fast to the good and see the good in others.

And remember there is just one world, one hope,

One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.

In Jesus we make our prayer,

The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,

In whom we trust, these days and all days. Amen

## **SERVICES ON THE RADIO /TV**

Prayer for the Day daily at 5.43am on Radio 4,

Sunday Worship Sundays at 8.10am on Radio 4,

Daily Service Monday to Friday at 9.45am on Radio 4 Longwave and DAB (The Daily Service is available on a Radio 4 DAB side channel which is automatically made available about a minute before the programme begins.)

Lent Talks Wednesdays at 8.45pm on Radio 4,

Choral evensong- Wednesdays at 3.30pm and the same service is repeated Sundays at 3pm on BBC Radio 3.

TV: Songs of Praise Sundays at 1.15pm on BBC 1

## **CYCLE OF PRAYER**

### **Praying for our Community**

We are praying in April for those living in

Commander Close, Court Close, Croft Close and Dogberry Way

If there is something or someone you would like us to pray for please let Elaine, our Vicar, or a member of the congregation know.

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# Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

When assessing most challenges in life we can often lose perspective. When I consider the “serious matters” of 2019 that had me concerned and worried e.g. Brexit, Liverpool potentially winning the Premier League, and I contrast then with the challenges now facing our, community, nation and the world – I realise how insignificant my trials and tribulations were. Perhaps that will be a positive many of us can take away on the other side of this crisis.

Naturally this is a very unsettling time for everyone, one of the saddest parts of the approach to dealing with our predicament is that, while we feel the understandable need to come together, to best combat the spread we need to socially distance/isolate ourselves. This is completely necessary; however, this course of action may cause misery and pain for many of us – we are social beings and we have to find new ways of keeping in touch and keeping our sense of community going.

What has been fantastic to see is the number of members of the Parish offering to be volunteers, helping the community, at this difficult time – we have a strong community and we will come through this!

As I mentioned last year, the Parish Council switched to using Google’s G-

Suite for better on-line collaboration. Therefore, despite the need to stay apart for reasons of “social distancing”, we have been able to hold video conferences to discuss how we are approaching this crisis as well as keeping the normal functions of the Council going. Please do use the contact points below if you require support or just need to talk to someone. We are here to help and make sure that, as a community, we look after each other!

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**Coronavirus COVID – 19 –**  
**if you are self-isolating and need practical or emotional support, please let us know by:**  
**phoning 07732 458084;**  
**emailing**  
**[covid-19@bishopstachbrook.com](mailto:covid-19@bishopstachbrook.com);**  
**or,**  
**completing the on-line forms,**  
**<http://bishopstachbrook.com/notices/coronavirus-covid-19>**

**If you have supplies you would like to donate or would like to volunteer to support people, you can use the same contact details**

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Moving back to more normal matters, at our March meeting Mr. Ed Sutton from LSP Developments Ltd was in attendance and updated us as to their ideas for the local centre at Lower



Heathcote - adjacent to the primary school. The plans include a convenience store, a nursery, care home, possibly a bistro/restaurant and/or a hairdresser/beauty salon, veterinary. There will be public consultations but dates are currently uncertain because of Covid-19. Mr. Sutton stressed that he wants to hear ideas from the local community to enable LSP to address their needs so please look out for the dates/other forms of consultation and let them know what you think the local community needs.

Cllr. George Illingworth, Chairman of the District Council, joined our meeting and briefly updated us on his background and work. It was nice to put a face to a name.

We have notified the District Council of an error to the parish precept and District Cllr. Norris is taking this forward for us. This error should not result in any increased payments for residents.

Could we please again ask residents and visitors to park responsibly when visiting the St. Chad's Centre, Church or local shops.

Councillors have been talking to contractors about work on the Sports and Social Club driveway and car park. We understand that the District Council might be willing to grant us funding for this work.

County Cllr. Caborn reported that he

has asked officers to look at ways to improve the Banbury Road/Mallory Road junction and also traffic calming on Harbury Lane. Harbury Lane is eligible for three sets of developer funding which should enable the County Council to implement a scheme.

Thanks to Cllrs. Herbert and Wellsted we have been granted £2,000 towards a bus shelter on Harbury Lane near to Heathcote Park. Residents have been asking for this since the bus route was changed.

Cllrs. Drew and Wellsted have taken on the task of compiling a Climate Action Plan for the parish. If you want to find out more or help please contact one of them.

Our next normal meeting is scheduled for 16 April; however, we may have to be imaginative as to how we do this – we will, or course, keep residents updated.

Stay safe Bishop's Tachbrook!

# Together we can do our bit to reverse Climate Change

**Cllr. Martin Drew**

Blistering record summer temperatures, catastrophic winter floods: the evidence is overwhelming, climate change is ramping up at pace. We are killing our planet and denying our children a healthy future. In 2018 the average green house gas emission in the UK was 7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person. Plus another 5 tonnes each when embedded carbon in consumption is added from such things as aviation, shipping food and all the things we buy.

Climate change is the biggest challenge we face. If we act now we can reverse the effects. Along with most countries, the UK has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050 and Warwick District Council is committed to be a zero carbon Council by 2030. It is everyone's responsibility to taken action to reduce our carbon footprint. We in Bishop's Tachbrook can do our bit by setting up a Climate Change Action Team (BT CCAT). The aim is to raise awareness, provide information and instigate projects that will help build a resilient, sustainable community for future generations.

Residents are invited to join the BT Climate Change Action Team. If you have specialist knowledge, that will be an added bonus. There are many areas to cover, waste reduction, recycling and repairing things instead of throwing them away to land fill:

making our homes energy efficient: installing community solar farms and wind turbines plus experts on electric transport, cars and bicycles. In addition the Action Team, will develop a programme of events, projects and talks from leading experts. We will also build close links and benefit from the experience of nearby Parishes, Barford, Snitterfield and Kenilworth that have already set up climate change action groups.

Communication and engagement with residents of every age are the core objectives of the Action Team. It will require major changes to the way we do things and run our lives. By acting together, helping each other to meet the challenge of climate change we will build a stronger community. It will provide lasting benefits that will ensure Bishop's Tachbrook continues to be a great place to live and work.

If you are interested in joining the BT Climate Change Action Team, especially if you have expert knowledge, or simply want to do your bit to help in any way you can, contact Martin Drew BT Parish Councillor: [martin@bishopstachbrook.com](mailto:martin@bishopstachbrook.com)

In light of the Coronavirus emergency, the date of the first meeting of the BT Climate Change Action Team will be confirmed as soon as there is an all clear on group gatherings.

## Poetry please

### Mother Earth

By Sophie Valdez

The land is in a constant state of birth,  
Giving life to all who live on Earth.  
Our carelessness and fears  
Have taken a toll over the years.  
Her land is parched and scorched  
As man continues to light the torch.  
We continue a want of speed and ease,  
All while our pesticides kill off our bees.  
It's time to wake up and see Mother  
Earth's pain.  
Humanity's selfishness is becoming  
insane.  
Soon her cries will turn to gloom,  
And man will cause its own doom.

## Poetry please

### Sonnet for climate change

Danny Draper

Oceans sink heat and swell devouring  
coasts,  
Cyclonic eyes drift still further afield,  
Tidal surges are more frequent and real,  
Low countries drowned, are lost with no  
big deal,  
Displaced must leave their sterile saline  
lands  
Cultures usurped by the Anthropocene  
Pandemic see insidious ways, and  
Mass extinctions, diminished future days.  
Treaties pledge and new science brings  
to bare,  
In late hours, what on Earth will make us  
care  
To change our ways universal and bold,  
Last chance to secure our tenuous hold?  
Within each heart we carry great  
prospect,  
To proceed or fail, tied to Earth's respect.



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Please send CV to [Sue.James@ashornehill.co.uk](mailto:Sue.James@ashornehill.co.uk) or contact her on 01926 488055.

We are always interested in recruiting local people. Please keep looking at our website for more opportunities within our organisation [www.ashornehill.co.uk](http://www.ashornehill.co.uk).



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# History Group

## The History of Jephson Gardens & The Leamington Illuminations.

Margaret Rushton

By Felicity de Scarfo

The town of Leamington Spa, originally known as Leamington Priors was a tiny village until about 1800. The value of the mineral springs was known in the middle ages, but it was not until 1784 that the small village began rediscovering its saline springs and started building baths around some of them

Jephson gardens, once a place for the wealthy to 'take the air' and 'be seen', are found in the centre of the town on The Parade, with the River Leam flowing to the south of them. The gardens began as farmland which belonged to Edward Willes, a member of the Willes family who played an important part in the shaping of early Leamington. The original gardens, covering just under 10.5 acres (42,000 m<sup>2</sup>), were laid out in 1834 at the request of the landowner with free entry to anyone between 7 am and 10 am. For the remainder of the day the gardens were open only to paying customers and patrons of a nearby spa bath house. The gardens were soon expanded to their current size and a right of way passing through them was sunk down so it could be used without walking through the gardens. In 1836, two years after starting the project, Willes leased the land to a local consortium for £30 a

year

In 1843, the gardens were improved, the ground being levelled and an ornamental lake being excavated. In 1846 a local committee meeting declared that the gardens be renamed *The Jephson Gardens* in honour of Dr Henry Jephson who had helped to promote the healing properties of the town's spa waters and built houses for the town's poor residents. A Corinthian-style temple was added to the gardens in 1849 and inside it a large marble statue of the doctor by the Birmingham sculptor Peter Hollins. Most of this early work was undertaken by poor labourers, given employment by another of the town's early donors, Dr Hitchman. In 1869, Hitchman received recognition of his efforts when a fountain bearing his name was erected in the gardens, near the boundary with the town's main Street. This was followed in 1875 by a grey granite obelisk memorial to Edward Willes and in 1925 by a clock tower dedicated to Alderman William Davis, who was mayor of the town three times. All four memorials still stand today.

Following the Festival of Britain in 1951, for a whole decade, Royal Leamington Spa and Jephson Gardens

became *THE* autumn venue for hundreds of people from all over Britain. Thousands of coloured electric lights transformed the Gardens into a wonderland for both children and adults. In August and September each year, the streets of the town were jammed by buses, coaches and cars as they dropped off their eager passengers.



**TAGS**



**BBC Children in Need**

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

## Tachbrook Gang Show!



Bishop's Tachbrook Brownies and Rainbows are holding a TAGS Gang Show on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 6pm at Bishop's Tachbrook Sports and Social Club. It promises to be a great family variety show of dance, song and comedy, showcasing the talents of the wonderful girls in our units!

Tickets are available via email on [tagstickets@hotmail.com](mailto:tagstickets@hotmail.com) and go on sale from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. There are only 100 tickets available for each performance so please don't wait to get yours!

Tickets cost £5 per adult and £2.50 for children and proceeds will be divided jointly between the Brownie and Rainbow units and Children in Need.

There will be a cake stall and refreshments and the bar will be open. We'd love to see the whole village there – all are welcome!







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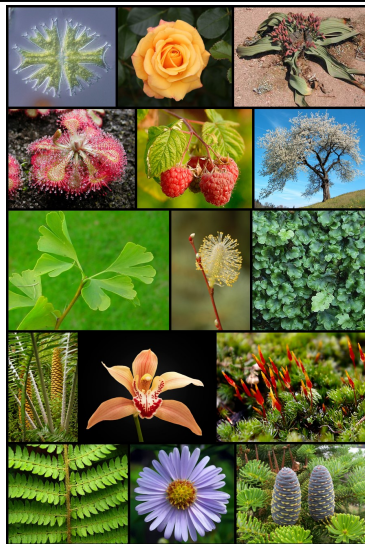
## THE FETE

### Saturday 6th June

1-4pm on the Village Green

#### PLANT STALL

Spring is here and we're seeing, sometimes with surprise and usually with pleasure, what comes up in our herbaceous borders. If you then find the need to thin out or separate plants, do please take the trouble to pot on any surplus items ... and bring any spare shrubs and herbs along to the **Plant Stall on 6th June**. They will no doubt find a welcoming bed in a garden elsewhere in our parish!"



#### PRAYER 2

A prayer from the C of E for all those affected by coronavirus:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.  
 Sustain and support the anxious,  
 Be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low;  
 That we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
 In Christ Jesus our Lord.  
 Amen.

## What's on in Bishop's Tachbrook

For obvious reasons, the full range of events throughout the parish does not feature this month. If you're wondering whether any of the activities you are involved in is going ahead please contact the organisers. Contact details are

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Little Tinkers Soft Play.                 | Stacey Bowen 07917385747 or Facebook  |
| Embroidery Class.                         | Zara Day 07717371668<br>zaraday@rosemaryrose.co.uk  |
| Martial Arts Class.                       | Andy Shaw<br>andy@linkcube.co.uk  |
| Cookery class                             | 07956955951<br>getcooking@hotmail.co.uk   |
| Adventure Babies<br>Sensory Story Telling | lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk or<br>www.adventurebabies.co.uk/<br>warwickshireandcoventry |
| Over 50s. Sports and Social Club          | 01926 313020  |
| Atomic Dance                              | Ellie Rowe 07392348155<br>ellie@atomicdance.co.uk   |
| Pilates                                   | Helen Tudge 01926259293<br>07769222524  |
| Rainbows and Brownies                     | carolineloveday@sky.com<br>07796034371  |
| Tai Chi                                   | Peter Fletcher<br>07487685679   |
| Tachbrook Tinies Play group               | Tachbrook Tinies on Facebook  |
| Fitness Pilates                           | Bev Hall 07774004225<br>w60bev@gmail.com  |
| Craft afternoon                           | Elaine Scrivens 01926 426922  |

## COMMUNITY CAFÉ CLOSURE

Since the government has upgraded the Coronavirus Crisis, more stringent restrictions are now required when dealing with the public.

After consultation with our helpers, it has been decided to close the cafe for the foreseeable future, as it would be difficult to enforce the new regulations with any confidence.

We look forward to the time when the crisis is over and we can enjoy our get-togethers in the Centre once more.

In the meantime, KEEP IN TOUCH. Let's make contact with a chat on the phone. If you know of someone who might be feeling isolated, phone them. Talking is more personal and productive than e-mailing. We can all support each other through this crisis.



### **A notice from the St Chad's Centre Trustees**

Given the health risks and uncertainties that currently exist around the spread and impact of Coronavirus and the government's instructions to members of the public to stop going to pubs, restaurants, theatres and other leisure industry establishments, trustees have made the decision to **close the St Chad's Centre with immediate effect** until the end of April. We will follow government guidelines and review the decision in mid-April, when it is probable that further extensions to the closure will follow.

We trust that you understand that this decision has not been taken lightly and we apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.

**For any queries please contact: [stchadscentrebt@gmail.com](mailto:stchadscentrebt@gmail.com)**

# Bishop's Tachbrook Sports & Social Club Entertainments

## May—let's hope it happens!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Skittles & Hot Dogs

Come round for a game or two on our Skittle Ally and enjoy some tasty Hot Dogs.

### 8<sup>th</sup> May – VE Day Celebrations (Friday)

To celebrate VE Day we are hosting Cathy Morris who will be singing some old war time favourites

### 9<sup>th</sup> May – Will Ball Band

The Will Ball Band are playing a host of classic covers like superstition and Ain't no sunshine together with their own unique style.

**New to the club a Band well worth seeing.**

### 16<sup>th</sup> May – Rob Alton

Rob is a talented vocalist who is very adaptable to any style of music. He has been influenced by many singers from all different genres but has a real passion for good old rock!

### 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Quiz Night

Our popular Quiz Night is here again tempting you with a variety of puzzling rounds to stimulate the mind. (with a prize for every team)

### 30<sup>th</sup> May – The Smashed Vinyl's

The Smashed Vinyl's are a local band playing popular covers of The Clash, The Jam, The Police Undertones, The Kinks, Rolling stones, The Who and the Stereophonics to mention but a few.

**New to the club a Band well worth seeing.**

**Bingo Every Tuesday Evening**

**Eyes down at 8.00pm**

**Cash Prizes over 18's only**

## Contact Us



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



01926 421621/07855709051



[enquiries@bishopstachbrookclub.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bishopstachbrookclub.co.uk)



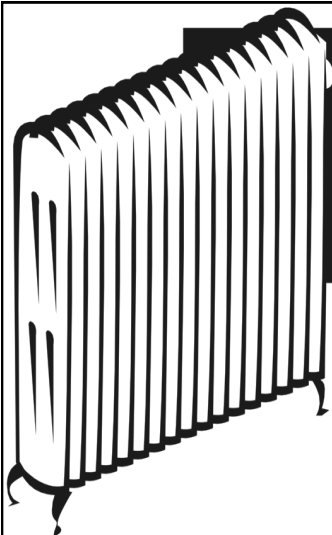
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### Computer jokes for Talia

Q: What did the spider do on the computer?

A: Made a website!

Q: What did the computer do at lunchtime?

A: Had a byte!

Q: What does a baby computer call his father?

A: Data!

Q: Why did the computer keep sneezing?

A: It had a virus!

Q: What is a computer virus?

A: A terminal illness!

Q: Why was the computer cold?

A: It left it's Windows open!

Q: Why was there a bug in the computer?

A: Because it was looking for a byte to eat?

Q: Why did the computer squeak?

A: Because someone stepped on it's mouse!

Q: What do you get when you cross a computer and a life guard?

A: A screensaver!

Q: Where do all the cool mice live?

A: In their mousepads

Q: What do you get when you cross a computer with an elephant?

A: Lots of memory!

# Looking back

Excerpts from past magazines

*Children's Nature Page from April 2008—written by children*

## BUMBLE BEES

We may be scared of them but truly they are scared of us more. There are lots of different kinds of bees. Every colony has a queen bee, which is the largest bee. *Hanna Louise*

## EASTER BIRDS

Spring means flowers starting to bloom; the leaves growing back on the trees and the animals waking up from hibernation, but the main thing is Easter birds. Lots of birds are born in Easter and are a joy to watch. *Chloe*

## NESTS

There are many types of nests but people think all nests are the same. Different birds build them with all sorts of things. Nests have to be warm and cosy—they do this by adding different types of materials. They add: silk a soft fabric; cotton cloths scraps and linen. They also put a lot of natural things like twigs and leaves. You may find a nest in your garden. *Thomas*

## BIRDS IN SPRING

In this season the birds are courting and mating away, before the egg laying season in later spring. An

average courting dance for garden birds (tits, blacks, sparrows etc.) is for the male and female to fly around each other in amusing little twirls. Imagine what that must feel like!

If you have seen any common garden birds doing this, now you know what it means. Do you put out bird feed? If you do, look at the birds eating it, and look for matching pairs, or if you prefer, happy bird couples.

Try leaving sticks, feathers or dead leaves about your garden and see if, after a while, birds take them for nests. Or, if you have a large tree in your garden, look if birds have built their nests in that! *Elizabeth*

## LEAVES

Leaves, leaves fall in autumn and grow back in spring  
Leaves, leaves in many colours  
*Daniella*

So Hanna Louise, Chloe, Thomas Elizabeth and Daniella are you still around and do you recognise your writing. Get in contact if you do.

# Women's Institute

By Anne Allen

At our March meeting numbers were slightly depleted by 6 of our ladies who were enjoying fish and chips in London after a day visiting the Tutankhamun exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery.

Those of us who were at the meeting were entranced by Nick Martin and his photos of British Mammals. He started with rabbits, explaining how myxomatosis was introduced in the fifties to reduce the population. I didn't know that the Arctic Hare was the only native member of the rabbit family and I certainly didn't know that if one ran in front of a pregnant woman it was thought the child would have a hare lip and to stop this happening the woman had to tear her petticoat. Animals came thick and fast, stoats have black tipped tails weasels don't. A harvest mouse uses it's tail for balance and a house mouse is quite rare ( usually found in London and Rugby!! ) wood mice are what you see in the house. It appears a mouse does a drop of wee every 2 seconds which reflects ultraviolet allowing kestrels and the like to find them. We saw moles, voles, hedgehogs, badgers , fallow deer, foxes, wild cats and pine martins . Nick explained that by reintroducing native species non native will eventually go. He also added a lot of the mammals had been pictured in his garden but didn't share how large it was. Certainly bigger than mine.

We had recently entered two teams in the country quiz both did very well. We have the evening with Lesley Smith as Mrs Thatcher, a VE Day celebration and a trip to Gin Lane in London plus Windsor to look forward to, together with a treasure hunt in Southam, an outdoor summer concert, and afternoon tea at Mallory Court. I'm hoping to try Mosaic Knitting but can't quite decide about the Stand up Paddle Boarding. The WI certainly has something for everyone. These are events organised by county

In the village we are busy thinking about our annual cake stall, Tachfest , a trip to the Shakespeare Distillery and The Valley plus a trip to see The Spiders Web at Evesham. The cake and book stall will be on 9th May but unfortunately no plants as such . We are asking members and friends if they are splitting plants etc. pot up some for us please. So if you like cakes or prefer to read or garden this is the event for you.

A big thank you for the glasses I have received, there's still time if you find a pair at the back of a drawer

Due to the Coronavirus problems at the moment we are unsure about the near future. April is now going to be a quiz night and in May we will be discussing the resolutions to be voted for at the National Annual Meeting these are " A call to increase potential stem cell donor registration " and "An

end to modern slavery." Both very worthy resolutions. PLEASE check our Facebook page if you fancy coming along to a meeting any updates will go on there. If you prefer just give me a ring.

Anne Allen 424135

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# Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

March came in like a lion, wet enough for a Sea Lion!

While Blackthorn's white blossom sprinkles the hedgerows we know we're not out of Winter yet. ( I'm scribbling this in March) Though Hawthorn bursts more bright green leaves every day proclaiming , "Try and stop us now!" Willows are covering their slender branches with green, Primroses are flourishing and Wild

Arums and Garlic push through the earth as the Snowdrops fade. The first Bumble Bees are busy and so are a few Honey Bees.

The Froggies have all 'gone a-courting' big time in next-door's pond. All making waves and producing lots of spawn.

It's getting magical in the mornings, hearing the dawn chorus and with the day's growing longer birds sing in the



evenings too. In the Winter it's often the Robin that breaks the silence, not now though, it's the mighty klaxon of the Pheasant. There's a handful of males near the cottage. Each evening they make their way up their chosen trees, well out of the way of the Fox. First thing, even before its light they blast their calls declaring their territories. I have a close one again, hungry enough to be brave. Now it knows me it will follow me down the garden knowing it will be fed. As I feed the Pheasant there's a Collard Dove that watches from the roof. When I put the food on the bird table it lands before I can turn round. They are all creatures of habit, just like me! Once you understand each other's ways interaction begins.

Driving out of Wellesbourne, the light beginning to fade and a Barn Owl glides along the hedge tops. Beautiful pale shape, looking down, hoping to hear Mice or Voles. It drops then rises again, nothing found. That's the fourth time I've seen that Owl. A mile away our pair of Tawneys call each evening and often near dawn.. Almost time to nest again.

On 20th February we all settled down by the fire, cats and all. After a while, and probably about to doze off, our little female cat, Effy, suddenly lifted her head. She had heard something outside. I heard nothing but then I'm only human. She struggled trying to move the curtain. I gave her a hand expecting to see a Fox out there but, no, it was our first Hedgehog of the

year. Made it through Winter and was crunching dried cat food I'd put out just in case.

The next night I saw a smaller one in the back garden. I started putting out food regularly, always in the same places. By the end of the week I saw three together. So, they've survived their first Winter here and away they go! By the middle of March two Hedgehogs were definitely making amorous manoeuvres. I couldn't hope for more. Of course I left them in peace.

## Poetry please

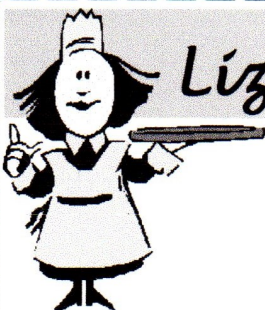
### Barn Owl

By Jerriidith Merrin

Though it roosts in abandoned factories or barn-lofts, this mid-sized, widespread owl with dramatic, white, heart-shaped facial disc is not a human emblem—

its characteristic call a penetrating *shree*, feeding on voles, mice, the occasional small bird; summer nights hunting from sundown to dawn, low-

flying, hovering on long, sound-absorptive wings. Still, met, of a sudden —pale mask floating in full dark— you might well mistake it for a heart in shock.



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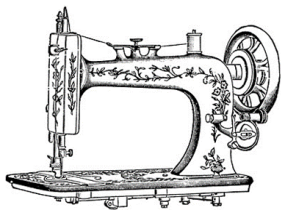
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# Community Speedwatch

By Luke Berry

As a semi rural community, road safety is an important concern for many of us and Bishop's Tachbrook Parish is very fortunate in having an active team and willing team of Speed-watch volunteers who, with the support of local police head out speed gun in hand to help address the issue of cars speeding on our roads. Our motivation is to make the roads safer for those of us who live locally so that we can get children safely school and access the great local facilities we are fortunate to have. The presence of the Speed-watch team has an immediate effect on the speed of cars travelling along our roads and shows passing motorists that we as a community care about the safety of our families and friends around our roads. We also gather very important data during our work which is used to justify additional

measures to improve safety such as the traffic calming measures installed on the junction of Oakley Wood Road and Church Hill.

On February 3rd we had the opportunity to meet the Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe and many local residents raised concerns over the speed of cars on Harbury Lane especially on the road directly outside Heathcote school. As a result of discussions at this meeting we have been able to approve a site on Harbury Lane for Speed-watch sessions and we have been given the support of local police presence at the next Speed-watch sessions meaning drivers will receive a fine and penalty points if they are measured exceeding the speed limit.

Our next session is planned to be the last two weeks of April, however given the current circumstances this may need to be postponed. We are often approached by local residents thanking us for giving our time to improve road safety and it means a lot to the team to know we are making a difference and have the support of the local community so next time you do see us, please do give us a wave! Volunteering for Speed-watch is easy and only takes up a couple of hours a year. If you're interested in joining the team please get in touch.: [speedwatch@bishopstachbrook.com](mailto:speedwatch@bishopstachbrook.com)





# Notice Board

## PROPOSED LOWER HEATHCOTE LOCAL CENTRE—PUBLIC CONSULTATION

We are pleased to announce that LSP developments have been appointed to develop the much needed Lower Heathcote Local Centre, which will be situated adjacent to the Lower Heathcote Primary School, at the junction of Harbury Lane/Vickers Way. It is intended the site will provide for the following uses.

- \* A central Community Square.
- \* Convenience Store, with 4 ancillary retail units.
- \* A Children's Day Nursery.
- \* A Care Home for the elderly.
- \* An Office building for L&Q Estates
- \* Appropriate parking and landscaping.

It is very much intended for it to be a well designed, vibrant Community facility to serve the immediate residential catchment, providing much needed amenity and employment.

It was intended to undertake a Public Consultation event on 15th April at the Primary School, but due to Covid-19, this will be postponed and take place on both the Parish Council media and LSP web-site from early April. Please take part and feel free to provide comments.

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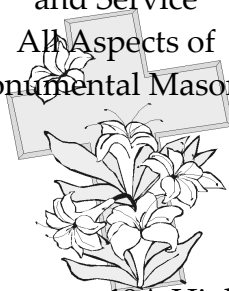


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# Bluebells

By Chris Wood

Bluebells carpet the woodland floor  
Packed so tightly that insects tip-toe  
Softly and quietly between them.  
Their beauty unlocks a woodland door

With such colour of delicate blue,  
And a fragrance that is heaven sent.  
They droop their heads in the spring rain,  
With their beauty making all things new.

Their magic weaves a pleasant spell  
A sea of blue that meanders in the breeze  
And floats delicately over the forest floor,  
Their fragrance creates a delicate smell.

Nature now has all its beauty brought  
To the fore before summer casts its spell  
Delicate bluebells making spring so fine  
Their time on earth far too short.

